

STATE OF NEVADA

JOE LOMBARDO
Governor



DR. KRISTOPHER SANCHEZ
Director

PERRY FAIGIN
NIKKI HAAG
MARCEL F. SCHAEERER
Deputy Directors

VICTORIA ERICKSON, LCSW
Executive Director

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

On Wednesday, October 15, 2025, the board meeting for the State of Nevada Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order to President **Langston** at 9:00 AM.

Agenda Item 1. Call to Order, Roll Call. Present were Esther Lanston, President, Linda **Holland Browne**, Vice Chair, Abigail **Klimas**, Jamie Vaughn, Harry **Ward**, Deputy Attorney General, Vikki **Erickson**, Executive Director and Sandy **Lowery**, Deputy Director. Board Member Michelle **Rubinstein Meadows** had an excused absence. Also present in the meeting were Brittany Shaney, LMSW, Abigail Anderson, LCSW, Krisam Taylor from Nevada Medicaid, Daniel **Guidici** from Flynn and **Guidici** Government Affairs.

Dr. **Langston** moved to Agenda Item 2. Public Comment. **Erickson** stated that the public could click on the Zoom link on the board website under the October board meeting and join using the Meeting ID: 95768602527 with a Passcode: 695778. **Erickson** stated there was no additional person waiting to join the meeting, nobody in the office, on the phone or emailing public comment.

Dr. **Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3A. Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of the August 20, 2025 Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action). **Erickson** apologized for not having the August meeting minutes ready for the September board meeting, however due to the cyber attack, the files were unavailable during the last board meeting. **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve the August 20 2025 BESW Board Meeting Minutes. **Klimas** seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of the August 20 2025 BESW Board Meeting Minutes.

Dr. **Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3B. Review, Discussion and Possible Approval of the September 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes (For Possible Action). **Holland Browne** made a motion to approve the September 24, 2025 Meeting Minutes. **Klimas** seconded the motion. Unanimous approval of the September 24, 2024 BESW Board Meeting Minutes.

Dr. **Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3C. Review, Discussion and Possible Action, Exception to the Post Graduate Internship Policy for Brittany Shaney. (For Possible Action). **Erickson** introduced Ms. Shaney who signed an Open Meeting Law waiver to be included on the agenda for this meeting. **Erickson** stated she received an email from Ms. Shaney asking for an exception to the existing postgraduate clinical internship program policy, which is posted on the board website. **Erickson** stated she included a copy of the policy in the board packet for the

board members to review. **Erickson** turned the meeting back over to the board and Ms. Shaney for discussion. Dr. **Langston** inquired why Ms. Shaney was requesting an exception. Ms. Shaney states she would like to propose the option of doing full-time telehealth for clients “due to my disability”. She states she started her internship in June of his year and tried for 2 months to do an in-person agency experience, “and it just wasn’t doable”. “I was paralyzed in a car accident so just getting to the office every day was very difficult for me. Also, the bathroom situation and some other things that come along with spinal cord injury. It wasn’t manageable. Basically, I’m here to propose doing everything from home telehealth for my CSW internship. **Erickson** stated that the policy currently states that clinical interns are able to do some telehealth but from the agency office where they would have access to other clinicians for support. The current policy does not allow for home telehealth. **Holland Browne** inquired about the name of the agency she would be working for and who her clinical supervisor is. Ms. Shaney stated that she left the previous agency, but states she would like to do her internship with Insight Health Solutions with Abigail Anderson as her supervisor, who has also joined the Zoom Board Meeting. **Holland Browne** expressed concern. She stated 70-80% of communication is non-verbal and is concerned some of that experience would be missed doing all telehealth. She states she is also concerned that if there is a suicidal client there is no clinician nearby to assist and that could put the client at risk. **Holland Browne** also inquired how her supervisor would sit in on evaluations and groups to evaluate the intern. Ms. Anderson stated she would like to address this concern, “Insight Therapy Solutions is strictly telehealth”. She states she is also online and Ms. Shaney would have immediate access to her via telephone, text, and Google Workspaces. Ms. Anderson states they have a group space where Ms. Shaney can contact any number of social workers if she needs help. “We are not a crisis clinic. We have policies in place. Should she have a suicidal client on a call that she can access me, and we can work through that situation together”. “We have a policy in place, and we have client consent that I am able to sit in on a Zoom session with her to watch her interact with a client. This is no different than what the CPC MFT board does”. Ms. Anderson disagreed that you miss a lot of things in sessions on Zoom. Anderson stated, “I did my internship in person, but I find over telehealth, I have to pay more attention to their body language, the way their voice changes”. “Sometimes they get interactions with the family coming in the room, which tells me a whole lot than I would ever get in the office. Sometimes I walk around the house with the phone. I see the home environment that I would not get in the office. It’s a different experience, but it’s one that she’s going to be able to have. And I feel like as social workers, we should be advocating not only for clients, but for each other. And I feel like the denial of her internship is really a denial of social justice to her as a social worker and an individual”. **Holland Browne** stated she had concerns about the internship experience. She stated she had to complete legal holds because somebody came in having a crisis and wasn’t sure how that would be managed from a distance. Ms. Anderson stated that Ms. Shaney would be able to call her, and she could call the police, however she states she has been at the clinic for four years, “I have yet to do a legal 2000”. Ms. Anderson states the clinical has “a great screening method for those clients. If they need a higher level of care, they get referred to a higher level of care.” **Holland Browne** continued to express concern that Ms. Shaney wouldn’t have support or oversight while practicing therapy as an intern. Ms. Anderson states she is available to be present to assist Ms. Shaney. Ms. Anderson stated there is an LCSW for the same agency that works in Reno that may be able to assist as needed. **Erickson** stated, per the request of Dr. **Langston**, that she explored other states that may allow solely telehealth for clinician interns, and there are some that allow, however there are a wide variety of policy and regulation throughout the states. Ms. Anderson stated she has already explored this through the ASWB and found 20 states allow telehealth internship and telehealth supervision. She states she is also a board approved supervisor in Virginia. **Lowery** states that this board has allowed telehealth supervision since 2017. “The question is the emergent supervision, the boots on the

ground assistance, which is why during COVID interns were allowed to practice from home because everybody was practicing from home. Telehealth was then return to the office for interns". "That's protection for the intern, a protection for the supervisor, and a protection for the client". **Lowery** stated that the board determined they were uncomfortable with a telehealth only internship. She stated the board recommended what is in the policy, which is a hybrid method for a combined experience of telehealth and in-person. Dr. **Langston** inquired if Ms. Shaney went through school online, and she verified she did. She states she did her practicum at Reno Adaptive with other individuals with disabilities, but they are not able to offer her a clinical internship experience. Ms. Shaney said she is unable to find another internship site that can offer her support and accommodation with her disability needs. **Holland Browne** continued to express concern about safety from a remote internship. **Klimas** inquired if the LCSW in Reno for the same agency would be willing to be her clinical internship supervisor. Ms. Shaney stated that that LCSW does not seem to want to be a clinical supervisor. **Klimas** then inquired if this could be considered on a trial basis to see how effective it is. **Lowery** stated that the policy is not law, but was not written to exclude any individual who is differently abled, but to protect the intern, supervisor and the client. **Vaughn** inquired how long the policy had been in place and the reason the policy got put in place. **Lowery** stated the policy was revised in 2024 after COVID. During COVID, most people worked from home, including interns and there were problems such as non-HIPAA complaint platforms, privacy and patient record management. **Vaughn** inquired if there was an office in Reno. Ms. Anderson stated there is no office in Reno and the LCSW who works in Reno does telehealth from home. Ms. Anderson states she works from her home in Las Vegas doing telehealth. She states she is also the clinical director and oversees all the functions of the agency. "If I didn't think that this was a feasible idea, I would not have agreed to be her supervisor. Remember, she's gonna, if this is approved, she's working under my license and I feel comfortable enough with telehealth and the supervision I can provide and the services we provide and the workspace that we provide, that she can have a successful internship". **Klimas** stated she was on the board when the policy was reviewed and understands the concern, but wants to "meet Ms. Shaney where she is and honor her process right now through this internship". She states there should still be monitoring to make sure the internship is working well for Ms. Shaney. **Vaughn** states she has experience as a schoolteacher and taught during COVID and taught completely online. She felt it was effective to each online and in some cases had a deeper relationship with some of the students, so feels this can be done. She states she had people she could call if she was in a crisis situation and it worked out well. **Vaughn** states that she has worked with a lot of medical professions and therapists through the breast cancer community and has worked completely online with them. Although it's not completely the same, it has been effective and feels Ms. Shaney should have frequent check-ins with her supervisor. "So why not give her the opportunity to really immerse herself to get that experience, because this is where we are as a world right now too". **Lowery** suggested that Ms. Shaney do twice a week check in with her supervisor instead of once a week to increase supervision and do quarterly reporting to the board instead of every 6 months. Anderson stated that Insight Therapy has 2 support groups a month to add to supervision where she'll meet with other interns and fully licensed people and talk about cases and certain topics. **Vaughn** made a motion that the board allow the intern to complete her internship via telehealth with the guideline of meeting at least two times per week with her supervisor about her sessions and completing the internship progress report quarterly. **Klimas** seconded the motion. **Vaughn, Klimas** and Dr. **Langston** voted in favor of the motion. **Holland Browne** did not support the motion. Motion passes.

Dr. **Langston** moved to Agenda Item 3D. Board Review of Hearing for Virgilio DeSeo, License No. 6200-C (For Possible Action). Deputy Attorney General **Ward** states he continues to try to

work with the licensee's attorney and is hopeful to have an order for the next meeting.

Dr. Langston moved to Agenda Item 3E. Legislative Update (For Possible Action). Daniel **Guidici** from Flynn **Guidici** Government Affair stated the regulations workshop scheduled for Friday, 10/17 was postponed until 11/25 to offer a little bit more time. Mr. **Guidici** discussed that the Governor is planning for a special session, however the date and topic for the special session has not been released. Daniel provided a briefing on the variety of bills that were followed by the Board of Examiners for Social Workers and the resolution. No action was taken.

Dr. Langston moved to Agenda Item 3F. Statewide IT Outage (For Possible Action). **Erickson** stated the board office has recovered its database, email and shared drive, however the outage lasted for well over 6 weeks. **Erickson** stated she and **Lowery** had been working with GTO to restore IT functions for the office however the office continued to find methods to move forward with renewals and licensing, approving 109 licenses over the course of the IT outage from the cyber-attack. No action was taken.

Dr. Langston moved to Agenda Item 3G. First Quarter FY26 Financials (For Possible Action). **Lowery** requested if this discussion could be deferred until the November meeting since there were issues finalizing the numbers since there was no access to the shared drive. No action was taken.

Dr. Langston moved to Agenda Item 3H. Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions, and Councils Standards Office Regulations, NAC Development (For Possible Action). **Erickson** stated that the board office received an email from the Deputy Administrator of the Office of Nevada Boards, Commissions, and Councils Standards with recommended regulation and was notified of a workshop date, however the workshop has been cancelled and rescheduled to 11/25/2025. **Erickson** stated the board office sent recommendations to the Business and Industry Division, showing that some of the recommendations seem to contradict existing regulations. No action was taken.

Dr. Langston moved to Agenda Item 3I. Executive Director's Report (Informational). **Erickson** stated the ASWB Delegate Assembly will take place in early November. **Erickson** stated she will be attending as the office administrator and as a board member for the ASWB. Dr. **Langston** will be attending as the Nevada Delegate.

Dr. Langston moved to Agenda Item 4. Public Comment. **Erickson** stated that the public could click on the Zoom link on the board website under the October board meeting and join using the Meeting ID: 95768602527 with a Passcode: 695778. **Erickson** stated there was no additional person waiting to join the meeting, nobody in the office, on the phone or emailing public comment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.