

STATE OF NEVADA

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DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
OFFICE OF NEVADA BOARDS, COMMISSIONS AND COUNCILS STANDARDS
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

On Wednesday, February 19, 2024, the board meeting for the State of Nevada Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order by Linda **Holland Browne**, Board Vice Chair at 9:00 a.m. A roll call was taken. Board members in attendance: Linda **Holland Browne**, Abby **Klimas**, Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows** and Jamie **Vaughn**. Dr. Esther **Langston** 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 Dawn Tann, LCSW from Southern Nevada Adult Mental Health and Ashley **Bunton Dodson**.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 2. Public Comment. **Erickson** announced that the Zoom Meeting ID is 92858075422 with a passcode of 015686. **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.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3A. Board Operations; Review and Discuss November 20, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes (For Possible Action). **Klimas** made a motion to approve the November 20, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes, **Rubinstein Meadows** provided a second. There was no further comment and unanimous approval to approve the November 20, 2024 Meeting and Hearing Minutes.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3B. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action). Deputy Attorney General, Harry **Ward** stated, "No further news. I still am optimistic that this will be resolved at one of these meetings in the very near future". No action taken.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3C. Board Review of the Application for Heyward Jackson (For Possible Action). **Erickson** stated that his attorney was contacted with a request to have his client sign and return the open meeting law waiver form on two separate occasions, however there was no response. **Erickson** states to date there has been no further correspondence or interactions with Mr. Jackson regarding his application. Deputy Attorney General **Ward** suggested that this matter be tabled for the next meeting.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3D. Board Review of the Application for Ashley **Bunton Dodson** (For Possible Action). **Erickson** stated that Ms. **Bunton Dodson** has applied for a license in the State of Nevada and provided information about some legal issues that she is working through which rose to the level to bring the application to the board for review and decision. Ms. **Bunton Dodson** indicated she would like to move to a closed session and have a conversation with the Board Members.

Erickson closed the meeting and moved to a closed session for the review of Ms. **Bunton Dodson**'s application for licensure.

Returned to open meeting session at 9:30 AM. Linda **Holland Browne** brought the meeting back to order to discuss Agenda Item 3D.

Klimas made the motion to approved Ms. **Bunton Dodson** for licensure with a stipulation that she has monthly supervision with a board approved supervisor. The fees will be the licensee's responsibility and she will submit a supervision progress report every 6 months to the Executive Director of the Board for two years. **Vaughn** provided a second for the motion. There was no further discussion, and a unanimous vote to approve the motion. Deputy Attorney General **Ward** stated that the applicant should contact the board to move forward with licensure.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3E. Quarter End Financials (For Possible Action). **Lowery** states that the board should be at 58% of our earnings and the board is at 66%, so we are above. The board salaries and expenses are 48% and so we are spending less money that we are budgeted for. **Lowery** discussed the OPEB contribution to pay retirement if the state is unable to for financial reasons. The board financials also reflect PERS liability, and Lease liability. It is noted in the meeting that if the board office moves out of the complex before the lease is up, that will be a cost of \$105,000. The required Legislative Council Bureau requires us to have 9-12 months of cash reserves and currently we have about 6, so still working on getting up to 9 months. **Holland Browne** requested a motion to approve the financial report. **Rubinstein Meadows** made a motion to approve the financial report. **Klimas** provided a second. There was no further discussion of the financial report. The board unanimously voted to approve the financial report as provided.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3F. Transition from Flynn Giudici Government Affairs, LLC (For Discussion). **Erickson** stated that our previous legislative consultant has taken a position in Washington DC, so currently Mendy Elliott and Daniel Giudici are going to assist us in legislative consultation. No action was taken.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3G. Board authority to speak for the Board at the Legislature (For Possible Action). **Erickson** requested the board authority to speak for the board at the legislature, requesting permission and authority to speak on behalf of the board. **Klimas** made the motion to allow **Erickson** the authority to speak on behalf of the Board at the legislature. **Rubinstein Meadows** provided a second. There was unanimous approval to allow **Erickson** to speak on behalf of the Board at the legislature.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 3H. Legislative Update (For Discussion). **Erickson** provided an update that the board continues to follow SB 78 which is the bill that revises provisions relating to boards and commissions, councils and similar bodies. This will combine various boards, eliminate other boards and commissions and under SB 431 from the 82nd legislative session, business and industry has created a new division of boards and commissions under Deputy Director Haag.

Erickson discussed SB 68 which is put forward by the Senate Committee of Commerce and Labor with the assistance of the Rural Behavioral Health Board. This bill allows for the initiation of the Social Work Interstate Compact. **Erickson** discussed with the Board Members that she, the legislative consultant and the leadership of the Rural Behavioral Health Board met

with Senator Pazina to discuss this bill and provide additional information on interstate compacts and licensure testing.

Erickson discussed that the Board continues to follow SB 129 which will require somebody who is endorsing into a licensing board to live in the state of Nevada and would require the applicant to have been licensed for a year prior to endorsing in. Discussed the complications of this bill, as several of our licensees who have endorsed in, live out of state and have a telehealth practice. The board will continue to follow this bill.

Erickson stated that there are several BDRs that they are tracking in the office and will provide updates as they turn into bills and will communicate any updates that she hears in regard to hearings for bills and other meetings to this matter.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item I. ASWB Exam administration transition to Pearson Vue (For Discussion). **Erickson** discussed that the ASWB is transitioning from the PSI testing site to the Pearson Vue testing site, with a testing blackout date from March 16-31. The ASWB test will resume with Pearson Vue April 1. No Action taken.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item J. ASWB Meetings. (For Possible Action).

- a. Discussion of the ASWB Administrator Workshop April 3-5, 2025. **Erickson** discussed that ASWB is holding an Administrator Workshop, however due to heavy legislative responsibility, **Erickson** has requested that Sandy **Lowery** attend in her place. **Holland Browne** asked for a motion. **Klimas** made a motion to allow Sandy **Lowery** to attend the Administrator Workshop April 3-5, and **Rubinstein Meadows** provided a second. There is a unanimous vote to allow **Lowery** to attend the Administrator Workshop.
- b. Discussion of the 2025 Education Meeting May 1-3, 2025. **Erickson** discussed that she would be attending the Education Meeting May 1-3 as an ASWB Board Member, however there is an opportunity for a scholarship through the ASWB is a Board Member would like to attend the education meeting. **Klimas** indicated she would be interested if the Board President, Dr. **Langston**, wasn't interested. **Erickson** stated she would meet with Dr. **Langston** and inquire about her interest. **Erickson** indicated there is also funding available for a Board Member to attend if the scholarship didn't work out. **Klimas** made a motion to approve the plan to discuss with Dr. **Langston** and **Rubinstein Meadows** provided a second. There was unanimous approval to move forward with the Education Meeting.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item K. Executive Director's Report (Informational).

Erickson discussed that she's already talked about the several bills they are following and has been getting a lot of support from other occupational boards and the legislative liaisons.

Erickson thanked Sandy for her hard work on the financial reports and assisting in the responses for fiscal notes and other legislative matters.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 4. Public Comment. **Erickson** stated that there was nobody in the office, on the phone or on the Zoom call, but the public can access this public Zoom meeting by using the Meeting ID: 92858075422 and the passcode: 015686.

Holland Browne moved to Agenda Item 5. Adjournment.