



State of Nevada

Board of Examiners for Social Workers

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On August 21, 2024, the board meeting for the State of Nevada Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order by Dr. Esther **Langston** at 9:00 AM. A roll call was taken. Board members in attendance: Esther **Langston**, Linda **Holland Browne**, Vice Chair, Abby **Klimas**, Jamie **Vaughn**, and Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows**. Board staff in attendance were Vikki **Erickson** and Sandy **Lowery**. Guests in attendance were Mary **Thomas**, Sabrina from Bellson Case Government Affairs, Linda Anderson from Nevada Public Health Foundation and Kay who is a Policy Analyst at the Auto Company. Harry **Ward** was present as the Deputy Attorney General.

Langston moved to Agenda Item 2. Public Comment. **Erickson** announced that the Zoom Meeting ID is 91657012495 with a passcode of 404148. **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.

Langston moved to Agenda Item 3A. Review and Discuss the May 15, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes (For Possible Action). **Holland Browne** made a motion to accept the May 15, 2024 Meeting. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconded the motion. There was a unanimous approval of the May 15, 2024 meeting minutes.

Langston moved to Agenda Item 3B. Board Review, Discussion and Possible Approval, Board Review of Application for LMSW license for Mary **Thomas**. (For Possible Action). **Erickson** reported that Ms. **Thomas** initially applied for endorsement for an LMSW license in July 2024 however she was not licensed in another state so an endorsement would be the wrong application. **Erickson** states that the board office refunded Ms. **Thomas** the endorsement fee. Ms. **Thomas** was licensed in Nevada from November 23rd, 2021 to June 30th, 2023. She was a clinical intern at Moriah Behavioral Health. Ms. **Thomas** let her license expire and then was licensed in Michigan as an LMSW until February 24th, 2024. While completed her application, Ms. **Thomas** indicated that she had a sanction restriction or disciplinary action filed against her. She uploaded the explanation to the disciplinary action. Ms. **Thomas** also provided a copy of the consent order and the initial complaint for board review. Ms. **Thomas**' social work license was suspended in Michigan because of this consent. She provided professional and personal references for review by the board to include a letter from her clinical supervisor at the time of the occurrence. Ms. **Thomas** has completed all the CEU requirements on suicidal ideation, boundaries and how to manage countertransference and transference that she was required to do in the consent decree. Ms. **Thomas** was introduced to the board to answer any questions that the board may have and is hopeful to be approved for licensure. Ms. **Erickson** inquired if Ms. **Thomas** would like to go in to closed session. Ms. **Thomas** indicated that she would like to go in to closed session.

Closed session began at 9:07 AM.

Erickson started the recording to **return to the open session** of the August 21, 2024 Board Meeting starting at 9:35 AM. Ms. **Erickson** let everybody out of the wait room.

Langston requested a motion from the board to approve the LMSW licensure of Mary **Thomas**. **Klimas** made the motion, **Rubinstein Meadows** seconded the motion.

Langston inquired if there was any discussion. **Klimas** inquired if there was an ability to put a stipulation of supervision prior to approving Ms. **Thomas**' licensure.

Ward stated, "You can craft a motion that would include these requirements with the approval, considering your concern". **Ward** indicates that if that happens, than the motion maker would rescind the vote and the second motion would rescind the second, and a new motion would be made with the stipulation of continued education or supervision.

Klimas and **Rubinstein Meadows** rescinded their motions.

Klimas made a motion to grand the LMSW license with a stipulation of continued supervision at her work site for a year.

Holland Browne states she would like to add that the board receives a report at least every six months around the issues of both boundaries and suicide risk and requests that the motion be amended.

Langston states the motion has been amended. She restates the motion that the LMSW license be issues with weekly supervision for one year with reports to the board at six months and at the end of the year by the supervisor.

Unanimous vote to amend the motion.

Erickson states she will be in touch with Ms. **Thomas** regarding issuing her an LMSW license.

Ms. **Thomas** thanked the board, "I am not going to let the state of Nevada or the board down, so thank you. I take this very seriously".

Langston moves to Agenda Item C: Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action). **Ward** states he does not see the attorney who is representing Mr. DeSio, Kevin Colburn, who had made an appearance earlier in the meeting. "Just to let you guys know we are in discovery". **Ward** provided some background to the case, "It's a per se violation. Mr. DeSio failed to inform the board in writing of an arrest". **Ward** states that DeSio has new counsel and requests that this matter to be continued and kept on the agenda for updates in trying to resolve this matter".

Langston moved to Agenda Item D. Legislative Update – Nick Vanderpoel (For Discussion)

Mr. Vanderpoel was unavailable for the board meeting, however **Erickson** provided some updates. **Erickson** stated that she had attended a working session of a legislative committee which discussed a BDR for social work apprentices. **Erickson** discussed that the board office was sent an email questioning how this would impact the board. **Erickson** stated that the

response was that the BSW and MSW students at the universities in Nevada already have practicums and clinical interns have a 2-3 year internship, so a conversation with the sponsor with the bill and our legislative liaison would be helpful to explore what needs to happen next.

Langston states that both UNLV and UNR are accredited by the Council on Social Work Education that stipulates the requirements for students in field practicum and what they need to do. **Holland Browne** supported the same concern.

Langston moved to Agenda Item D. a. ii. BDR Proposal for Health Care Workforce. **Erickson** provided the update that there is a BDR to combine behavioral health boards under DPBH that we are following. **Erickson** states there is also another BDR in the process to combine most boards and commissions into one board under Business and Industry, so we are watching that as well. **Erickson** stated that there is a meeting with the regulators of the boards and commissions in Nevada to meet in Carson City tomorrow with the division administrators of Business and Industry to discuss further. **Holland Browne** inquired what course of action is available to the board to prevent this. **Ward** stated that this is moving forward by legislators and the governor, but understands the concern. **Holland Browne** stated that she feels the Board of Examiners for Social Workers has very high standards and actively pursues keeping the community safe. She expressed, "my biggest fear with our melding with other boards whose standards may not meet ours. And frankly, our standards are pretty high". **Rubinstein Meadows** inquired how to disseminate the information about a combination board out to social workers across the state. She inquired if there is a possibility of doing a workshop. **Erickson** stated that she will continue to work the legislative liaison to know how to move forward with this. **Rubinstein Meadows** expressed concern that there wouldn't be a social worker sitting on a consolidated board.

Langston moved to Agenda Item D. b. Interstate Compact (For Discussion). **Erickson** stated that we are still moving towards an interstate compact for licensed social workers and it seems legislators are in favor of this.

Langston moved to Agenda Item #. Executive Director Meeting with Nikki Hagg, Deputy Director of Business and Industry. **Erickson** discussed that she will be attending a meeting with the Deputy Director and Director of Business and Industry tomorrow in Carson City. **Erickson** stated that she had joined a zoom meeting to attend the meeting in Las Vegas as well, and the discussion was about a model moving into a consolidated board.

Langston moved to Agenda Item F. Year End Finances – Sandy **Lowery** (For Possible Action). **Lowery** shared her screen with the year end numbers. She states that our income came in at 119% of anticipated revenue. Our salaries and expenses are at 92%. We are at 82% of all other expenses, so we are doing very well. **Langston** inquired if we were underfunded in our retirement account, and that has been rectified. Dr. **Langston** thanked the board staff for being frugal and thanked **Lowery** for finalizing the budget. Sandy discussed the governors request to do an 11% pay increase to all state staff and the board budget had the availability to accommodate that.

Langston moved to Agenda Item H – ASWB Delegate Assembly November 7-9, 2024 (For Discussion). **Erickson** stated that this year the ASWB will be providing funding for board administrators to attend, however **Erickson** is running for Board of Directors Administrator, so

will be funded regardless. **Erickson** inquired if there was a board member who would like to serve as a delegate, and the board could consider an alternate delegate as well. **Langston** states she would like to attend the delegate assembly as the delegate since she is the current president of the board. **Holland Browne** indicated she was interested in attending as the alternate delegate and will consider this. **Rubinstein Meadows** indicated she would like to be considered if there is a spot available as well.

Langston moved to Agenda Item I. CLEAR's 2024 Annual Education Conference, September 16-19, 2024 (For Discussion). **Erickson** stated she is scheduled to attend the CLEAR Education Conference. She indicated the agenda appears relevant because it includes topics such as sexual misconduct investigations and Cultural Diversity topics for the regulatory boards.

Langston moved to Agenda Item J. Executive Director's Report (Informational). **Erickson** thanked Sandy **Lowery** and Chelsea **Benegas** for gathering the important information to submit for our yearly audit that will happen in a couple of weeks. **Erickson** stated she set up a meeting room at this building complex for our October 16, 2024 in person meeting, so will be reaching out to the board members in Las Vegas to security transportation and lodging. **Erickson** stated she has the ASWB planning to attend to discuss the exam, and CSG to discuss the interstate compact.

Langston moved to Agenda Item 4: Public Comment: **Erickson** stated there was nobody in the office, nobody on the phone, and no emails received with public comment, but wanted to invite the public to join the zoom meeting with the meeting ID of 91657012495 with a passcode of 404148.

Langston adjourned the meeting at 10:29 AM.