

## Board Meeting Minutes, Wednesday, January 17, 2024

The January 17, 2024 Board Meeting was called to order by 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**. Not in attendance was Linda **Holland Browne**. Board staff in attendance was Vikki **Erickson** and Sandy **Lowery**. In attendance was Board Counsel/Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward**. Guest: Julie Geiger, who indicates she is an MSW student.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 2 – Public Comment: Erickson** states there is no public comment in writing, in the board office, on the telephone or online. **Ward** indicates if there was public who wanted to make a comment on the Zoom call, they could log in with the Zoom ID 99835536221 with the Passcode: 898128.

**Langston** moves to **Agenda Item 3A – Board Operations: Review and Discuss December 20, 2023 Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**. **Erickson** reminded that there are 2 sets of meeting minutes, one open meeting, and one closed session to review and vote on. **Rubinstein Meadows** indicates that there is a spelling error of her name in the meeting minutes. **Klimas** makes a motion to approve the open meeting minutes. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconds the motion to approve. Approval vote was unanimous, and motion passes to approve the open meeting minutes.

**Langston** requests a motion to approve the closed meeting minutes. **Klimas** makes a motion to approve the closed meeting minutes. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconds the motion to approve. The vote is approved unanimously, and the motion passes to approve the closed meeting minutes.

**Langston** moves to **Agenda Item 3B. License Verification (For Possible Action)**. **Lowery** discusses that the board does not charge for license verification, however this is causing a significant increase in office work since many licensees are getting licensed in multiple states, anywhere between one and fifteen states. **Lowery** describes that Nevada is a primary source state which means that verification of a licensee on the board website is real time. **Lowery** states she is asking for consideration around no longer providing written license verification, but rather referring people to the board website. **Lowery** describes that the presentation of the license verification screen on the website will show the seal of the state of Nevada so that it looks official, but that we're hoping to eliminate our need to send written verification. **Lowery** states that the plan is to add on internship information since some boards request that information to be verified.

**Rubinstein Meadows** inquired if there was a limit to how many names or a time domain could loop upon this search task. She inquired if there would be a "timed out" message or a max capacity.

**Lowery** indicates that there may be, but that would be hit if a credentialing entity was doing the search. **Lowery** said she will find out more information about the capacity of the search. **Lowery** said she doesn't think this will be a problem if a state is doing a license verification for endorsement. **Lowery** states that this board looks up license verification in primary source states and doesn't request written verification of licensure from those states.

**Ward** reminds participants to identify themselves before we speak since this meeting is being recorded.

**Lowery** states she should have a template to show at the next meeting but was wondering if the board would be open to this idea, especially since licensees are becoming licensed in multiple states.

**Langston** requested a motion to proceed with online license verification versus written verification.

**Klimas** made a motion to proceed, to be reviewed again at the next board meeting.

**Rubinstein Meadows** seconded the motion. Unanimous vote to approve to motion.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3C. NAC Changes (For Possible Action)**. **Lowery** shared her screen showing an outline of the proposed NAC changes to include what the board proposed as well as what the LCB has proposed and agreed to. **Lowery** described the process that the LCB attorney assigned to the board reviews the language sent to them to determine if we can make the changes. **Lowery** states that SB44 which passed in 2021 which initiated some changes went through with no problem such as the creation of an inactive status and the designation of the LMSW license. Removal of legacy language stating that licensees must have evidence of their license on their person is going through because the license can be verified online.

**Lowery** described there are a couple of things that we can't do, such as endorse a license from another country, most specifically Canada, but can be something to consider for NRS language in the next legislative session. **Lowery** states we need to have a bill in the next session around the suicide prevention CEUs every two years because it's going to sunset in 2026 and go back to yearly if there is no bill. Another requested NAC change that we are not able to move forward with is the removal of the Provisional B license because it exists in our NRS. It would require another NRS change.

**Lowery** states that they agreed with tightening up the telehealth language. She also indicates that they agreed to solidify that personal addresses, emails and phone numbers are confidential and will not be released. **Lowery** states that when there's a request for contact information for licensees, they will receive a mailing list of professional addresses.

**Lowery** discussed that they seemed to agree with clinical interns not doing an internship simultaneously in another state while in an internship in Nevada. They also moved forward with the 6 credits of CEUs for cultural diversity.

There was an issue with CEU approval amongst other national behavioral boards, however **Lowery** indicates she will contact the LCB to clarify the language because she believes this is a misunderstanding between National Boards and National Associations.

There is also tightening up of the language when a licensee is arrested, as well as notification to the board when a licensee has a sanction from an insurance carrier, payer source or regulatory entity. The board will monitor this once notified.

Language was amended through the LCB around allowing an LCSW to make a sworn statement or declaration to perform an evaluation for assisted outpatient treatment. **Lowery** clarifies that assisted outpatient treatment is language used only within the state hospital system.

**Lowery** states that the NACs will be changed to allow retirement age from 65 to 60.

**Lowery** reviewed the small business impact survey that was sent out. The survey was sent to small businesses that employ licensees and licensees who have a business license. There was a 21% return rate on the survey.

**Langston** asked for a motion to approve moving forward with the next step with the NAC changes. **Rubinstein Meadows** made a motion to approve. **Klimas** seconded the motion. Unanimous vote to approve and motion passes.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3D. 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter Financials (For possible Action).**

**Lowery** states we're halfway through the fiscal year, so theoretically our income and expenses should be in the 50% range. We are at 59% of our income, meaning we have earned more than we anticipated by this point in the fiscal year. Expenses are at 46% of employer related expenses. Overall, we are at 41% and we should be running at 50% so we're in good shape. **Langston** asked for a motion to approve the second quarter financials. **Klimas** made a motion to approve. **Vaughn** seconded the motion. Unanimous vote to approve. Motion passes.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3E. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action).** Deputy Attorney General **Ward** provided an update stating that he has been in contact with the paralegal from the attorney's office representing the licensee and they are working on a change of language in the consent decree, and that the agenda item should remain on the agenda until they can resolve this matter and bring it to the board for approval.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 3F. Executive Director's Report (Informational).**

**Erickson** encouraged the board members to communicate with her if they have an agenda

item they would like included on the next agenda or future agendas. **Erickson** stated that the next scheduled board meeting is 9 a.m. Wednesday, February 21, 2024. **Erickson** stated that she has been working on the disciplinary/compliance unit cases with the Deputy Attorney General and has no further updates at this time.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 4. Public Comment.** **Erickson** indicates that there is nobody on the phone, in the office or online. **Erickson** states there are no emails indicating public comment.

**Langston** moved to **Agenda Item 5. Adjournment.** **Langston** asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. **Klimas** made a motion to adjourn, **Vaughn** seconded the motion. Unanimous vote to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 9:37a.m.