

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, May 21, 2025, the board meeting for the State of Nevada Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order by President **Langston** at 9:00 AM.

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order, Roll Call. Present were Esther **Langston**, Linda **Holland-Browne**, Abby **Klimas**, Jamie **Vaughn**, and Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows**. Board Office staff present were Sandy **Lowery**, Deputy Director, and Deputy Attorney General Harry **Ward**. Hisani Brewer and Larissa Morfin introduced themselves as present in the meeting. **Lowery** notified the Board that Vikki Erickson, Executive Director, was presently in Carson City at the Nevada Legislature.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 2. Public Comment**. **Lowery** stated there was nobody on the phone, in the office or via email requesting to make public comment, and provided the Zoom meeting ID and Passcode, available on the Board website, should anyone wish to join in and make public comment.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3A: Review and Discussion of March 19, 2025, Meeting and Hearing Minutes (For Possible Action)**. **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve. **Klimas** provided second. No discussion. Unanimous approval of Meeting Minutes.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3B: Review and Discussion of April 16, 2025, Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action)**. **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve. **Klimas** provided second. No discussion. Unanimous approval of Meeting Minutes.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3C. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSio, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action)**. Deputy Attorney General **Ward** stated that he is still very optimistic that this will be resolved. **Ward** states that he is talking to opposing counsel that he would like this resolved before this board is dissolved. No action taken.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3D. Fiscal Year 2026 Preliminary Budget (For Possible Action)**. **Lowery** reviewed the preliminary budget for FY2026. She discussed the anticipated income projections that are based on a review of income to date. She proposes a 6% overall increase in projected revenue. **Lowery** reviewed the anticipated expenses in payroll, contracted services and operating costs. Two items were identified as unconfirmed because the new fiscal year rates have not been provided by the State. Three other items were identified as unconfirmed based on not having end-of-year figures. These numbers may be adjusted up or down based on

final figures. The projected FY 26 budget is based on the anticipated income and expenses within that year. This budget anticipates a net income of approximately \$75,000.00. **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve. **Rubinstein Meadows** provided second. No discussion. Unanimous approval of Proposed FY 2026 Budget.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3E**. Worker's Compensation Policy changes. **Lowery** reviewed the memo received by the Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions, and Councils Standards that specified that because Occupational Boards are now under Business and Industry, they must use the State of Nevada, Risk Management Division for their Worker's Compensation policy and must comply with Risk Management Division training requirements. The Board has used Employers Preferred Insurance Company for over ten years and will now be required to change. **Lowery** is working with the Risk Management Division on this transition. The Risk Management Division has already notified us that the costs for Worker's Compensation will be much higher than the current vendor the Board uses. Additionally, the Board office staff are now required to complete all the Mandatory Training Requirements of the State of Nevada Executive Branch. **Lowery** is working with the Risk Management Division to gain access to the computer systems necessary to complete the trainings. Access is complicated by the fact that Occupational Boards are not part of the Department of Human Resource Management so special access will have to be granted. No action taken.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3F**. Legislative Update (for Discussion). **Lowery** provided the following update on bills that are relevant to the Board. **Lowery** stated that **SB 78**, which combines and eliminates boards, and recommends board restructuring and reform, did not receive the budgetary funding requested. In the April 30, 2025 budgetary meeting, 70 FTE were requested and only 9 positions were funded. After that news, a revision to SB 78 was presented that reduced the scope of what SB 78 would enact. This amendment removed all language around consolidating Occupational Boards and removed the list of services that B&I was proposing to provide for the Occupational Boards. While SB 78 was passed by the Senate, to date it has not been heard in the Assembly, if it is not heard in the Assembly, then it will be considered dead. **SB 425** is being presented today. It offers an alternative path to Board reform. **Lowery** reports that at this point, there is a waiting game to see if SB 78 is heard and if SB 425 is heard. **Langston** thanked **Erickson** and **Lowery** for working on behalf of the board with the legislators. **Ward** also provided a commendation. No action taken.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3G**. ASWB Education Meeting – Update (For Discussion). **Langston** provided an overview of what was covered at the Education Meeting, held in Portland, Oregon. No action taken.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 3H**. Executive Director's Report (Informational). **Lowery** requested to defer this item since Erickson is not present. **Lowery** invited board members to submit agenda items for the June 18th Board meeting. **Langston** requested the Board office to coordinate another in-person meeting for the Board in the fall. **Langston** requested the drafting of a Letter of Commendation for Caroline Rhuys, as she is retiring on June 30th. No action was taken.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 4**. Public Comment. **Lowery** stated there was nobody on the phone, in the office or via email requesting to make public comment, and provided the Zoom meeting ID and Passcode, available on the Board website, should anyone wish to join in and make public comment.

Langston moved to **Agenda Item 5**. Adjournment. **Klimas** made a motion to adjourn. **Holland-Browne** seconded the motion. Meeting adjourned at 9:40 AM.