

**Kansas Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Licensed Professional Counselor Advisory Committee Meeting
February 27, 2017, 10:00 a.m.**

Call to order: Meeting was called to order by Chair Todd Frye.

LPC Committee Members Present: Todd Frye, Gary Price, Andrew Secor and Bob Kircher
Attending by telephone: Jill Craven, Ken Hughey, Kenton Olliff and Elaine Ptacek
Staff Present: Attending in person: Max Foster, Leslie Allen, and Linda Hoover
Guests Present: None

1) Agenda Presented.

2) Update from BSRB Executive Director.

- a. Max Foster reported that the BSRB budget is basically intact. The Board has approved to reduce licensure fees but has taken the position of wait and see. If we reduce our licensure fees and then if there is a sweep of the ending balance of our fee funds at the end of legislative session, we would need to turn right around and increase our licensure fees. We are optimistic but acknowledge a huge State budget shortage.
- b. Legislative issues include possible consolidation of boards into a super board of sorts. During December 2016, Max was asked to testify before a Special Joint Committee on board consolidation. This was a conclusion from a study the legislature had performed a year ago from an outside consulting firm. One of the recommendations of the consulting firm was to take 20 of the 140+ regulatory boards and combine into three “super” boards. For example, take any board dealing with public physical and mental health such as doctors, nurses, optometrists, hearing aid dispensers, dentists, BSRB and any profession that BSRB licenses, and combine into one large board. One of the recommendations of this efficiency study was to have three “super” boards from these current 20 regulatory boards. On behalf of BSRB, Max testified in opposition to this recommendation. One of the reasons for opposition is due to BSRB is the largest consolidated regulatory board of mental health professionals in North America. In conclusion, the Special Joint Committee decided to not consolidate regulatory boards at this time. The efficiency committee’s recommendation remains a viable concept at the State Capitol, but with the focus during 2017 legislative session remains to be state budget shortfalls. The recommendation could likely resurface in 2018.

HB 2149 was introduced earlier this legislative session which was sponsored by the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (KNASW). It would create a “Social Work Examination Committee” (SWEC) within the BSRB. It would reduce the composition of the BSRB from 12 members to 10 members. The two current Social Worker board members would be removed

from BSRB and become part of the “social work examination committee”. The SWEC would be composed of five Social Workers and two public members all of whom would be appointed by the Governor. The legislation reads that the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers would submit names of licensed Social Workers that would be under consideration for members on this board. The governor would not be obligated to appoint from that group, but KNASW would have the opportunity to submit names. If passed, HB 2149 would establish this Social Work Examination Committee functioning administratively under BSRB as far as the physical processing of licensing and collection of fees from Social Worker applicants. Statutes and regulations associated with all licensure requirements, CEUs, disciplinary actions against a Social Worker, would be handled by this Social Work Examination Committee. It is within the BSRB but its own separate entity for Social Work. BSRB testified in opposition to HB 2149, there was a hearing in the Health and Human Services Committee, and to date no action has been taken. Concurrently, there was a hearing in the Senate Ways and Means Committee, an exempt committee, on SB 197 that mirrors HB 2149. Max stressed to the committee that the basic purpose of a regulatory board is not proportionate representation from the number of licensees in a profession regulated by the board. This item will be presented to the BSRB Board at its next meeting as an agenda item.

3) **Old Business.**

a. **Clinical Supervisor Training Regulation**

Leslie Allen provided an update to the Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) regulation. The regulation has gone to the Department of Administration and has been single stamped, and sent to the Attorney General’s office where it will be examined and stamped. With double stamps, it will go to the Secretary of State’s Office and to have a hearing notice, leaving 60 days. Then back to the Register to be posted. It will be routed to the BSRB Board for action. Max will need to appear before the Joint Committee under Rules and Regulations to explain the process. It will likely conclude sometime in June 2017. The law will go into effect July 1, 2017. The Committee voted to reduce the number of required continuing education hours from 45 to 15 hours (and from 3 credit hours to 1 credit hour requirement) for clinical supervisor training of LPCs. This will be consistent with LMFT in requiring 15 CEU hours.

b. **Related Degrees.** The Committee discussed adding related fields to the statute regarding degree.

4) **New Business.** The Committee reviewed St. Mary’s program / coursework for professional counseling.

5) **The next LPC advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 22, 2017.**

6) **Adjourn.**