



State of Nevada

## Board of Examiners for Social Workers

4600 Kietzke Lane, #O-264, Reno, NV 89502

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On October 16, 2024, the board meeting for the State of Nevada Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order by Dr. Esther **Langston** at 1:00 p.m. A roll call was taken. Board members in attendance: Esther **Langston**, Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows**, Linda **Holland Browne** and Abby **Klimas**. Jamie **Vaughn** was not in attendance at this board meeting. Board staff in attendance were Vikki **Erickson** and Sandy **Lowery**. Harry **Ward** was present as the Deputy Attorney General. Guests in attendance were Nick **Vander Poel** from Flynn Guidici Government Affairs, LLC, Elyse Monrow from Belz and Case Government Affairs, Spencer Gabe and Joseph Fillippi.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 2. Public Comment. **Erickson** announced that the Zoom Meeting ID is 92290704804 with a passcode of 061296. **Erickson** indicated that there was nobody present in person, no public comment via email, and nobody present via phone. There was no public comment via Zoom.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3A. Review and Discuss August 21, 2024, Meeting and Hearing Minutes (For Possible Action). **Holland Browne** made a motion to accept the August 21, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes. **Klimas** provided a second to the motion. There was unanimous approval of the August 21, 2024, meeting minutes.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3B. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action). Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward** reports that he is in negotiation with Mr. DeSio's attorney on the Consent Decree and requested that this agenda item be re-agendized for the next board meeting. No action taken.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3C. Board Review of Consent Decree for Robert Chickering, License No. 2502-S (For Possible Action). **Holland Browne** asked for a brief description of the result of the consent decree. **Erickson** and DAG **Ward** provided that information. **Klimas** made a motion to approve the Consent Decree for Robert Chickering, License No. 2052-S. **Holland Browne** proved a second. There was no further discussion. Unanimous approval of the consent decree for Robert Chickering, License No. 2502-S.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item D. Legislative Update (For Discussion)

- i. BDR 54-403 – "Revises provisions relating to Behavioral Health" From the Rural Regional Behavioral Health Policy Board (Social Work Interstate Compact). **Vander Poel** states this BDR supports the Social Work Interstate Compact and anticipates the Social Work Interstate Compact may be in other upcoming bills as well.
- ii. BDR 40-353 – "Makes revision relating to health professions" – From the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services. Proposal for Health Care Workforce. Proposing combining the Behavioral Health Boards under DPBH. **Vander Poel** states this bill may still be in process, however there is another bill with the recommendation to combine boards under Business and Industry.

- iii. BDR 352 – “Revises provisions relating to social work” From the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services: Proposing Social Work Apprenticeship Program.
- iv. BDR 54-301 “Revises provisions relating to boards and commissions from Department of Business and Industry”. Proposing consolidating most Nevada Boards. Vanderpoel reports that he will attend a meeting with **Erickson**, Director of Business and Industry and Deputy Director over Boards and Commissions in a couple of weeks.

No action taking on Agenda Item D.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item E. Executive Director Meeting with Nikki Hagg, Deputy Director of business and Industry (For Discussion). **Erickson** discussed that she and Nick **Vander Poel** are schedule by Business and Industry to meet with Director Sanchez and Deputy Director Hagg at 10:45am on 10/29/2024 in person in Carson City. No agenda was provided regarding the meeting; however the meeting is scheduled for 45 minutes. The Board Members requested an update following the meeting. No Action was taken on Agenda Item E.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item F. Quarter End Finances – Sandy **Lowery** (For Possible Action). **Lowery** provided an update on the Quarter End finances indicating the numbers are within the range predicted. Langton requested a motion to approve the Quarter End Finances. **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve the Quarter End Finances. **Rubinstein Meadows** provided a second motion to approve. No further discussion was offered. Unanimous approval on the Quarter End Finances.

**Langston** move to Agenda Item G. Audit Update – Sandy **Lowery** (For Possible Action). **Lowery** provided an update indicate that the auditors were in the office 2 weeks ago and conducted a thorough audit. She states that the auditor will provide an update on the audit report for the board meeting in December 2024, but there did not appear to be any significant issues so far in the audit findings. No Action was taken on Agenda Item G. No questions were asked by the Board.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item H. Occupational Board Quarterly Report (For Possible Action). **Lowery** states that she completes the Occupational Board Quarterly Report and submits the report. She indicated that this quarter, a couple of new license categories were added to include “inactive” licenses and internship certifications. This will reflect some of the categories the board staff are working with, specifically because there are over 500 internship certifications currently, and “inactive” is a new category with the approved Nevada Administrative Code allowing licensees to remain “inactive” for 5 years. No questions were asked by the Board. No action was taken on Agenda Item H.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item I. ASWB Delegate Assembly, November 7-9, 2024. (For Possible Action). **Erickson** discussed that she will be attending the Delegate Assembly as the Board Administrator and is slated for Board of Directors, Administrator. **Erickson** discussed that President **Langston** will be attending as the Delegate for the State of Nevada and Ms. **Rubinstein Meadows** will attend as the Alternate Delegate funded by the Board. No further questions or discussions from the board, as this was decided on in a previous board meeting

and registration was just completed for the Delegate Assembly. No action was taken on Agenda Item I.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item J. Executive Director's Report (Informational). **Erickson** invited the Board to provide any future agenda items they would like to see on the agenda to her. **Erickson** stated that the next meeting would be scheduled for Wednesday November 20, 2024, at 9 a.m. **Erickson** thanked the Board Members from Las Vegas for coming to Reno for an in-person board meeting and thanked the Board Members for attending the morning informational discussion with the Association of Social Work Boards and the Commission on State Governments.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 4. Public Comment. **Erickson** stated that the public can join the Zoom meeting with the ID 92290704804 with the passcode 061296. There was no public comment verbalized on the Zoom call, nobody on the telephone, no public comment in person, and no email with comment.

**Langston** moved to Agenda Item 5. Adjournment.

Meeting Adjourned at 1:34 p.m.