

**BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL
WORKERS MEETING MINUTES
September 23rd, 2022**

The Board of Licensed Social Workers met on September 23rd, 2022, at the Oklahoma Board of Medical Licensure and Supervision, 101 N.E. 51st St., Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. The meeting was held in accordance with the Open Meeting Act of Oklahoma.

Members Present:

Beverly Coon, LMSW, LCSW – Board Chair
Sharolyn Wallace, Ph.D., LCSW, Vice-Chair
Angela Dickson, LCSW, Secretary
Clark Grothe, LCSW
Joel Harder, Ph.D., LMSW
Stacey Blaylock, LCSW

Members Absent:

Megan Doke, B.S. – Public Member

Also Present:

Karl Kramer, Assistant Attorney General
James Marks, Executive Director
Jinna Dreessen, Administrative Assistant

Agenda Item 1. Roll Call:

Meeting called to order at 10:07am. A quorum was met with six board members being present to facilitate and conduct the business of the agency.

Agenda Item 2. Review and Approval of Minutes:

Dr. Harder made the motion to approve the minutes for the meeting held July 22nd, 2022. Seconded by Mr. Grothe. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 3. Welcome to Stacey Blaylock, NASW President.

Item tabled as Ms. Blaylock was unable to attend the meeting.

Agenda Item 4. Financial report from the Office of Management and Enterprise Services (OMES) by Steve Funck.

Mr. Funck appeared on behalf of the Office of Management of Enterprise Services (OMES) to present the financial report. After discussion and questions from the Board Members, Dr. Harder made a motion to accept the financial report presented by Mr. Funck. Seconded by Mr. Grothe. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Agenda Item 5 & 12 were combined as the presenting issue was related to same topic of discussion.

Agenda Item 5: Personal appearance by Rebekah Taylor, David Peters, Megan Ingwersen, Zoe Bennett and Jonathan Kratz to speak with the Board about requirements and process for the LMSW license;

Agenda Item 12. Discussion and Possible Action: NASW Oklahoma’s letter to the Board of Social Work regarding LSWA/LMSW exam requirements.

Rebekah Taylor, David Peters, Megan Ingwersen, Zoe Bennett and Jonathan Kratz provided a written statement from the OU School of Social Work, written testimonials from DaySpring staff, and a Call to Action requesting the Oklahoma State Board of Licensed Social Workers (OSBLSW) consider eliminating exam requirements for the LMSW license. The request stems from the release of data released by ASWB verifying disparities in the exam pass rates among minority groups and older adults, as well as, disruptions of services to for consumers receiving services. A letter from NASW Oklahoma Director Steven Pharris, who also present at the meeting, was provided to the Board in advance of the meeting. NASW Oklahoma supports the elimination of exam requirements for both the LSWA and LMSW license.

After discussion with Rebekah Taylor, David Peters, Megan Ingwersen, Zoe Bennett, Jonathan Kratz and Director Pharris, the Board tabled the discussion with no action. The OSBLSW will establish a committee to review the request regarding exam elimination and report back to the Board of Directors at a future board meeting date.

Agenda Item 8. Personal Appearance by Vicki Phillips requesting approval of her application for Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW).

After discussion among board members and with Ms. Phillips, Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve Ms. Phillips’ application for Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). Seconded by Mr. Grothe. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 6. Personal Appearance by Donald Brown requesting approval of his application for Licensed Master’s Social Worker (LMSW) – Provisional Status.

After discussion among board members and with Mr. Brown, Ms. Dickson made the motion to approve Mr. Brown for the LMSW Provisional License. Seconded by Dr. Wallace. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 7. Personal Appearance by Cristin Johnson requesting approval of her application for Licensed Master’s Social Worker (LMSW) – Provisional Status.

After discussion among board members and with Ms. Johnson, Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve Ms. Johnson for the LMSW Provisional License. Seconded by Mr. Grothe. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Board Chair Coon called for a break at 11:27am, with the meeting to resume at 11:35am.

Meeting resumed at 11:35am.

Agenda Item 9 (A). Discussion and possible action on the following citizen complaints filed against social workers:

(A)(i). Discussion and possible action: Complaint 2022-02:

*Complaint 2022-02, Individual proceeding - State of Oklahoma, ex rel., State Board of Licensed Social Workers vs. Robert Finkelstein, LCSW. The Board may conduct an executive session

pursuant to Article II of the Oklahoma Administrative Procedures Act, 75 O.S. § 309(D), and the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. § 307(B)(8). The Board may also conduct an executive session pursuant to the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act, 25 O.S. § 307(B)(7), to receive information from the Respondent and Board staff for the limited purpose of discussing matters where disclosure of information would violate confidentiality requirements of state or federal law. After discussion among board members, Dr. Harder made the motion to approve the Order of Dismissal Without Prejudice for complaint 2022-02. Seconded by Ms. Dickson. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

(A)(ii). Discussion and possible action: Complaint 2022-09:

Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve the Complaint Committee's recommendation to dismiss complaint 2022-04. Seconded by Mr. Grothe. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 9 (A)(iii). Discussion and possible action: Complaint 2022-14:

Ms. Dickson made the motion to approve the Complaint Committee's recommendation to dismiss complaint 2022-05. Seconded by Dr. Wallace. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 9 (A)(iv). Discussion and possible action: Complaint 2022-16:

Dr. Harder made the motion to approve the Complaint Committee's recommendation to dismiss complaint 2022-06. Seconded by Ms. Dickson. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 9 (A)(v). Discussion and possible action: Complaint 2022-17:

No Action.

Agenda Item 9 (B). Mr. Kramer presented the Complaint Log to the Board. No Action.

Agenda Item 10. Discussion: OSBLSW update regarding Thentia project and automation upgrades to the agency website (possible demonstration to the Board of Directors).

Demonstration of the new system tabled. Marks advised the Board meeting that the online application system and new renewal system will go into production October 15th, 2022.

Agenda Item 11. Interstate Compact Agreement and the possibility of opening borders for practitioners to practice across state lines for both Oklahoma and non-Oklahoma clinical practitioners.

Marks provided an overview of the Interstate Compact language and feedback from the Special Delegate Assembly ASWB meeting held August 4th, 2022. Marks informed the Board that becoming a member state will require legislative change and membership fees. No Action.

Agenda Item 13. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Dickson:

Ms. Dickson made the motion to approve applications numbers 13.1 – 13.17, noted under Agenda Item Number 13. Seconded by Dr. Harder. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 14. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Grothe:

Mr. Grothe made the motion to approve applications numbers 14.1 - 14.17, noted under Agenda Item Number 14. Seconded by Ms. Dickson. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 15. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Blaylock:

Ms. Blaylock made the motion to approve applications numbers 15.1 – 15.18, noted under Agenda Item Number 15. Seconded by Ms. Dickson. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 16. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Harder:

Dr. Harder made the motion to approve applications numbers 16.1 – 16.18, noted under Agenda Item Number 16. Seconded by Mr. Grothe. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 17. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Doke:

On behalf of Board Member Doke, Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve applications numbers 17.1 – 17.18, noted under Agenda Item Number 17. Seconded by Dr. Harder. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Agenda Item 18. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Wallace:

Dr. Wallace made the motion to approve applications numbers 18.1 – 18.18, noted under Agenda Item Number 18. Seconded by Ms. Dickson. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative. Motion passed.

Chair responsibilities transferred to Board Vice Chair Wallace

Agenda Item 19. Discussion and Possible Action: Applications for Licensure – Applications reviewed by Board Member Coon:

Ms. Coon made the motion to approve applications numbers 19.1 – 19.17, noted under Agenda Item Number 19. Seconded by Ms. Dickson. The vote was unanimous in the affirmative.

Chair responsibilities returned to Board Member Coon.

Agenda Item 20. Mr. Marks presented the Executive Director’s report. The report included the following:

- a. 2023 Budget has been submitted/approved
- b. ASWB Delegate Assembly Meeting – November 18th – 19th, 2022
- c. Cabinet Secretary Meeting – Bill filing deadline 12/09/22; State Expo – Connecting state government and private businesses (10/11/22); Request for board meeting dates
- d. Law enforcement presence at meetings beginning in 2023
- e. Potential 2023 Board Meeting Date

Agenda Item 21. New Business

None

Agenda Item 22. Adjournment