



State of Nevada

Board of Examiners for Social Workers

4600 Kietzke Lane, #C-121, Reno, NV 89502

(775) 688-2555

Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, October 18, 2023

The Board Meeting for October 18, 2023, was called to order by Linda **Holland-Browne** at 9:05am. The Board President, Esther **Langston** was having internet connection issues, but was able to connect to the meeting at 9:11am. Roll Call was taken. Board members in attendance: Linda **Holland-Browne**, Jamie **Vaughn**, Abigail **Klimas**, Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows**, and Esther **Langston**. In attendance was Board Counsel/Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward**. BESW staff attendance: Vikki **Erickson** and Sandra **Lowery**.

Public Comment: There was no public comment in person and **Erickson** stated that there was no public comment in writing or online.

Holland-Browne moved to Agenda Item **3A. Review and Discuss August 16, 2023 Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**.

Motion was made by Abigail Klimas to approve the August 16, 2023 meeting minutes; seconded by Jamie Vaughn. The Motion was approved unanimously.

Holland-Browne moved to Agenda Item **3B. Introduction of New Board Member Michelle Rubinstein Meadows, LMSW Licensed Member (Informational)**. Ms. Rubinstein Meadows provided her background, indicating she is from Reno, NV, is an LMSW and works at Sierra Regional Center. The Board welcomed Ms. **Rubinstein Meadows**. DAG **Ward** provided information regarding his participation in the board meetings, "I'm here to help the board and you in regards to the open meeting laws, that's why I am present". He offered to answer any questions Ms. **Rubinstein Meadows** had and reminded her to use her name to identify herself when talking. The rest of the Board members and Board staff intruded themselves and their role on the board.

Langston moved to Agenda Item **3C. ASWB Test Waiver Option (For Possible Action)**. **Erickson** discussed reviewing some research done by the ASWB regarding a waiver to allow applicants to retake the ASWB exam in less than 90 days. Currently our NACs allow for an applicant to retake a test if they do not pass in 90 days, however the ASWB allows a waiver under certain conditions. NACs would need to be changed to allow this. **Erickson** requests approval to move forward with this change. **Erickson** indicated there were 2 other states in the country that do not allow the waiver, however every other state allows the waiver. **DAG**

Ward indicates that the board has the authority to do this, "whatever the board decides". He states this is not a violation of any statutes or regulations. **Langston** asks for a motion.

Holland-Brown makes the motion. **Klimas** seconds the motion. **Lowery** discussed that NAC changes would need to be completed before the board could start this process, and the ASWB only allows two waivers a year. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Langston moved to Item **3D. Additional Content for NAC Changes (For Possible Action)**. **Lowery** shares her screen with the Board Members to discuss the NAC Changes. **Lowery** showed the summary of the NAC changes proposed. She discussed the process of NAC changes, indicating NRS has been changed, so we need to amend the NACs to match the NRS. **Lowery** indicated that we now have the authority to make an "inactive" status for licensees. She discussed we have the authority to have an LMSW licensure which will be moved into our language. Since the board website has real time license verification, we want to remove the requirement to carry around a wallet card. **Lowery** discussed considering license endorsement for applicants coming in out of the country, for example, Canada. **Lowery** discussed including a NAC that removed the provisional B license. She reviewed what the provisional B license was. **Lowery** reviewed a NAC to "tighten up telehealth language", indicating that the client has to be in the state of Nevada to be treated by a licensee licensed in the state of Nevada. **Holland-Browne** inquired what to do if a client is out of state on a vacation and needed help. **Lowery** indicated that the licensee would be unable to treat them legally if the client is out of the state. She indicated that was generally true in all the states and became difficult to manage during COVID. **Lowery** discussed a NAC request that would allow us to keep licensee's emails and personal addresses confidential. She also introduced a NAC that would allow our board to approve CEUs that have been approved by other national behavioral boards like APA, and other social work licensing boards around the country. **Lowery** discussed that we are requesting to tighten up our practice act to include a screening question upon application and renewal about Medicaid or insurance carrier sanctions, indicating the licensee will be required to notify the board within 30 days if this occurred. **Lowery** also reviewed language change regarding impaired practitioners. **Erickson** thanked **Lowery** and reiterated that the changes were to tighten up language and attempt to make the application process more streamline. **Lowery** discussed if the board approves the changes, then we'll move forward with two Zoom public workshops and would like board members to participate on the Zoom call as well. She also discussed we'd be sending out surveys for the small business impact. **Langston** requested a motion. **Holland-Browne** made a motion to allow us to move forward with the NAC changes. **Klimas** seconded the motion. **Langston** thanked **Lowery** for her due diligence. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Langston moved to Agenda Item **3E. BESW Audit Progress by Casey Nielon (Informational)**. **Erickson** turned this item over to **Lowery**. **Lowery** discussed that this was the year end audit that we do through Casey Nielon. She described the process working with the auditors and information that was provided, and they are finalizing their report to present to us.

Langston moved to Agenda Item **3F. 1st Quarter Financials Report (For Possible Action)**. **Lowery** discussed an error that was found with a percentage placed in the wrong spot in expenses, but that it would be corrected but doesn't affect the bottom line. **Lowery** indicated that we hit all of our projected marks, and discussed holding money in reserve if the state has a financial crisis. **Langston** asked for a motion. **Holland-Browne** made a motion, **Klimas** seconded the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Langston moved to Agenda Item **3G. CE Broker Resources (For Possible Action)**. **Erickson** provided information on the company, CE Broker, who would like to assist in managing the CEUs for the licensees in the state of Nevada. It is a voluntary service. There are various levels of participation with CE Broker, the base level is free, and the price would raise depending on the service level the licensee requested. **Erickson** indicated that there are several states and boards and commissions who utilize CE Broker throughout the country. She indicated that CE Broker would like to do a presentation for the board to show how this service works. **Klimas** inquired if it was voluntary for the licensee, why would the board need to approve. **Erickson** explained that CE Broker would interact with out database depending on the level of service the licensee chose, so it would be something that the board would need to decide to move forward on. **Lowery** discussed that this could be a beneficial service for licensees who are licensed in multiple states and the complexity of managing all of their CEU requirements. **Langston** requested a motion. **Klimas** made a motion, **Holland-Browne** seconded the motion. **The motion was approved unanimously.**

Langston moved to Agenda item **3H. ASWB New Board Member Training, October 1-3, 2023 (informational)**. **Holland-Browne** described the training in Washington DC for the ASWB New Board Members.

Langston moved to Agenda item **3I. ASWB Delegate Assembly, November 2-4, 2023 in Memphis TN (Informational)**. **Langston** indicated she will be there and "Vikki will be there too".

Langston moved to Agenda item **3J. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action)**. **DAG Ward** indicates that he is still in touch with the attorney and is confident that this will be resolved by the end of the year, and will be brought in front of the board.

Langston moved to Agenda item **3K. Executive Director's Report (Informational)**. **Erickson** thanked **Lowery** for her work on the audits, as well as her work with the NACs. **Erickson** discussed that the board investigators are working through the cases as efficiently as possible, and working closely with the DAG. She described the efficiency of the office staff. She also reminded the board that **Langston** will not be in attendance at the November board meeting. **Erickson** concluded the Executive Director's report.

Langston moved to Agenda item **4. Public Comment.** There was no public comment in person, on the phone or via email.

Langston moved to Agenda item **5. Adjournment.** The meeting adjourned at 10:20 am.