



STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C121, Reno, Nevada 89502
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MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC WORKSHOP TO SOLICIT COMMENTS
PERTAINING TO REVISED PROPOSED REGULATIONS
Reno, Nevada

LCB FILE NO. R025-14

May 16, 2014

The Public Workshop to Solicit Comments Pertaining to Revised Proposed Regulations (Public Workshop) of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers (Board), LCB File Number R025-14, was called to order by Sandy Lowery, Board President and workshop Chair, at 10:00 a.m. The Public Workshop was conducted at Mojave Adult, Child and Family Services, 745 West Moana Lane, Suite 100, Reno, Nevada. President Lowery noted that the Public Workshop had been properly noticed. Roll call was initiated by President Lowery, with the following Board members, Board staff and participants (arriving and departing at various times) present:

Members Present:

Sandy Lowery, LCSW, Board President
Rod Smith, Board Secretary/Treasurer
James Bertone, LCSW, Board Vice President

Staff Present

Lesley A. Clarkson, Certified Court Reporter, Sunshine Litigation Services

Public Attendees

Mark Arnold, LCSW
Erin Snell, LCSW
Betsy Crumrine, LCSW

INTRODUCTION – OPEN WORKSHOP

President Sandy Lowery presented this Public Workshop agenda item. President Lowery indicated that purpose of the Public Workshop (workshop) was to receive public comments pertaining to proposed additions, amendments, and/or repeal of regulations pertaining to Chapter 641B of the Nevada Administrative Code. She further added that the purpose of the workshop was to solicit comments from interested parties on the general topics contained in the "Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations" (Notice). The Notice was mailed to: all individuals licensed by the Board, all persons on the Board's mailing list, all county libraries, and the Nevada State Library. The Notice had also been electronically posted to: the Board's website, the Legislative website and the State's Public Notice website.

President Lowery summarized the topics to be addressed during the public workshop as follows (Agenda Item 2A):

Item 1 When an applicant is required to pass an examination under an open application.

Item 2 Requirements for license restoration applicants.

Item 3 Increase in fees allowable under NRS 641B.300.

Item 4 Licensure by endorsement for out-of-state applicants.

Item 5 Accrued internship hours not leading directly to licensure.

Item 6 Conditions leading to Board withdrawal of internship approval.

Item 7 Board acceptance of postgraduate hours from another state.

Item 8 Changes for Board approved supervisors of interns, including reports.

Item 9 Conditions under which licensees are required to self-report to the Board.

Item 10 Expanding the applicability of unprofessional conduct.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Agenda Item 3)

President Lowery opened the floor to public comment pertaining to the general topics contained in the proposed regulation.

Mark Arnold, LCSW

Mr. Arnold raised a question pertaining to accrued internship hours not leading directly to licensure. His question pertained to how stringent would Board requirements be in requesting an extension. President Lowery indicated that a length of an extension for an internship is addressed on a case by case basis. She added that in the course of providing quarterly report statements to each intern and supervisor, the Board provides ample notification to both parties if it appears that an internship will not be completed in the required time.

Mr. Arnold also raised a question pertaining to out-of-state clinical social worker applicants requesting endorsement. Mr. Arnold cited as an example, clinical social worker applicants from California. President Lowery explained the requirement, pursuant to NAC 641B, of the clinical social work applicant in establishing substantial equivalency of their postgraduate work experience and supervision. She added that this occurs on a case by case basis and that California's postgraduate supervised experience for clinical social work licensure standards has proven to be inconsistent. This can make it difficult for some individuals from California in applying for endorsement in Nevada as some California applicants present with postgraduate supervised experiences that would be deemed substantially equivalent to Nevada's postgraduate experiences, while other applicants from California do not.

Erin Snell, LCSW

Ms. Snell indicated that she was initially there to view the Public Workshop process. She requested a recap of the topics being covered during the public workshop. President Lowery provided a recap to Ms. Snell (see Agenda Item 2A). Ms. Snell inquired regarding the regulation change process following the workshop. President Lowery reviewed the process and indicated that the most immediate next step would be the public hearing pertaining to the intent of adopting the regulations.

Betsy Crumrine, LCSW

Ms. Crumrine expressed concerns pertaining to the increase in license fees. Ms. Crumrine, who is employed by the State of Nevada (State), Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS) as a Rural Regional Manager, employs social workers. She indicated that the State's pay scale for child welfare workers at DCFS is significantly less than comparable child welfare agencies throughout the State. Ms. Crumrine viewed the increase as being a significant financial hardship for her employees. President Lowery clarified that the increase in license fees for licensed social workers (LSW) would be \$25.00 annually. The remaining increases pertained to licensees whose licenses have expired (i.e. failed to renew their license one month following their renewal deadline). Ms. Crumrine inquired about the rationale for the fee increases. President Lowery responded that the Board has not had an increase in fees since 2009. The costs of conducting business, including related Board costs, have continued to increase. President Lowery indicated that the Board is self-funded through licensing fees and do not draw from the State's general fund. In order to appropriately address the increasing operating costs, the regulation propose increases where presently allowable under NRS 641B.300.

Ms. Crumrine inquired about the proposed regulation pertaining to an applicant being required to take and pass the licensing examination within one (1) year following examination approval. President Lowery provided clarification for this proposed regulation. It had been brought to the Board's attention that a number of applicants had continued to request an extension in keeping their application open in order to take and pass the examination. This resulted in a number of applications being extended several months or in some instances, several years. The continued open applications proved to burden the Board's resources. The proposed regulation provides clarification to applicants that they will be required to take and pass their examination one (1) year following examination approval or reapply.

Ms. Crumrine inquired about the proposed regulation pertaining to fingerprinting. President Lowery clarified that this pertained to individuals who are restoring an expired license. Upon restoration of an expired license, the Board retroactively licenses the individual from the date of their last renewal. Since a license may expire for various reasons, including possible criminal or civil offenses, fingerprinting the restoring individual is deemed a public protection measure. Ms. Crumrine requested the Board to consider a 60-day grace period before fingerprints would be required as part of the restoration process.

Ms. Crumrine inquired about certain proposed regulation language changes from "will" to "may". President Lowery and Vice President Bertone indicated that the proposed regulation language changes from "will" to "may" throughout portions of the proposed regulation changes were deemed housekeeping items.

Ms. Crumrine inquired about proposed regulation changes pertaining to internships. President Lowery and Vice President Bertone clarified conditions when additional internship sites may be required as part of an internship program.

Ms. Crumrine inquired about proposed regulations pertaining to supervisors of interns, including reports. President Lowery clarified that internship quarterly reports have specified due dates which are well known to both the intern and supervisors. She added that the proposed language pertaining to the rejection of a report that was not submitted timely indicates that a report "may" be rejected, not "will". Concessions are made on a case by case basis. The proposed regulation affords clarification that reports may be rejected in instances where the reports are consistently late, despite warnings from the Board to submit their reports timely. Ms. Crumrine requested the Board to consider a thirty (30) day extension beyond the date quarterly reports are due.

Ms. Crumrine expressed additional concerns which did not pertain to the general topics contained on the Notice of Workshop to Solicit Comments on Proposed Regulations. The Board members attempted to address

Ms. Crumrine's inquires which pertained to overall Board operations. The discussion concluded with the rationale for increasing Board fees where presently allowable under NRS 641B.300.

No further public comments were received and Ms. Lowery indicated that the Public Workshop pertaining to the revised proposed regulation of the Board, LCB File Number R025-14 was concluded at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Frakes
Executive Director

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