



State of Nevada

## **Board of Examiners for Social Workers**

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

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**The April 17, 2024 Board Meeting was called to order by Dr. Esther Langston at 9:00 a.m.** A roll call was taken. Board members in attendance: Esther **Langston**, Abby **Klimas**, Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows** and Jamie **Vaughn**. Linda **Holland Browne** was not in attendance at this meeting. Board staff in attendance was Vikki **Erickson** and Sandy **Lowery**. In attendance was Board Counsel/Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward**. Guests in attendance were Nick **Vander Poel** from Flynn Guidici Government Affairs, LLC, Keibi **Mejia** from Public Affairs – The Ferrato Co, and Christina **Russo**, an MSW student from UNLV.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 2. Public Comment.** **Erickson** announced that the Zoom Meeting ID is 99835683428 with a Passcode of 229108. **Erickson** indicated that there was no email with any public comment, nobody in the office to provide public comment and nobody on the telephone with public comment. The guests on the Zoom call did not provide any public comment.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3A. Review and Discuss the March 20, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes (For Possible Action).** **Langston** asked for a motion to approve the March 20, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes as read. **Klimas** made a motion to approve. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of the March 20, 2024 Meeting Minutes. **Motion passes.**

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3B. NAC Change Update (For Possible Action).** **Lowery** states that the NAC process is now complete and the final report packet with the appendix documents are not all with the LCB for their review. **There was no action on this item.**

**Langston** moved **Agenda Item 3C. Interim Committee on Commerce and Labor (For discussion).** **Erickson** discussed that she and Nick Vanderpoel attended the Interim Committee on Commerce and Labor on April 11<sup>th</sup> 2024 to talk about the licensing exam. **Erickson** states that the CEO of the ASWB attended via Zoom and had an excellent presentation about the licensing exam and answered questions from the members of the committee. **Vander Poel** discussed participation in an Interim Health and Human Services Committee where the Director of Health and Human Services discussed the dire need for social workers in Nevada “fast forward to the Interim Committee on Commerce and labor and their interest in the social work industry”. **Vander Poel** states that there was an opportunity to talk about the Social Work industry and the compact. He states in the last committee meeting Assemblyman Ken Gray made a point to talk about the emergency bill draft request from last session to move forward with the Social Work Interstate Compact, so **Vander Poel** states he went to Carson City last week to the Interim Health and Human Services Committee where Assemblyman Gray, Matt Schaffer from the Council of State Governments and himself presented to the committee about the Interstate Compact again. **Vander Poel** states there is a lot of discussions about compacts from other industries that the Department of Defense has identified, and they’re working with other boards and communicating with them and their associations to get support as well. Vanderpoel states there is a lot happening behind the scenes, and there seems to be conversations happening at least once a week as it relates to social workers in Nevada. **Rubinstein Meadows** states she went to the New Board Member training for the ASWB a few weeks ago and there was a lot of discussion about the interstate compact. **Vander Poel** states that as of today, there are officially seven states that have joined the compact, so now starts the process of forming the commission to get the process started. He states that it will take about a year to get started which he states is ideal for Nevada. **Lowery** inquired about the fee structure for the compact license. **Vander Poel** states that this is being addressed in conjunction with the

Legislative Council Bureau and the Council of State Governments so there can be 100% clarification going into it. **No action was taken on this agenda item.**

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3D. First Quarter BESW Financials (For Possible Action).** **Lowery** states that the BESW is at the end of the third quarter of the fiscal year. Our income and expenses should be coming in at 75% if we're on target. Income comes in at 89%, which is high. We are bringing in more money than budgeted. Our salary expenses are 70%, which is lower than budgeted. All other expenses are at 49%, which leaves our total expenses at 62%. **Lowery** states that with the move of the office, expenses will be higher because of the spending during the move. **Rubinstein Meadows** inquired what the difference in the rent is going to be with the move. **Lowery** states it will increase the rent by \$105 per month. **No action was taken on this item.**

**Langston** moves to **Agenda Item 3E. Nevada Rural and Frontier Health Data Book (For Discussion).** **Lowery** states she submits this report every 2 years for a large group of data gathering regarding access and resources in Nevada's rural counties regarding all aspects of medical care. **Lowery** states the data is to show where all the social workers are in the state. A large number of social workers are in Clark County and Washoe County, however Esmeralda County and Eureka County don't have any social workers, so no licensee is identified as working in that area. It shows the gap in in terms of serving the rural community. The report also shows the number of licensees who don't live in Nevada. Currently there are 905 licensees who are licensed in Nevada but don't live in Nevada but may be providing services in Nevada. The report also identifies the number of licensees that have endorsed into Nevada from another state. The number of endorsed licenses have increased between 2021 to 2024. **Klimas** inquired if the out of state licensees were providing services via telehealth. **Lowery** responded that they could be providing telehealth services or not practicing but have a Nevada license. **Erickson** states that the licensees could also live in a border state, such as Utah, and be providing social work services between both states. **There was no action taken on this agenda item.**

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3F. Discussion of BESW Office Relocation. (For Possible Action).** **Erickson** discussed the BESW office relocation to office number O-264 in the same complex. She described that the office is a little larger in square feet but was organized a better for the office processes and staff. **Erickson** states the landlord has been very accommodating to us and allowing us to move things over gradually. **Erickson** states **Lowery** has been in contact with the professionals to move the phone lines and IT, and internet services. She has also orchestrated movers to move our larger items. **Erickson** states the board office will be closed May 7, 8 and 9<sup>th</sup> for the move, but it doesn't fall in a crucial time for renewals or internship progress report submission. **No Action was taken on this agenda item.**

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3G. ASWB New Board Member Training Updates (For Discussion).** **Rubinstein Meadows** states that she appreciated the opportunity to attend the meetings and it was nice to hear how other states and boards are doing this and viewing things. She states she enjoyed the meaningful networking. **Rubinstein Meadows** states some of the boards offer CEUs to their social workers for any attendees that are public members. She states she liked that idea and wanted to bring that back to the board as a suggestion. She states she received a lot of great information. **Rubinstein Meadows** states she valued the information on the ASWB test, how it's conducted and how it's continuously updated. **Vaughn** stated she also appreciated attending and learned more about the terms used, especially the legal terms. She states she thought the testing was very interesting in how it is prepared and how it's updated. She thought the meeting was well prepared and met some amazing people. She states she appreciated that **Erickson** provides the agenda a week in advance, and that may not happen for all boards. She found it interesting to learn more about the compact and how it's coming into fruition hopefully soon. **Langston** states she will be attending the New Board Member training in the Fall.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3H. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action).** **DAG Ward** states that he is hopeful to have this case concluded in

the next meeting, so he requests that it remain on the agenda. **No Action was taken on this agenda item.**

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3I. Executive Director's Report (Informational).** **Erickson** invited board members to submit any agenda items they would like to see on the agenda for the next meeting.

DAG **Ward** reminded the board members that the scheduled board meeting in June would fall on a holiday and he has another meeting he will be attending in July, so won't be available for the July meeting. He states he is doing an administrative procedures training and open meeting law training for the Board of Nursing, and he is also available to do that training for the Social Work Board when we would like to schedule that.

**Erickson** reminded the board members that the requirement is for the Board to meet quarterly, however this board tends to meet monthly. **Erickson** inquired if the board would like to meet in May, and then again in August. **Langston** states that if there is an urgent matter, as long as we're following guidelines for the open meeting law, could call a meeting if needed. **Klimas** said that would be fine and is looking forward to meeting in person in Northern Nevada, possibly in September. **Erickson** states she would work on having an in-person meeting in September.

**Erickson** states that Board Investigator Rich Miller and Administrative Assistant Caroline Rhuys have been working on a project for dept collection. **Erickson** describes this required an audit of the consent decrees that have been completed to see if the fees and expenses that were on the consent decree have been paid. Miller and Rhuys have been in communication with the Comptroller's Office and provided them with the information on fees and expenses that have not been paid. The potential recovery of fines to the General Fund for the State of Nevada is \$22,850 and the potential recovery of expenses to the board for legal and investigative fees is \$22,189. **Erickson** commended Miller and Rhuys for this project's completion.

**Erickson** reminded the Board that the next scheduled board meeting will be Wednesday, May 15, 2024 at 9:00a.m.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 4. Public Comment.** **Erickson** states there is nobody in the office, nobody via email or on the phone to provide public comment. Nobody on Zoom provided public comment.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 5. Adjournment.** The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.