



STATE OF NEVADA

BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C121, Reno, Nevada 89502

MINUTES OF BOARD MEETING

Friday, May 17, 2019

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER and ROLL CALL:

The meeting of the Board of Examiners for Social Workers (BESW) was called to order by Jodi Ussher, Board Vice President, at 9:07 a.m. The meeting was held at the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR) System Computing Services Building, Room 47, in Reno, Nevada, 89557. There was a simultaneous audioconference conducted at Mojave Mental Health, 6375 W. Charleston Blvd., Suite A100, Las Vegas, Nevada 89146. Vice President Ussher noted that the meeting had been properly posted and that the Board members present constituted a quorum.

The roll call was initiated by Vice President Ussher with the following individuals present:

Members Present:

Jodi Ussher, LCSW, Vice President (**Ussher**)
Monique Harris, LCSW, Board Member (**Harris**)
Stefaine Maplethorpe, LCSW, Board Member (**Maplethorpe**)

Staff, Advisors Present

Michael Detmer, Esq., Board Counsel (**Detmer**)
Richard Miller, Investigator (**Miller**)
Karen Oppenlander, Executive Director (**Oppenlander**)

*Board members and Board staff will be identified by the above **bolded** means throughout the minutes.*

Ussher requested if there were any comments about or changes to the Agenda.

Oppenlander corrected Item 3A to read Licensed Social Worker (LSW).

PUBLIC COMMENT:

A guest in attendance was welcomed and she introduced herself as Tonya Hernandez. She informed the Board members that she has filled out an application for future Board positions. At that time, there was no additional public comment.

REGULAR AGENDA:

Board Operations

Ussher moved to **Item 3A (For Possible Action) Review, Discussion and for Possible Action, Approval of Consent Decree (Settlement Agreement) in the Matter Pertaining to RI, Licensed Social Worker (LSW) for Disciplinary Case Number G19-04.**

Prior to **Detmer's** presentation of the proposed settlement agreement under Item 3A, **Detmer** inquired if the Board would like to take a recess to allow for the Board members to review the proposed settlement agreement that was for the Board's consideration. After a recess was taken, **Detmer** opened Item 3A by stating that what was being presented for the Board's consideration was a proposed adjudication agreement with Licensee "Robyn Isaacson." **Detmer** stated that because the stipulated facts were provided within the agreement, he would only summarize the facts. **Detmer** summarized that on or about January 2019 through March 2019 the Respondent, in her capacity as a LSW, was providing services/support to her client, "JV," while he was in hospice care. That during this time the respondent breached one or more statutes and/or regulations governing social work. **Detmer** then enumerated some of the acts that were the basis for the Complaint against Isaacson which included, but was not limited to, that she engaged or attempted to engage in a romantic relationship with JV. **Detmer** then enumerated some of the regulations and/or statutes that were violated, including but not limited to, the Respondent's failure to maintain professional boundaries. **Detmer** stated that such conduct led to the filing of a Complaint against the Respondent and that the settlement agreement was in resolution of that complaint. **Detmer** then summarized the terms of the agreement which included, but was not limited to, a minimum 6 month suspension of Isaacson's license, that she pay fines and fees totaling \$3,502.30, that she seek medical and psychological diagnosis and treatment, that she submit to an evaluation, that she complete courses relating to professional responsibility, and that if/when she is re-instated that she enter into a supervised probationary period with the BESW.

With the terms of the agreement having been summarized, **Harris** and **Ussher** then asked questions regarding the professional responsibility courses required under the agreement. In response to the questions presented, **Maplethorpe** stated that Isaacson could audit the required courses regardless of whether she had an MSW. **Oppenlander** then confirmed that Isaacson did have an MSW. **Ussher** also sought clarification pertaining to the provision that Isaacson would only receive credit during her probationary period. **Detmer** clarified that Isaacson will only receive credit for her probationary period while she is working in the State of Nevada.

Harris inquired about the implications if Isaacson were to apply for a social work type of job and not disclose the status of a suspended license. **Maplethorpe** and **Harris** discussed their awareness of companies that utilize job descriptions that are the same or similar to social work job descriptions. **Detmer** commented that if she is practicing in the area of social work, or if anyone is practicing in the area of social work, they should be licensed as a social worker. **Harris** agreed. However, she stated that we are very aware that there are people practicing in jobs that have had the job titles changed and that the position still the same social worker job description; therefore, employees are operating in a social work job description without the social work job title. **Maplethorpe** submitted an opinion that it was incumbent on HR departments to do their due diligence during the hiring process; also, that Isaacson will be operating with her own moral compass. To summarize, it was suggested by **Detmer** that this Board may consider adding language to 641B (NRS and NAC) that would make it a statutory or regulatory requirement of the Board for employers to check databases for suspensions as well as to check that employees are licensed. He added that this matter could be put on the agenda for a later meeting.

Next, **Ussher** summarized the Consent Decree by stating that the Board is looking at a six month suspension, a two year probationary period (that at minimum would be supervised for one year), a fine of \$300, legal and investigative fees of \$3,202.30, that there are provisions to clear the medical diagnosis, provisions to clear a psychological examination, provisions to take a graduate level course, and a provision for a forensic evaluation. **Detmer** agreed.

Maplethorpe wanted to check out if the supervision (monitor) provisions were amenable re: face-to-face meetings versus phone meetings. While the preference is for face-to-face meetings, **Ussher** remembered that the Board had decided to allow flexibility for the supervision of clinical social work interns. This was left up to the supervisor and the supervisee to determine. So, this provision is set up with that same option for flexibility. The monitor and Isaacson could utilize telecommunications for three of the four monthly meetings and that the fourth interaction would necessarily require a face-to-face meeting.

At this time, the Board had no further questions and Ussher asked for a motion to accept the Adjudication Agreement and Order, Case G19-04, Robin Isaacson L2952-S.

Motion was made by Harris to accept the Adjudication Agreement and Order in the matter of Robyn Isaacson, License No. 2952-S, Case No. G 19-04, seconded by Maplethorpe. Ayes: Ussher, Maplethorpe, and Harris. Passed unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT: **Ussher** moved to **Item 4, Public Comment**. Tonya Hernandez stated that she appreciated the thorough job done by the Board on the case presented at today's Board meeting. With no additional public comment Ussher moved to the next agenda item.

ADJOURNMENT: To conclude, **Ussher** introduced **Item 5 (For Possible Action)** **Adjournment** at 9:44 a.m.

Harris made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:44 a.m., seconded by Maplethorpe. Ayes: Ussher, Maplethorpe, and Harris. Passed unanimously.

Meeting Minutes Respectfully Submitted by Karen Oppenlander, LISW, Executive Director.