



State of Nevada

## Board of Examiners for Social Workers

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On May 15, 2024, the board meeting for the State of Nevada Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order by Dr. Esther **Langston** at 9:02 a.m. A roll call was taken. Board members in attendance: Esther Lanston, Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows**, Linda **Holland Browne** and Jamie **Vaughn**. Abby **Klimas** was not in attendance at this board meeting. Board staff in attendance were Vikki **Erickson** and Sandy **Lowery**. Guests in attendance were Nick **Vanderpoel** from Flynn Guidici Government Affairs, LLC, Keibi **Majia** from Public Affairs – The Ferrato Co. 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 97161150370 with a passcode of 386135. **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 April 17, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes (For Possible Action). **Holland Browne** made a motion to accept the April 17, 2024 Meeting and Hearing minutes as read since she was not at the meeting. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconded the motion. There was unanimous approval of the April 17, 2024 meeting minutes.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3B. Board Review of Hearing for Oceana **Hill**, G23-04, License No. 9345-M (For Possible Action). **Ward** states that we have been in contact with Ms. **Hill** and she signed the voluntary surrender and had an interest in appearing remotely. **Ward** inquired if the board was interested in postponing the vote on the voluntary surrender agreement until the next board meeting which would be in August 2024. **Lowery** recommended that perhaps we could move the agenda item down the list of the agenda in the event she shows up. **Langston** agrees to move the agenda item further into the meeting. **Ward** states that if the waiver is signed, we could easily do that. **Holland Browne** inquired if Ms. **Hill** was still practicing. **Lowery** states she is an LMSW, but not a practicing clinician. **Holland Browne** states, in her opinion, that since the papers are signed, that the voluntary surrender needs to happen in this meeting. **Erickson** states that if Ms. **Hill** shows up in the office, calls in, or comes into the Zoom meeting, we will include her in the meeting. **Langston** states that Item 3B will be moved to further in the meeting in case Ms. **Hill** appears.

**Langston** move to Agenda Item 3C. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action). **Ward** states he has emailed both Mr. DeSio and his attorney. His attorney has indicated that Mr. DeSio is interested in signing a consent decree, but currently the problem is getting a hold of the attorney. **Ward** gave a little background to the consent decree which started with a failure to report an arrest. **Ward** requests that this be continued to the next meeting agenda while continuing to attempt contact with DeSio's attorney.

**Langston** moves to Agenda Item 3D. NAC Change Update (For Possible Action). **Lowery** states that the final information was provided to the LCB and we are waiting for notification of a

legislative commission meeting to review the NAC changes. No vote was taken on this agenda item.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3E. Interstate Compact (For Discussion). The lobbyist had not yet joined the Zoom call, so this agenda item was moved later in the meeting.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3F. Preliminary Budget (For Possible Action). **Lowery** presented the preliminary budget for the board to review. **Lowery** indicates that she projected the budget with a 7% increase in income. She states after the April finances were calculated that the board is at 99% of the income for the fiscal year, which was initially thought to be 83%, but we are 16% over income expectations and we still have 2 months to go. **Erickson** states that while calculating the budget, she would like to consider changing Chelsea's position from administrative assistant to licensing specialist since she completes the position requirements of that position. **Erickson** states she reviewed the position specs from the Board of Nursing and the Medical Board for the position of licensing specialist, and it is within our budget to be able to move Chelsea to this position and into a new income range. **Lowery** states this is going to work with the upcoming budget starting July 1, 2024. **Lowery** discussed that the cost of the auditor will be increasing, as well as moving forward with working the lobbyist which will be necessary due to the upcoming legislative session. **Lowery** discussed that the labor costs have decreased some and our operating costs have increased due to a slightly more expensive rent expense. She also indicated we would be picking up some software. **Lowery** indicates we are in good shape with the budget, and this will be discussed further in the August meeting. **Lowery** discussed that the salaries will be looking different after Caroline retires at the end of the year. **Lowery** discussed that she is the legal secretary at the board office. **Rubinstein Meadows** inquired if a replacement for that position would require another legal secretary or a paralegal. **Erickson** states this may not be the case, but the work tasks would be evaluated to determine the need. **Langston** asked for a motion to approve the budget. **Holland Browne** makes a motion to approve the budget. **Vaughn** seconds the motion. Unanimous approval of the budget. **Langston** thanked board staff for the detailed budget description and keeping us fiscally sound.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3G. Discussion of BESW Office Relocation (For Possible Action). **Erickson** states that the board office has successfully relocated and thanked **Sandy Lowery** for orchestrating the move to include the moving company, IT, phones, and the printer. **Holland Browne** states she walked through the office and said "it is phenomenally better for everyone involved". "It's really a smart move". **Langston** thanked the board task for successfully moving the board office.

**Langston** moved back to Agenda Item 3E. Interstate Compact (For Discussion) because **Nick Vanderpoel**, the lobbyist, joined the Zoom meeting. **Vanderpoel** indicated he was in another board meeting before joining this Zoom meeting. **Vanderpoel** states he is working with the Nevada Rural Behavioral Board for a BDR to include the Social Work Interstate Compact. **Vanderpoel** also indicated that he continues to work with the Council of State Governments for the compact as well. **Rubinstein Meadows** inquired if there was language drafted yet for the Bill Draft Request. **Vanderpoel** states that the language for the interstate compact has to be exactly the same in every state and will be worked on when the Social Work Interstate Compact Commission comes together. He says this will be good timing for the legislative session.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3H. ASWB Education Meeting. (For Discussion). **Erickson** discussed her attendance at the ASWB Education Meeting in Virginia the week prior and attending the Administrator's Forum. She states that there was a lot of discussion around the interstate compact and how each state was moving forward with that, as well as licensing exams throughout the states. She expressed that it was very helpful to connect with other administrators, especially administrators from composite boards since they are managed differently.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3I. Executive Director's Report (Informational). **Erickson** invited board members to submit agenda items to her if they have an item they would like to put on the agenda. She also reminded the board members that they had discussed meeting in person in September. She mentioned Wednesday September 18, 2024. **Erickson** states this arrangement will be made and we'll make a plan for the board members in Las Vegas to fly to Reno.

**Langston** moved back to Agenda Item 3B. Board Review of Hearing for Oceana **Hill**, G23-04, License No. 9345M (For Possible Action). Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward** states that the licensee has submitted a voluntary surrender and at this time, the board will review it and in an open meeting vote to either accept it or to deny it. He states that in the event that the board decides they're not going to accept it by a majority then the motion to accept it will not pass. If it does not pass then he will have to go back to the licensee and renegotiate the voluntary surrender and asked if there were any questions. **Langston** asked for a motion to approve the voluntary surrender agreement. **Holland Browne** made the motion to approve the voluntary surrender agreement. **Rubinstein Meadows** seconds the motion. Unanimous approval to accept the voluntary surrender agreement.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 4. Public Comment. **Erickson** states that there is nobody in the office, no emails and nobody on the phone. There is nobody else on the Zoom Call, but the meeting code is 97161150370 with a passcode of 386135 if somebody wanted to join the Zoom Call.

**Langston** adjourned the meeting at 9:59 a.m.