



State of Nevada

Board of Examiners for Social Workers

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

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The March 20, 2024 Board Meeting and NAC Hearing was called to order by Dr. Esther **Langston** at 9:00a.m. A **roll call** was taken. Board Members in attendance: Esther **Langston**, Linda **Holland Browne**, Abby **Klimas**, Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows** and Jamie **Vaughn**. Board staff in attendance was Vikki **Erickson** and Sandy **Lowery**. In attendance was Board Counsel/Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward**. Guest in attendance was Nick **Vander Poel** from Flynn Giudici Government Affairs, LLC. Public Members in attendance via Zoom were: Jenna Grant, LCSW, Tessa Sciales, LMSW, Sandra Freeman, MSW, Clinical Intern, Freida Dizon, Management Analyst/Intern Coordinator for Washoe County Human Services Agency, Ana Huntsberger, LCSW, Keibi Mejia, The Ferrato Company, Sebastian (no last name identified), Dawn Tann, LCSW, Alyson Martinez, LCSW, Ashley Hall, LMSW, Lisa May, LCSW.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 2. Public Comment**. **Erickson** announced that the Zoom Meeting ID is 94331815610 with a Passcode of 615744. **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. There was no public comment via Zoom either.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3A. Review and Discuss February 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**. **Langston** asked for a motion to approve the February 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes as read. **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve the February 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes. **Klimas** seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of the February 21, 2024 Meeting Minutes. Motion passes.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3B. NAC Change Public Hearing (For Possible Action)**. **Lowery** discussed this was the final step that the board takes in terms of a review and approval of the NAC changes.

Ward suggested that Dr. **Langston** opened the meeting for public comment before the NAC hearing and again after the NAC hearing, open for public comment after each section covered. Dr. **Langston** states she would like to open public comment after each section is covered.

Lowery shared her screen with the NAC changes, so participants could view via Zoom although it was included in the board packet for the meeting.

Lowery began discussion of each section of the NAC changes:

1. NAC language based on SB 44, passed in 2021
 - a. Creation of an "inactive status" option for licenses.
 - b. Language for the LMSW license category.
 - c. Allowance for all supervision for post-graduate internship to be done remotely.
2. Removal of requirement that licensees have evidence of licensure on their person.
3. Tighten up "Provisional B" temporary license language.
4. Tightening up "telehealth language."
5. Solidifying that personal addresses and personal emails are considered confidential and will not be released.
6. Allowing that if a testing vendor (ASWB) has a waiver allowing for retesting in less than 90 days, the board will allow this, per the testing vendors policy.
7. Post-graduate internship related items
 - a. Removal of some residual language in the LISW internship that had previously been removed from the LCSW internship language.
 - b. Specifying that an intern may not practice outside of Nevada.
 - c. Specifying that an intern may not be in an internship in another state while in an internship in Nevada.
8. Continuing Education related items
 - a. Adding the 2023 legislative requirement for 6.00 hrs. of CDEI CEUs per collection cycle.

- b. Broadening the automatically approved CEUs to include acceptance of CEUs from any Nevada behavioral board, any national behavioral health association, or any national behavioral board.
9. Standards of Practice related items
- a. Requiring notification to the board if an individual is arrested.
 - b. Requiring notification to the board if an individual has received a sanction from an insurance carrier, payor source or regulatory entity.
 - c. Defining impaired practice.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 2: Creates the LMSW license that was granted by the legislature with SB 44 in 2021. You will then see the LMSW license inserted in a number of the NACs.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 3: Creates the language and process for the "inactive status" option that was granted by the legislature in SB 44 in 2021.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 4: Adding LMSW.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 5: Adding LMSW.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 6: Makes the personal addresses, phone number and emails of licensees confidential.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 7: Gives LCSW authority to perform evaluations for "assisted outpatient treatment." This is a level of care seen within the state system and not in the private practice world of treatment.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 8: Adding LMSW.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 9: Adding LMSW and changing the licensing option for a LMSW to the master's exam only. Also allows an applicant who failed the exam to seek a waiver to retake the exam as determined by the testing administrator.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 10: Changes the period of time for restoration from 2 years to 1 year.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 11: Stipulates that someone restoring their expired license is not required to retest.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 12: For Provisional "B" license, applicant must have completed one year of schooling in social work before they can apply. Also removes some legacy language regarding provisional licensure for LISW and LCSW.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 13: Adds the LMSW license and "inactive status" to fees.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 14: Adding LMSW.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 15: Related to LISW post-graduate internships. Cleaning up some language. Also specifies that an intern practicing in NV shall not be collecting post-graduate hours in another state at the same time. It also notes that an intern may not practice outside of the state. Removes some legacy language regarding the LISW internship.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 16: Identical to section 15 for LCSW post-graduate internships. Also removes some legacy language about substantially equivalent requirements for hours from another state.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 17: Enacts the SB 44 language around permission for all supervision to be done virtually.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 18: Adding LMSW and adds the legislative mandate for 6.00 CEUs in CDEI. Changes the age for retirement from 65 to 60.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Holland Browne asked for clarification, "No more ethics?" **Lowery** clarified that the legislatively mandated CEUs were currently 2 suicide prevention CEUs and 6 Cultural Diversity CEUs.

Section 19: Tidying up language and grammar.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 20: Expands automatic CEU approval to include any Nevada behavioral board; any national behavioral board or any national behavioral association.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 21: Tidying up grammar.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 22: Further stipulates that a licensee shall not provide services through telehealth to a client located outside of NV unless licensed in the state where the client is. Adds requirement that a licensee notify the board of they receive a sanction, restriction or disciplinary action filed against him/her by an insurer, other third party or regulatory entity. It further defines an "insurer" and "third party."

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Section 23: Includes "impairment" in terms of professional incompetence and defines impairment.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Repealed Section: Take away the requirement that a licensee keep a copy of their license on their person.

Langston inquired if there was any public comment. There was no public comment.

Langston inquired if she could get a motion to approve the NAC changes as presented. **Holland Browne** made the motion to approve. **Klimas** seconded the motion. Unanimous approval and motion passes.

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3C. Discussion of state changes that impact the BESWs ability to endorse out of state licensure (For Possible Action)**. **Erickson** discussed difficulty in endorsing licensure from applicants from other states that don't have the same licensing requirements as Nevada, such as: Some states are not requiring the national exam or requiring less internship hours

for clinical licensure. **Erickson** states that prior to licensing an endorsement application, the board staff will request exam scores to be transferred to Nevada so we can make sure the applicant has met our licensing requirements. **Lowery** discussed that this could be an issue if Nevada is able to join the interstate compact because we want to make sure the states are "apples to apples". **Erickson** states that she discussed this with DAG **Ward** and he confirmed we can maintain our licensing standards requirement. DAG **Ward** confirms this and reiterates that if a licensee had 1600 hours of internship as an LCSW, we could require them to do additional hours to meet the Nevada internship criteria. **Lowery** states that there is a path to licensure, however it's "not straight across". **Holland Browne** states that the board has considerable responsibility to the public and feels incoming licensees should maintain the standard the board has in place. **Langston** states she attended a Social Work Education conference last week "this is a very hot topic". **Langston** states she understands that we will continue to follow the administrative code regarding licensure. **Erickson** inquired if there needed to be a vote. DAG **Ward** states "it's a discussion on state changes... we have to follow our regs and statutes".

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3D. Discussion of possible BESW office relocation (For Possible Action)**. **Erickson** reports that in March 2015 there were 2605 licensees and in March 2024 there are 4714 licensees. **Erickson** discussed that there is an increase in staffing and an increase in files and file cabinets due to this increase in licensees to manage, so the board staff would like approval to consider a larger office space. **Erickson** discussed the current plan is to stay in the same office complex and continue to communicate with the office lease management office that we are looking for another space. **Holland Browne** states she has been in the office almost weekly and finds it to be "incredibly cramped" for all of the staff and would support taking a look at other office space. **Holland Browne** states she is also in support of the board staff looking outside the complex if necessary. **Klimas** makes a motion that the Executive Director has the ability to look to relocate office and that they report back to the board when they find anything. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconds the motion. Unanimous approval and the motion passes.

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3E. Discussion of moving toward a paperless process. (For Possible Action)**. **Erickson** states that "same as item D, we've had an increase in licensees and are running out of space". **Erickson** states they are moving files to archive storage in Carson City and are also looking at digitizing the files instead of paper files. **Erickson** states that she has spoken with the nursing board, and they have been digitized for several years and it works well for them. **Langston** requested a motion. **Klimas** motioned that the board moves toward a paperless process. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconds the motion. **Holland Browne** states that it may be difficult for some licensees to upload their required paperwork. **Erickson** confirms the board staff would continue to assist licensees and applicants with his process if they have difficulty. **Rubinstein Meadows** inquired if a licensee could mail their documents to the board and the board staff could upload the material on their behalf. **Erickson** states that this would be fine, and the board staff already do that for some licensees and applicants if they need that assistance. **Langston** asked if there was any further discussion and if not to please vote. Unanimous approval to move forward with going paperless. Motion passes.

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3F. ASWB New Board Member Training Updates (For Discussion)**. **Erickson** states this was an error to put on the agenda because the New Board Member training isn't until later in the week.

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3G. ASWB Education Meeting (For Discussion)**. **Erickson** discussed that she applied for the ASWB scholarship funds to be supported to attend the Education meeting in Virginia in May, however she did not receive the scholarship and would like board funding for airfare and hotel accommodation. **Langston** states, "You need to eat too". The topic of board funding was approved in the previous board meeting, however **Erickson** wanted to update the board on not receiving the scholarship.

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3H Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No 6200-C (For Possible Action)**. DAG **Ward** states "I'm happy to report that opposing counsel for licensee DeSio is pleased with the new language and the consent decree". **Ward** states that that unfortunately we just do not have it signed by the licensee as of this date. **Ward** states, "hopefully it will be signed and presented to the board for approval at the next meeting".

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 3I. Executive Director's Report (Informational)**. **Erickson** states she has been employed now with the board for close to a year and has seen a rapid increase of

license approvals and processing time for applications has improved as well. **Erickson** reports that the staff are wonderful at working together and continue to work with licensees and applicants to respond to questions and license as quickly as possible. **Langston** states, "I would like the Board's consideration in sending accommodations to the staff for the excellent customer service and work that they do on behalf of the licensees in the State of Nevada". **Erickson** states "yesterday we licensed an applicant who submitted their application that day", indicating that the licensee had already had their transcript and their background check completed in advance, so quickly got licensed.

Erickson states she would like to thank **Lowery** for her hard work on the NACs, acknowledging that is a long, time consuming and sometimes difficult process, and **Lowery** has been doing a wonderful job.

Erickson reports that the board staff are current on CEU approval, and there is a rapid turnaround when the board staff receive the CEU packet to review.

Erickson invites the Board members to let her know if they would like anything put on the agenda for the next board meeting.

The next Board Meeting will be Wednesday, April 17th at 9:00 am.

Langston moves to **Agenda Item 4. Public Comment**. **Erickson** states there is nobody via email, on the telephone or in the office to provide public comment.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 5. Adjournment at 10:09 am**.