

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
SOCIAL WORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 16, 2022
APPROVED MINUTES**

- I. Call to Order.** The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Andrea Perdomo-Morales at 1:00 p.m.

Social Work Advisory Committee Members. Advisory Committee members present by Zoom included Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Cynthia Schendel, Donna Hoener-Queal, Sarah Berens, Mary Gill, Mike Gillett, Lee Ann Gingery, Angi Heller-Workman, Catherine Rech, Eric Schoenecker, Cristin Stice, and Robin Unruh.

BSRB Staff. Staff members present by Zoom included David Fye and Leslie Allen.

Guests. Becky Fast, Executive Director for the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW); Steven Pharris, Executive Director for the Oklahoma Chapter of NASW; Matt Shafer, Deputy Policy Director at the National Center for Interstate Compacts at the Council for State Governments (CSG); Keith Buckhout, Research Associate for CSG; and Dan Logsdon, Director for the National Center for Interstate Compacts for CSG were present by Zoom.

- II. Agenda Approval.** Mike Gillett moved to approve the agenda as written. Lee Ann Gingery seconded. The motion passed.
- III. New Board Member Cynthia Schendel.** The Advisory Committee welcomed Cynthia to the Advisory Committee.
- IV. Public Comment - Becky Fast, Executive Director for the Kansas Chapter of NASW.** Ms. Fast provided public comment on the recent report by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) on licensing exam pass rates, reflecting disparities in pass rates between different demographic groups, including race, gender, and age. It was noted that the ASWB examinations are only offered in English. Ms. Fast stated the draft language for the social work multi-state compact currently requires passage of a standardized examination, however she believes certain individuals will be calling for a pause on the consideration of the compact until this issue is resolved. Ms. Fast referenced certain states that do not require passage of a standardized examination for at least one level of licensing and noted that when passage of an examination was removed recently as a requirement for licensure in Illinois, that state saw the number social workers from marginalized communities triple. Ms. Fast stated that she believes the requirement of passage of a standardized examination has been a barrier for social work applicants from racial and ethnic communities. Ms. Fast thanked the Advisory Committee for seeking information on the compact and noted that she believes the Kansas Legislature will be supportive of a multi-state compact for the social work profession.

- V. Presentation on the Social Work Compact.** Matt Shafer, Deputy Policy Director at the National Center for Interstate Compacts at CSG, provided an overview on the draft model legislation language for the social work multi-state compact. Steven Pharris, Executive Director for the Oklahoma Chapter of NASW, noted that he was part of the team that worked on the model language for the multi-state compact and he encouraged the Advisory Committee to look at what other changes might be necessary to adopt the compact. Representatives from CSG noted a survey is available for comments on the draft language and it was anticipated the comment period would end mid-to-late September 2022. Representatives from CSG noted that the only other compact that uses a multi-state license approach is the nursing compact and they have heard that states that joined the nursing compact have experienced very small changes in revenue after moving to a multi-state license system. Representatives from CSG noted their initial goal was to have the model language final so it could be considered by states during the 2023 legislative session, but if further changes are necessary due to the discussion on requiring a licensing examination or other issues, the goal is to have the model language for consideration during the 2024 legislative session.
- VI. Minutes Approval.** Lee Ann Gingery moved to approve the minutes from the Advisory Committee meeting on June 21, 2022. Angi Heller-Workman seconded. The motion passed.
- VII. Executive Director's Report.** David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, reported on the following topics:
- A. Agency Updates.** The BSRB is still under the Governor's direction to avoid in-person meetings. The Executive Director noted he will update the Advisory Committee when that direction is changed. Until the limitation is lifted, the BSRB will continue to hold most Board and Advisory Committee meetings virtually. The BSRB hired a new part-time licensing specialist named Emma Allen. She started with the agency on July 18th. The BSRB is required to submit a revised budget for fiscal year (FY) 2022 and a budget for FY 2023 by September 15. The Executive Director will be speaking to vendors that have active contracts with the BSRB to estimate the future cost of services.
- B. Board Meeting on July 11, 2022.** The Board elected Mary Jones as the new Chair and David Anderson as the Vice-Chair. The Governor appointed Cynthia Schendel (social work) and Richard Nobles (licensed psychology) as new professional Board members. The Governor appointed Jim Kilmartin as the new public member, beginning on July 12, 2022. At the Board meeting, the Board reviewed and made additional changes to the investigation policy. The Board will be holding an annual all-day planning meeting in Olathe, KS, on Oct 24, 2022.
- C. Other Meetings and Events.** The Executive Director attended a conference for the National Board for Certified Counselors and presented information on the topic of Innovations in Licensing... Looking Forward and Back.

VIII. Old Business

- A. Consideration of Regulatory Language for Implementation of SB 453, Standards for LCSW Applicants with No Clinical Practicum.** The Executive Director summarized 2021 HB 2208, which originally included a Board-requested change to decrease the number of direct client contact hours needed for clinical-level licenses for different professions. For the social work profession, the original bill would have decreased the necessary hours in statute from 350 hours of direct client contact to 200 hours. When the bill was heard in committee, an amendment was added to the bill striking the 350 hours and the statutory language that followed, which had allowed the Board to consider additional postgraduate supervised experience as determined by the Board, when evaluating the applicants for licensure. With the language struck, there was no longer a way to evaluate applicants who have no clinical practicum, so a regulation change was submitted to remove the criteria for evaluating these applicants. During the 2022 Legislative session, the BSRB requested statutory language, enacted in 2022 SB 453, which added back the language allowing for the Board to consider additional postgraduate supervised experience for applicants who do not have a clinical practicum. A recommendation was needed from the Advisory Committee to establish criteria for the Board to evaluate applicants with no clinical practicum. The Executive Director noted that the anticipated number of applicants that this standard would apply to would total approximately 5 to 10 applicants each year. Eric Schoenecker moved to set a standard of 200 hours of direct client contact for applicants for a clinical-level license who have no clinical practicum. Lee Ann Gingery seconded the motion. The motion passed.
- B. Consideration of Changes to “In Residence” Requirement for Licensure in K.A.R. 102-2-6.** The Executive Director summarized the “in residence” requirement for the educational standard for programs in K.A.R. 102-2-6, for applicants who received their education from a program that is not accredited by the national accrediting body, the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE). For these applicants from non-accredited programs, some coursework had to be received while the student was physical present at the institution, with one or more core faculty members, in face-to-face contact. It was noted that the Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee had recommended removing the requirement of being at the physical location of the institution from the in-residence requirement and that other Advisory Committees were considering making a similar change. Cynthia Schendel moved to remove the physical presence requirement from the “in residence” definition and to clarify that the face-to-face requirement could be satisfied either in person or by screen. Lee Ann Gingery seconded. The motion passed.
- C. Discussion on Workforce Issues, Including Consideration of an Associate Social Worker License.** Due to time limitations, discussion on this topic was moved to the next meeting.
- D. Update on Clinical Supervision, including supervisor training and Board-Approved Supervisor Status and Update on Continuing Education in Diversity,**

Equity, and Inclusion. Andrea Perdomo-Morales noted the past recommendations of the Advisory Committee would be discussed by the Board and the Chair would report back to the Advisory Committee after those discussions.

IX. New Business

A. Discussion of Draft Language for Social Work Compact. Andrea Perdomo-Morales asked the members of the Advisory Committee to review the draft language on the social work multi-state compact and do further research on the proposed compact to prepare for a discussion on this topic at the next Advisory Committee meeting.

B. K.A.R. 102-1-15(g) License Psychology Regulation on Continuing Education. The Executive Director summarized K.A.R. 102-1-15(g), which is a regulation unique to the Licensed Psychology profession, which allows members of that profession to request additional time from the BSRB to complete continuing education hours, if they are approaching their renewal deadline and they can show good cause for needing additional time to complete their hours. The Executive Director asked members of the Advisory Committee to review this regulation to discuss at the next Advisory Committee meeting whether their profession would benefit from having such a regulation.

C. 2022 Association for Social Work Boards (ASWB) Exam Pass Rate Analysis. Andrea Perdomo-Morales noted Advisory Committee members received a copy of the report from ASWB on the exam pass data and the Executive Director provided information on other resources for Advisory Committee members to review on this topic on the ASWB website and methods by which members of the Advisory Committee members could express comments on this topic to ASWB. Members of the Advisory Committee expressed concerns on the disparities in exam pass rates and what this information means on the use of the examinations for licensing purposes. The Executive Director noted he would collect additional information on these topics and provide updates back to the Advisory Committee at the next meeting.

X. Committee Discussion on Items for Next Meeting. Advisory Committee members requested to continue discussing the report from ASWB on the examination pass rates at the next meeting.

XI. Next Meeting. The next meeting of the Advisory Committee will be on Tuesday, October 18, 2022. (*Note: the date for the following Advisory Committee meeting was later changed to Monday, October 17, 2022, due to a conflict with a Legislative committee meeting.*)

VIII. Adjournment. Lee Ann Gingery moved to adjourn the meeting. Mike Gillett seconded. The motion passed.