

Approved September 8, 2023



STATE of OREGON
BOARD of LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
Board Meeting
Friday, May 19, 2023
Via Microsoft Teams
3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR 97302

Board Members Present: Brenda Dennis, *Public Member, Chair*
Mollie Janssen, *LCSW, Vice Chair*
Kathy Outland, *LCSW*
John Fant, *Public Member*
Stephanie Manriquez, *Public Member*
Amy Ashton-Williams, *LCSW*

Board Counsel Present: Kyle Martin, *AAG, Oregon Dept. of Justice*

Staff Members Present: Randy Harnisch, *Executive Director*
Kim Coleman, *Licensing Manager*
Wende Thatcher, *Licensing Specialist*
Mindy Tucker, *Compliance Specialist*
Troy Clinton, *Investigator*
Abe Dedek, *Investigator*

Pubic Present: Lou Savage
Delmar Stone, *Executive Dir., NASW OR/ID Chapter*
Michele Martinez Thompson, *PSU*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Dennis called the Board Meeting to order at 11:03 a.m. and provided brief opening remarks.

2. REVIEW OF AGENDA:

Chair Dennis asked for review of the draft agenda.

- i. **Manriquez moved to approve and adopt the agenda as amended.**
- ii. **Outland seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

3. MINUTES:

Chair Dennis asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes for the January 20, 2023 Board meeting:

- i. **Ashton-Williams moved to approve the minutes for January 20, 2023 as presented.**
- ii. **Manriquez seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

4. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

Chair Dennis announced that the Board would now enter into Executive Session to conduct Board business, pursuant to ORS 162.660(2)(b)(f)(h)(i)(l). The Board entered into Executive Session at 11:06 a.m.

Chair Dennis moved the Board out of Executive Session at 12:17 p.m.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Manriquez provided the Licensing and Examination Committee report, announcing that committee had reviewed seven Exam Extension requests for CSWAs **Daren Hunt, Elsa Tzintzun, Kayla Olson, Michael Braxton, Nyeesha Boland-Ali, Robert Gill** and **Eric Scott Williams**; one Plan Extension request for CSWA **Michelle Wong**; and one transcript request for CSWA applicant **Zoe Muller**. Additionally, the Committee discussed Mindful Therapy Group and compliance renewals.

Fant provided the Continuing Education Committee report and advised that committee had approved 3 CE requests from LCSWs **Courtney Burns, Donna Henderson, and Sarah DeVaney**. Requests from LCSW **Allison Lipnick** and LCSW **Sophie Bloch Miller** did not meet rule requirements and were not approved. The Committee also discussed continuing education violations.

Outland presented the Consumer Protection Committee report.

In the matter of case 2015-25:

- i. **Outland moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Janssen seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the matter of case 2019-29:

- i. **Outland moved to approve and adopt the Letter of Reprimand and the Stipulated Final Order as presented.**
- ii. **Manriquez seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the matter of case 2019-45:

- i. **Outland moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

In the matter of case 2020-17:

- i. **Outland moved to dismiss the case due to no violation of rule or law.**
- ii. **Ashton-Williams seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

6. SPECIAL REVIEWS

Coleman discussed a request from Mindful Therapy Group (MTG) to qualify as an Agency as defined by Board rule. **Dennis** inquired about whether MTG has a certificate of approval to render behavioral health services. **Martin** advised that the focus should be looking at this agency only for

the purposes of whether or not CSWAs have acceptable Plans of Supervision, keeping in mind that the Board does not regulate agencies. **Harnisch** suggested using this as an opportunity to examine a requirement that may have made sense 25 years ago, but practice and the way individuals receive mental health services has evolved since then. He also recommended focusing on the issue of CSWAs advertising themselves as independent practitioners which leads the reader to believe they are unsupervised. **Outland** discussed concerns about CSWAs practicing as independent contractors in agencies. Board members directed Coleman to follow up with additional questions for MTG.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Harnisch provided a legislative session update. There has not been progress on the bills Harnish has been following except the bill that would require the Board to make Board meeting recordings available on the Board website following meetings. Microsoft Teams has a feature to record meetings, so the Board would be able to meet this requirement with minimal impact. **Martin** added that the bill has passed and is going to the Governor's office. **Dennis** inquired about whether written minutes would still be required. **Harnisch** stated written minutes would still be the legal public record. **Martin** recommended updating the Board's record retention schedule to add that once written minutes have been approved, the recording can be destroyed.

Harnisch provided a 2023-2025 budget update. The Board's budget was passed by both the House and the Senate. The Board's budget bill, SB 5517, has been enrolled and is in the queue to be signed at the Governor's office. Due to some confusion, the Legislative Fiscal office did not include one of the Board's Policy Option Packages which included funding for position reclassifications. Our Legislative Fiscal Analyst informed us this did not require going back to the legislature, and a Permanent Finance Plan could be put in place with DAS.

Harnisch provided an update on the fee waiver program. It is now three months into the program. Coleman has been working with DAS to develop invoices to provide to the Oregon Health Authority so that the Board can be reimbursed for the waived fees.

Harnisch provided a 2021-23 budget update. The Board's current Fiscal Analyst has been promoted, so a new analyst will be assigned to us. At the beginning of the year it looked like the projections were going to be very thin. Our most recent update shows we are going to be under budget by about \$8,200.00.

Harnisch provided licensing statistics. We currently have 5979 LCSWs, 1595 CSWAs, 333 LMSWs, and 31 RBSWs; coming in at just under 8000 total licensees. Harnisch reflected on the licensee base size in 2013 when the Board had approximately 4300 total licensees.

Harnisch discussed his retirement. His official retirement date is June 1, 2023. Harnisch extended an invitation for an informal gathering following his retirement.

8. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:

- i. **Manriquez moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**
- ii. **Outland seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

9. PUBLIC COMMENT:

[No public comment]

10. OLD BUSINESS:

Outland provided a Six Month Report Task Force update. A preliminary rough draft of the Six Month Report form was sent out to a group of social work supervisors. The rough draft received positive feedback and some suggestions. The next step will be to take the comments into consideration and send another draft out to all supervisors as well as CSWAs before finalizing the report. Outland is hopeful to have the updated form adopted by October.

Outland provided an update on the Board's letter sent to the ASWB Nominating Committee, which encouraged them to consider regional representation as part of their inclusion when appointing committee members. ASWB provided acknowledgement that our letter was received. Following the ASWB's Education meeting in April, ASWB released an association update that stated only 26.5% of ASWB member jurisdictions have had an individual serve on the Board of Directors in the past 5 years. They also stated that they serve a broad range of regulatory boards, colleges, and associations, and their leadership positions should reflect the diversity of their membership. Outland is hopeful that we will see some diversity in the candidate slates this fall. **Dennis** acknowledged and thanked Outland for her work and coordination with other jurisdictions.

Chair Dennis drafted a statement for the Board website that encourages licensees to consider the needs of vulnerable individuals or those experiencing disabilities when making decisions about wearing masks.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Chair Dennis informed Board members that the Board's potential new member withdrew their application. **Outland** has agreed to continue to fill her position until a new member is appointed. **Dennis** opened the topic of Board Officer elections for discussion.

- i. **Outland moved to elect Manriquez as Board Chair beginning July 1, 2023.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

- i. **Manriquez moved to elect Ashton-Williams as Board Vice Chair beginning July 1, 2023.**
- ii. **Outland seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Dennis discussed appointing an Interim Executive Director following Harnisch's retirement.

- i. **Manriquez moved to approve the DAS appointment of Lou Savage as Interim Executive Director effective June 1, 2023.**
- ii. **Fant seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Dennis discussed delegating authority to Lou Savage as the Interim Executive Director to do the business of the Board.

- i. **Manriquez moved to approve delegating the authority to Lou Savage as the Interim Executive Director to do the business of the Board effective June 1, 2023.**
- ii. **Outland seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Chair Dennis discussed appointing Kim Coleman as the Board's Rules Coordinator.

- i. **Outland moved to appoint Kim Coleman as the Board's Rules Coordinator.**
- ii. **Manriquez seconded.**
- iii. **Motion passed unanimously.**

Harnisch reviewed agency expectations from the Governor, including a requirement to have a DEI Plan. Guidance to create a DEI Plan has been provided. Agencies without a current plan in place can create a DEI Plan to Plan which will include goals, timelines, engagement approach, and strategy. Harnisch expressed his gratitude to the Board and his wishes that the Board continues their important work after his departure.

12. CORRESPONDENCE:

Chair Dennis read correspondence received from an LCSW which announced their retirement after 40 years as a social worker, stating they found the online renewal system to be onerous and agist. Dennis discussed the importance of the Board being as accessible as possible to everyone. **Thatcher** stated Board staff are available to assist individuals with online processes. **Dennis** suggested looking at the Board website from the perspective of licensees and the public.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Stone informed Board members that Interstate Compact legislation in Missouri has passed. Kansas, Nevada, and North Carolina will likely follow next year.

Chair Dennis announced that ASWB is preparing to accept nominations in June for open ASWB Board member positions. Dennis encouraged Board members to nominate or self-nominate. There are openings for two Directors at Large for Professional, one Director at Large for Public, Treasurer, Secretary, and Administrator.

Chair Dennis announced the ASWB Administrators Forum will be held June 1, 2023.

Chair Dennis discussed holding the next Board meeting on June 16, 2023.

14. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Dennis adjourned the Board meeting at 2:34 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kim Coleman, Licensing Manager