



STATE OF NEVADA
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS
4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C121, Reno, Nevada 89502
775-688-2555

MINUTES OF BOARD TELECONFERENCE MEETING
April 29, 2011

The meeting of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers was called to order by the Board President, Randy Reinoso at 1:00 p.m. This was a teleconference meeting. Any public member could participate or listen to the teleconference at the Board's office, 4600 Kietzke Lane, suite C-121, Reno, Nevada. President Reinoso noted that the meeting had been noticed properly and the members present constituted a quorum for the purposes of the Board meeting.

Roll call was initiated, with the following Board members and Board staff present via teleconference:

Members Present

- Randy Reinoso, LSW, Board President in Las Vegas
- Sandy Lowery, LCSW, Board Vice President in Reno
- James Bertone, LCSW, Board Secretary/Treasurer in Reno
- Tracy Cassity, LCSW, Board Member, Rural representative

Staff Present

- Kim Frakes, LCSW, Board Executive Director, in Reno

Public Attendees

- None

Motion was made by James Bertone and seconded by Tracy Cassity to approve the agenda. The motion was carried.

LEGISLATIVE AND REGULATORY ISSUES

Review, Discussion and Action regarding SB61 as submitted during the 76th (2011) Legislative Session by the Board regarding the LMSW level of licensure and outcome of this matter.

This agenda item was presented by Kim Frakes, Executive Director. Ms. Frakes offered historical information regarding how SB61 was originally submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau as Bill Draft Request (BDR) 506 and that it was subsequently pre-filed as SB61. The bill was assigned to the Legislative Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy (Committee). She added that during the March 18, 2011 Board meeting, strategic planning was discussed regarding SB61. Among the items that the Board took action upon following discussion of this agenda item (4A), was for the Board President, Executive Director and any identified Board members or interested individuals, would proceed to move SB61 along in the Legislative process. These individuals could also meet as needed to discuss strategic planning regarding SB61 on an as needed basis and would discuss any findings or outcomes with the Board as an agenda item following any strategic meetings. SB61 had been presented to the Committee on two occasions (February 18, 2011 and March 4, 2011). On April 12, 2011 a strategic planning teleconference meeting was conducted between the

Board's President, Executive Director and the NASW Nevada Chapter's Public Policy Chair (Public Policy Chair), to discuss concerns and issues raised by the Legislative Committee during scheduled Committee hearings and meetings and apparent reluctance by certain Committee members to support SB61. At the conclusion of the April 12th strategic planning meeting it was noted by the participants that there did not appear to be the anticipated level of interest in a LMSW license as exhibited in earlier Legislative sessions. Accordingly, the participants determined it might be in the Board's best interests to allow SB61 to die in Committee and focus the Board's resources upon other pending bills which posed as having significant impact upon the Board and social work profession.

During discussion of this agenda item, Sandy Lowery noted that the climate exhibited in previous Legislative sessions for the LMSW license was different now. President Reinoso noted that even with the proposed changes to the LMSW following the scheduled hearings and public meetings with the Committee, there still did not appear to be support for SB61 as initially anticipated. He believed that the Board's resources could be better spent addressing other bills pending before the Legislature that posed as having significant impact to the Board if passed during this Session. A motion was made by Sandy Lowery and seconded by James Bertone to curtail any further efforts by the Board to move SB61 through the Committee with the likely outcome that SB61 would die in Committee. This motion was carried.

Review, Discussion and Action regarding SB354, a bill which proposes to make various changes to regulatory bodies of professions, occupations and businesses, including proposed changes to this Board, strategic planning and action regarding this bill by the Board.

Kim Frakes presented this agenda item to the Board. SB354, (BDR 54-254), sponsored by Senator Schneider, Chair of the Senate Legislative Committee on Commerce, Labor and Energy (Senate Committee), was introduced to the Senate Committee on March 21, 2011. As submitted, this bill proposes to direct the Governor to appoint two public members to the majority of State boards and commissions, and one public member to smaller boards. The Governor would also appoint one of the public members to serve as chair of the board and board members licensed by their respective boards would no longer be eligible to serve as the chair of their boards. The public member board chairs would have oversight of the daily office operations of their respective boards, including the hiring and firing of the board's Executive Directors. Furthermore, the public chair person would answer directly to the Governor. If passed, SB354 would become effective on July 1, 2011.

During discussion of this agenda item, President Reinoso indicated that he did not have an issue in increasing the number of public members to "two" as proposed by the Board. He expressed concerns that excluding licensees from serving as Board Chair/President and allowing public members only serving in this capacity did not sufficiently explain how the public at large would be deemed safer by this proposal. Ms. Frakes indicated that the Board did not exclude public members from serving as Board Chair/President, but that public members have historically declined to do so. Concerns were raised that allowing the Governor to appoint public members as board chairs may decrease public safety should these positions become political appointments versus professional appointments. Following discussion a motion was made by Sandy Lowery and seconded by James Bertone to: (1) bring the Board's concerns regarding a possible decrease in public safety if this bill is passed to empathetic members of the Legislative Assembly (where the bill is scheduled to be presented); (2) establish a lobbying team to include interested Board members, the Board's Executive Director and other interested individuals) to engage in lobbying efforts regarding SB354, including preparation of testimony and supplemental information submitted to the

Legislature on behalf of the Board; and (3) an update regarding these efforts by the Board's Executive Director at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. This motion was carried.

Review, Discussion and Action regarding additional Legislative matters of interest to Board members

Kim Frakes presented this agenda item to the Board. Following review, discussion and action of the previous agenda items, 2A and 2B, additional items regarding Legislative matters may arise. The Board may wish to discuss, take action on or place on the next Board meeting agenda any of these items of interest.

During discussion of this agenda item, Tracy Cassity asked about whether the Board had considered taking action on any bills before the Legislature pertaining to autism. Ms. Frakes indicated that the proposed changes to autism appeared to be housekeeping measures from the previous 2009 Legislative session. She indicated that she could refer Mr. Cassity to possible agencies that could assist him in determining which bills were pending before the Legislature regarding autism. Following discussion of this agenda item, the Board did not take any action.

PRESIDING OFFICER'S COMMENTS

This agenda item was presented by President Reinoso. He reminded the Board and Executive Director that his term as Board officer would be expiring on June 30, 2011. In light of the possible passage of SB354, President Reinoso wondered if he should reapply. Following support from the Board and the Executive Director, President Reinoso decided he would go ahead and reapply for another term as a Board member. If SB354 was passed by the Legislature, would be determined accordingly. Aside from this comment, President Reinoso did not have anything further to add to today's Board meeting.

DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REPORT/COMMENTS

Kim Frakes presented this agenda item to the Board. Following an earlier discussion with Henna Rasul, the Board's Deputy Attorney General, it was determined that she would be available by telephone during the course of the Board meeting. During this discussion, Ms. Rasul indicated that she did not have anything to add to today's Board meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Kim Frakes thanked the Board member's for their attendance at today's Board meeting. Aside from this, Ms. Frakes indicated that she did not have anything further to add.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was not anyone from the public attending or offering comment during this meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Tracy Cassity and seconded by Sandy Lowery to adjourn this meeting. This motion was carried and the meeting was adjourned at 1:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Frakes, LCSW
Executive Director

DRAFT