

Legislative & Rules Committee Minutes

Thursday, February 8, 2018, 4:00pm-5:30pm

1. Introduce and confirm committee members:

Board Members Present: Angie Hirsch, LICSW, Chair, Ken Middlebrooks. By phone: Thomas Brooks, Shawn Yates. Staff: Kate Zacher-Pate, LSW, Michelle Kramer-Prevost, LISW, Megan Gallagher

- Chair Hirsch noted Susan McGeehan, LSW Board member resigned from the committee as her term ended January 1, 2018, leaving only one licensee Board member on the committee. Committee members agreed to recruit a new Board member (appointments expected by June 30, 2018), preferably an LSW, to join the committee.
- Committee members discussed adding non-voting members to the committee from Advisory Committee (AC) to add additional perspective. Zacher-Pate will seek up to two volunteers from AC to join the committee and provide stakeholder input and perspective.
- Members noted the committee may also need to add additional stakeholder groups in future work depending on the policy discussions and proposed changes.

2. Confirm meeting dates:

- Dates confirmed and posted to public 2018-2019 Regular Meeting Schedule.

3. Confirm committee charge:

- Chair Hirsch reviewed the charge from the 2015-2018 Strategic Plan: Determine need to conduct review “deep dive” of Social Work Practice Act MS 148E and remaining MS 148D provisions to ensure: 1) relevant regulation, 2) licensure mobility, 3) create operational efficiencies where possible, 4) identify and consider potential barriers, 5) consider overall workforce issues, 6) consider possible incorporation of technology standards into Practice Act – how board regulates technology in practice
- Brooks identified the need to add mobility as a distinct piece of the charge given the Board’s support of the ASWB mobility initiative. Support of ASWB mobility strategy requires Board to review the statute for opportunities and barriers around mobility.
- Zacher-Pate noted the committee will also coordinate with yet-to-be-activated Mobility Readiness Team to avoid duplication of work and efficient use of resources.
- Staff will add ASWB/NASW technology standards, ASWB Model Law, ASWB Mobility Strategy referendum to committee SharePoint site as resource materials for members.
- Members discussed additional charge from strategic plan to work to repeal county social worker licensing exemption, including clarification of use of social work title in county agencies. Decision was made to keep this work on the table, but given the controversial nature of the county exemption and the difficulty in changing the law in the past, the committee will assess the climate at that time and make a decision about how to proceed.

4. Intended goals and outcomes:

- Committee discussed ideas on approach to preparing a legislative proposal for the 2019, 2020, or 2021 session and whether focus should be to clean-up the statute or also attempt to address controversial topics.

- Members agreed any important topic should remain on the table and the Board will ultimately decide how to proceed depending on the climate at the time. One strategy could be to create separate bills, one for housekeeping and another for the controversial items.
- Committee may also make short-term and long-term recommendations to the full Board.

5. Review legislative process:

- Zacher-Pate summarized the legislative process. Middlebrooks noted getting committee members and other Board members involved in the process is helpful, particularly with finding bill authors and committee testimony.
- Staff will load legislative process materials to the resource materials on SharePoint site.

6. BOSW legislative history:

- Chair Hirsch reviewed timeline of previous legislative changes to Board's Practice Act.

7. Scope of work:

- Members agreed the charge requires the committee to review the entire Practice Act section by section and make recommendations for changes to the full Board.

8. Determine stakeholder involvement – who and when:

- In addition to asking for participation from AC members, Gallagher suggested keeping the other behavioral health boards in mind as changes are proposed to avoid scope of practice issues and unintended consequences.
- Other stakeholder groups may need to be added as the work dictates.

9. Process for work:

- Chair Hirsch and Zacher-Pate suggested the need to develop a framework for approaching changes to the statute to ensure relevant regulation and a balance between entry-level standards and barriers to the profession. This framework could include several possible considerations such as:
 - Mobility Impact
 - Competency
 - Operational Efficiency
 - Data driven policy
- Developing a clear framework will create the rationale for change and assist with demonstrating the need for change to legislators and stakeholders.
- Members agreed to use a majority voting model to decide which proposals will be presented to the full Board. Chair Hirsch noted any proposals that lack unanimous support within the committee will be presented as such to the full Board to ensure a transparent process.
- Zacher-Pate will divide statute into sections and proposed changes will be incorporated via track changes in real-time with the rationale also recorded.
- Committee will provide short updates of progress at each Board meeting and as review of sections are complete, Committee will seek approval of the full Board.

10. Timeline for work:

- Zacher-Pate noted previous deep dive was 2 years of monthly meetings; previous exemption repeal was a 4-year process. Because the bill should ideally be ready and Board approved the fall before session begins, the 2020 or 2021 session will be the target date for legislative introduction.

11. Recap & Action Items:

- Zacher-Pate will seek volunteers from AC to join committee as non-voting members.
- Committee members will consider what filters could be included in approaching proposed changes and be prepared to develop a framework to guide the work in the next meeting.
- Committee members will review assigned sections of the statute prior to next meeting and be prepared to present questions, comments, and proposals for change.
- Staff to consider how committee work could be posted on website to ensure transparency

12. No other business; adjourned 5:30.

2018 Meeting Dates		
4:00pm – 5:30pm (4 th Thursday monthly); BOSW Conference Room; Open to the Public		
February 8 (<i>date changed</i>)	May 24	September 27
March 22	June 28	October 25
April 26	July 26	November 29 (<i>5th Thursday</i>)
	August 23	December 27