JULY 16, 2021 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Members via WebEx: Thomas Brooks, Public Member, Chair
Jolene Engelking, LISW
Kate Goodman, LICSW
Donna Ennis, LSW
Stephanie Jacobson, LSW
Lori Thompson, LSW
Angie Hirsch, LICSW
Ken Middlebrooks, Public Member
Mary Walsh, LSW
Dieu Do, Public Member (joined at 9:56am)
Mary Weaver, Public Member
Christopher Anderson, Public Member
Kathy Lombardi, LICSW (joined at 9:25am)
Laura McGrath, Public Member, Secretary/Treasurer

Members Absent: Pa Der Vang, LICSW

Staff Present via WebEx: Kate Zacher-Pate, LSW, Executive Director
Michelle Kramer-Prevost, LISW, Assistant Director
Lisa Martinez, Communications & Executive Services Coordinator
Kimberly Doran, Licensing Coordinator
Jessica Aguilar, Compliance Coordinator

Staff Absent: Connie Oberle, Office Manager

Public Present: Shereen Reda, NASW-MN
Sophia Thoen
Tara Stonesifer
1 call-in on Phone
Dee Ramnarine, ASL Interpreter
Susan Boinis, ASL Interpreter

MINUTES

1. Call to Order & Approve Proposed Agenda

Brooks called meeting to order at 9:02am. There was one amendment to the Agenda, remove Agenda Item #9, as there are no compliance cases for Executive Session.

Motion to approve the Agenda with the noted change, was made by Weaver and seconded by Thompson. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

2. Member Roundtable: Welcome New Members:

A. BOSW Board Member Responsibility and Accountability Oath of Office

Brooks read aloud the Oath of Office for new and reappointed members and asked that new/reappointed members sign the Oath Form and return to BOSW.
ACTION: Martinez/Zacher-Pate will email Oaths to new and reappointed Board Members and place returned, signed forms in Member folders.

B. Welcome Newly Appointed Board Members and Staff

Members took turns sharing brief introductions with new members Anderson, Do, and Holmes.
Heidi Holmes, LGSW resides near Mankato, and is employed with DHS. She spent 15 years at St Peter residential in-patient facility. She is now a Social Worker at CARE St Peter, residential in-patient chemical dependency center. Christopher Anderson, Public Member, is a MN LPCC and LADC and focuses on clinical, drug and alcohol addiction, and retired from the US Marine Corps in 2012.

Mentor/Mentee Assignments:
Weaver/Anderson
Goodman/Holmes
Middlebrooks/Do

Zacher-Pate introduced Jessica Aguilar, new Compliance Coordinator, who is an amazing addition to the BOSW. Jessica is Deaf, started losing her hearing at age four, and is bilingual with American Sign Language as her first language. The BOSW provides ASL interpreters. She attended Gallaudet University in DC and earned a bachelor's degree in Social Work and Women's Studies.

3. Consent Agenda:

Consent agenda included May 21, 2021 Board Meeting Minutes, Advisory Committee Reports, and Leadership & Development Committee Report.
ACTION: Motion to approve the Consent Agenda was made by Jacobson and seconded by Lombardi. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

4. Public Comment:

Public comment are data under Minn. Stat. Ch 13. There was no oral or written public comment.

Dieu Do joined the meeting at 10:10.

5. Staff Leadership Reports

A. Executive Director Report

Zacher-Pate highlighted board member appointments and reminded all that applications will open in November for terms expiring January 2022, including Jacobson, Lombardi, and Walsh, all three are licensed positions. Zacher-Pate reported on completing the virtual session 1 of the New Board Member Orientation on July 8. Brooks, Zacher-Pate and Oberle presented. Laptops and state emails have not yet been issued for new members.

- Staff Update:
    - Temporary office space at Board of Medical Practice is working well, and there has been no interruption in services.
    - Goodman and Martinez are working to arrange a gathering for Gallagher and Manley, who left the BOSW team in July.
    - Hiring for Gallagher's position: position was posted today; the title is now Compliance Unit Manager.

- New investigator position: has been approved, will be posted soon.
- Move: August 19 out of current building and into new building August 23.
- Governor Walz put forward new EO: 2125 yesterday: **Protecting Minnesotans from Conversion Therapy**
  - All state agencies must pursue opportunities and coordinate with each other to protect Minnesotans, particularly minors and vulnerable adults from Conversion Therapy to the fullest extent.
  - Behavioral health boards are *strongly encouraged* to develop rules to prohibit use of conversion therapy by licensees.
  - There is no deadline to develop a strategy, *strongly encouraged* is the language used.

ACTION: Will send a GovDelivery and falls into the Legislative & Rules Committee for additional consideration.

B. Licensing Unit

Kramer-Prevost reported that the licensing team is managing volume well. An in-person conference in Duluth is scheduled in October. Staff will continue to do remote presentations also.

- Brooks asked for an update on the Ad Hoc Data Committee. Zacher-Pate requested that this committee convene at the earliest, in the Fall. Completing the work by/in Spring of 2022, seems doable. Brooks agreed to a fall start and asked that the request for data be made to MN IT.

C. Compliance Unit

No written report. Staff are processing complaints and convening Compliance Panels.

6. <u>Action Items:</u>

A. Leadership & Development (L&D) Committee:

Zacher-Pate presented for Vang (not present): Members were reminded that at the May board meeting, the board adopted a new Vision Statement, as part of 2021-2024 Strategy Framework. A refresh is also needed for the Mission Statement. L&D Committee is presenting a **NEW Mission Statement: "Protecting the public through licensing and regulation of the social work profession."** A discussion of the proposed Mission Statement followed. Members find it to be clear and concise.

ACTION: Roll call vote was taken, and new Mission Statement was unanimously approved.

Zacher-Pate reported on annual committee appointments. Per board bylaws, BOSW committee members are appointed annually at the September board meeting.

ACTION: Members need to fill out and return the Committee Interest forms by Monday, August 2, and note skills and availability. Information from the Interest Forms will be compiled and reported to Chair Brooks and L&D Chair Vang. The Board Chair has authority to assign members to committees and appoint committee Chairs under the BOSW Bylaws. Committees will be announced at the September board meeting.

Zacher-Pate reminded members of the date and process for the 2022-2023 BOSW Officer elections. Bylaws state board officers are elected every 2 years, in odd years, at the September meeting for 2-year terms (2022-2023). Officer Positions Open include Board Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary/Treasurer. Members are asked to consider taking on a leadership role and to submit nominations for the slate.

B. BOSW COVID Variance Consideration:

Kramer-Prevost presented staff recommendations to update the March 2020 and January 2021 blanket COVID variances approved by the board:

- CE hours earned through independent learning
- Supervision via electronic means
- Extended application close dates through June 2021

Staff consulted with BOSW Legal Counsel and proposed recommendations for COVID Variance Consideration going forward:

1. Continuing Education:
    a. License renewal periods that start prior to March 1, 2022 have no limit to the number of independent learning hours obtained to meet the CE requirement under MS 148E.130.
    b. License renewal periods starting on or after March 1, 2022 must meet the current statutory CE requirements under MS 148E.130, including the 50% requirement for live, interactive CEs.
    c. CE hours are reported for the two years prior to renewal date, which allows for all independent learning for CE obtained during the March 20, 2020 variance date span as well as sufficient time to plan future CE hours needed.
2. Supervision:
    a. Licensees who obtained supervised practice prior to March 1, 2022 may continue receiving supervision by telephone or eye to-eye-electronic media while maintaining visual contact as provided in the March 20, 2020 approved variance. Licensees are still required to obtain the statutory number of supervision hours required for their scope of practice and license type, under MS 148E.100-MS 148E.125. This recommendation meets MN Statutes 148E.035, which authorizes the BOSW to grant a variance consistent with promoting and protecting the public and is not a variance to core licensing standards.
    b. Licensees who begin obtaining supervised practice hours on or after March 1, 2022 are required to meet the current supervision requirements, including the minimum number of in-person one-on-one supervision required for their scope of practice and license type, under MS 148E.100-MS 148E.125.
3. License application close dates:
    a. Affirm June 30, 2021 as the final blanket extension of application close dates, for applications received prior to November 30, 2020.

ACTION: Motion to accept the staff recommendations regarding COVID Variance Consideration terms made by Anderson and seconded by Middleton. Roll call vote was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

C. ASWB Sunny Andrews Award for Regulatory Service – BOSW Nomination for Carol Payne, LSW

Brooks presented and requested board support from the entire board to nominate Carol Payne for the 2021 ASWB Sunny Andrews Award for Regulatory Service. Brooks discussed Carol's outstanding service and dedication to the BOSW which is proven by regular attendance at all Board meetings and committee meetings - 66 board meetings and 11 years of countless committee meetings, serving as Board Chair, and on many board committees.

ACTION: Motion that full board will nominate Payne for ASWB Sunny Andrews Award was made by Weaver and seconded by Middlebrooks, roll call vote was taken, and motion carried unanimously.

D. Election of BOSW Interim (July-December 2021) Secretary Treasurer (filling the role of Laura McGrath, who rotated off the board):

Brooks read aloud the duties of this position to members. Engelking was the nominee. Brooks asked for nominations from the floor, none came forward. Brooks closed nominations and Engelking spoke to members about what she will bring to this role.

ACTION: Motion was made to elect Engelking as the Board Interim Secretary/Treasurer (July-December 2021) by Jacobson and seconded by Middlebrooks. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

11:15 Break to 11:25

Introduction from Dieu (pronounced "U") Do, New Public Member: Do is from Northern MN and now lives in the Twin Cities. She recently graduated and is interning for the Department of Neighborhood and Community Relations in Minneapolis.

7. <u>Oral Reports:</u>

A. ASWB April 30-May 1, 2021 Spring Education Meeting Report: Board Members & Staff

Kramer-Prevost gave a summary of the ASWB virtual education meeting. Four staff members and several board members attended. It was well run, well attended, strong speakers and panel discussion. Middlebrooks was on panel. Relevant information was provided on DEI issues as related to social work and social work regulation.

B. Executive Committee:

Brooks pointed out that there have not been any in-person meetings during his time as Chair due to COVID-19. He is hopeful that the September meeting will be in-person for those that are able to attend that way, remote ability will remain available.

ASWB Delegate Assembly is November 22 in New Orleans: the hope is to have capacity to send some members. ASWB will cover travel for some.

ACTION: Members will email Zacher-Pate if they are interested in attending. The Board will need to take action/vote on travel for members at September meeting.

C. Finance Committee:

Zacher-Pate presented as interim Secretary/Treasurer, Engelking was just officially elected.

- Members informed that June 30, 2021 was end of fiscal year and FY 20-FY21 biennium so unspent revenue funds go back to State Government Special Revue Fund (SGSRF). There will be funds to cancel back and put us in better financial position.
- BOSW collected 4% over anticipated revenues. Staff is feeling confident that a fee increase will not be needed for next fiscal year (to June 2022).
- More detail will be provided at the September 17 board meeting regarding closing financial data.
- Limited financial data is available at this time given the Special Session and significant delay in having HLB new biennial budgets approved by the Legislature.

D. 2021 Legislative Update:

Zacher-Pate reported that BOSW Policy and Budget falls under House and Senate Health & Human Services Committees, under Representative Liebling and Senator Benson. Individual bills get incorporated into Health & Human Services Omnibus bill.

HF 970 bill introduced by NAMI to create a more culturally diverse workforce and remove unnecessary barriers. Not all provisions made it into the final Omnibus bill. Some provisions impact the BOSW and licensees, including:

Changes to Continuing Education:

- Mandatory Continuing Education (CE) hours in DEI "cultural responsiveness"
  - Requires 4 CE hours, for all license types, at every renewal
- Amended BOSW definitions under MS 148E.010 to create new definition of "cultural responsiveness"
- Effective date for CE hour change:
  - Applies to any newly issued license on or after July 1, 2021. Hours must be reported at first license renewal.
  - Current licensees must report at license renewals with expiration dates June 30, 2023 or later.

Culturally Responsive Mental Health Task Force

- Appointments will be made by July 1, 2022.
- Requires one representative from each mental health board.
- Charge is laid out and group must provide an annual report.
- The Task Force ends January 1, 2025.

8. Other/New Business

Brooks thanked Middlebrooks, Weaver, and Goodman for mentoring new members, reminded members to fill out and return the Committee Interest forms to Martinez, and to also consider running for an officer position.

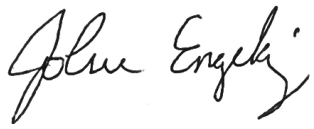
9. Executive Session Compliance Cases: (Closed to Public)

No Executive Session.

10. Adjourn

ACTION: The motion to adjourn was made at 12:26pm by Hirsch and was seconded by Middlebrooks. Roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



Jolene Engelking, LISW
Secretary/Treasurer