MINNESOTA
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

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Protecting the Public

JULY 18, 2025 – BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Members via WebEx:	Kate Goodman, LICSW, Chair Linda Gustafson, Public Member Emilie Maxie, Public Member
Members In-person:	Thomas Brooks, Public Member Katherine Driskell, LICSW Jolene Engelking, LISW, Secretary/Treasurer Stephanie Jacobson, LSW, Vice Chair Deborah Meyer, Public Member Yolonda Rogers, LICSW – arrived at 9:12am
Members Absent:	Angie DeLille, LICSW Kim DeZurik, LSW Tera Nelson, LSW Pa Der Vang, LICSW
Staff In-person:	Youa Yang, LICSW, Executive Director Kassandra Slizewski, LSW, Assistant Director, Director of Licensing Connie Oberle, Office Manager Rebecca Moskow, JD, Compliance Unit Manager Tammy Molitor, Communications & Executive Services Coordinator Beth Korth, Compliance Coordinator
Staff Via Web-Ex:	Colleen Vossen, Licensing Application Coordinator Jairus Ndulah, JD, Compliance Unit Investigator
Staff Absent:	NONE

MINUTES

1. **Call to Order & Approve Proposed Agenda**

   Jacobson called the meeting to order at 9:05am. Roll call attendance was taken. A quorum was present. The mission and value statement were read, and the proposed agenda was taken into consideration.

   ACTION: Brooks moved to approve the proposed agenda. Engelking seconded. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

2. **Consent Agenda:**
   A. Minutes May 16, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes
   B. Committee Reports
   C. Staff Leadership Reports

   ACTION: Gustafson moved to approve the consent agenda. Driskell seconded. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

3. **Public Comment**

Public comments are public data under Minn. Stat. Ch 13.
Written Public Comment: Submission of requests in advance are strongly encouraged, by 12:00pm (noon) on Thursday, July 17, 2025 by Noon, to the BOSW email address social.work@state.mn.us
Oral Public Comment: At the discretion of the Chair, comments limited up to 2 minutes per person
There was one written comment was submitted by Pat Sharbonda and no oral comments.

Pat Sharbonda provided written public comment about the complaint process. The written public comment was shared with board members.

4. **Member Roundtable**:

Jacobson led the member roundtable discussion and acknowledged former board members Christopher Anderson, Dieu Do, Heidi Holmes, and Joanne Kronsted for the service to the board. She welcomed new board members Emilie Maxie and Deborah Meyer and led the members in the New Board Member Oath.

5. **Staff Leadership Reports:**

A. Executive Director Report - Yang

1) **BOARD VACANCIES:** Currently there are 2 vacancies, 1 public-due to the resignation of Kronsted and 1 Licensed LISW or LGSW. Applications are being accepted for the vacancies and can be submitted to the Minnesota Secretary of State Office.
2) **IT INITIATIVES:** There are no new projects, MN.IT is still trouble shooting ALIMS for provisional, supervision, and other issues with Windows 11.
3) **LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVES:** The compact fees passed during the legislative session. It will be enacted when the compact becomes active. The BOSW budget has been passed.
4) **SOCIAL WORK INTERSTATE COMPACT:** The Compact Commission has three committees: Executive, Rules, and Finance. Yang serves on the Rules Committee, and they are in discussion regarding the national qualifying exam.
5) **OFFICE AND STAFFING:** The board has hired a new licensing coordinator, and she will start on July 30th. Oberle is working to get the end of fiscal year closed.
6) **MS 148e.035 VARIANCE REQUESTS:** Three variances have been approved and five variances were denied. There is a form to fill out for variances.

B. Licensing Unit – Slizewski

1) The new Licensing Coordinator will be starting at the end of this month.
2) The licensing team is handling all of the incoming calls, applications, and licensing renewals despite being down one team member.
3) Comparison charts for licenses issued between October 2024 through June 2025 to the same timeframe of October 2023 to June 2024 were presented. Provisional license numbers have increased significantly since the new legislation was introduced in October 2024. Standard licenses have also increased over this same time period.

C. Compliance Unit - Moskow

1) There have been about 256 complaints received this year, which is roughly the same as previous years.
2) Compliance staff are handling complaints well – some of the outstanding complaints are due to some complicated issues with the cases.
3) There are still many complaints on Unlicensed Exempt social workers-County Social Workers. There has also been a shift with non-compliance with supervision requirements and how panel members are handling those complaints.

6. **Oral Reports**

A. Legislation & Rules Committee – *Rogers*
Committee will be reviewing MN Statutes 148E.100 through 148E.126 and other areas of the social work practice act regarding supervision. The committee started with sections MS 148E.120 subdivision 1(a), (1), (2), and (3) and will be moving to the other sections at future meetings.

B. Finance Committee - *Engelking*
FY25 will be completed by the next board meeting. Revenues were collected a bit more than anticipated-it might be due to the provisional license fees and increase in standard licensees. There will be a new fund code for the provisional license to better track the financial numbers of the specific license type.

C. Community Education Outreach Committee - *Slizewski*
CEOC did not meet.

D. Leadership & Development Committee – *Jacobson*
The committee did not meet, and they are down to just one committee member due to new appointments.

7. <u>County Exemption Taskforce</u> – Jacobson

The Taskforce met once a month from February through June, and with the projected budget cuts, they feel the counties would not be able to afford to make any changes regarding exemption for their social workers. Board members asked questions of the Taskforce committee including concerns about data collection, how to collect meaningful data in the future, and Social Work Title Protection. The committee asked for a vote to suspend the activity until further notice. Roll call was taken for the following vote.

MOTION: The board will suspend the taskforce activities associated with repealing county exemption. Roll call vote was taken and the motion passed. Brooks, Driskell Engelking, Goodman, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, and Rogers voted yes, and Gustafson voted no.

8. <u>Committee Interest Survey</u> - Yang

The Committee Interest survey will be sent out to board members, and it is due by August 1st by the end of business day. Current board members may reach out to current committee members for more info or questions if interested in a committee or elected position. There are many committee openings, so please indicate which committee you would like to participate.

10. <u>11:30AM – 12:00PM Lunch Break</u>

11. <u>Executive Session (Closed to Public)</u>

ACTION: Engelking moved to close the meeting for executive session. The motion was seconded by Gustafson. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

ACTION: Compliance Panel A moved to adopt the Stipulation and Consent Order for Andrea Radzak, LSW, License #27038. Votes to approve: Brooks, Driskell, Engelking, Goodman, Gustafson, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, Rogers. Votes to oppose: None.

ACTION: Compliance Panel A moved to adopt the Stipulation and Consent Order for Christin Cram, LSW, License #32681. Votes to approve: Brooks, Driskell, Engelking, Goodman, Gustafson, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, Rogers. Votes to oppose: None.

ACTION: Compliance Panel A moved to adopt the Stipulation and Consent Order for Melissa Lee-Eckes, LICSW, License #16123. Votes to approve: Brooks, Driskell, Engelking, Goodman, Gustafson, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, Rogers. Votes to oppose: None.

ACTION: Compliance Panel A moved to adopt the Stipulation and Consent Order for Paris Ford, LGSW, License #17651. Votes to approve: Brooks, Driskell, Engelking, Goodman, Gustafson, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, Rogers. Votes to oppose: None.

ACTION: Compliance Panel A moved to adopt the Unconditional License Order for Hunter Kossow, LSW, License #28938. Votes to approve: Brooks, Driskell, Engelking, Goodman, Gustafson, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, Rogers. Votes to oppose: None.

ACTION: Compliance Panel A moved to adopt the Unconditional License Order for Terry Tauger, LICSW, License #19643. Votes to approve: Brooks, Driskell, Engelking, Goodman, Gustafson, Jacobson, Maxie, Meyer, Rogers. Votes to oppose: None.

ACTION: Brooks moved to open the meeting from executive session. The motion was seconded by Driskell. A voice vote was taken, and the motion passed unanimously.

12. <u>Adjourn</u>

ACTON: A motion was made by Meyer and seconded by Maxie to adjourn the meeting. A voice vote was taken, and the motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,

Jolene Engelking

Jolene Engelking, LISW
Secretary/Treasurer