

**Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board
Social Work Advisory Committee
Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 1:00 p.m.
Minutes**

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 included Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Carolyn Szafran, Mike Gillett, Angi Heller-Workman, Jane Holzrichter, Cristin Stice, and Robin Unruh.

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

Guests. None.

Guest Comments. None.

Review and Approval of Minutes from meetings on March 16, 2021, and April 6, 2021

- Angi Heller-Workman moved to approve the March 16, 2021 minutes as written. Carolyn Szafran seconded. The motion passed.
- Jane Holzrichter moved to approve the April 6, 2021 minutes as written. Carolyn Szafran seconded. The motion passed.

Executive Director Report. David Fye, Executive Director for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) reported on the following items:

- **Enforcement of Expired Licenses as of May 28, 2021.** During the pandemic, the Governor has issued a series of Executive Orders to correspond with the state of emergency. On April 1, 2021, the state of emergency was extended to May 28, 2021. The newest Executive Order provided more flexibility to regulatory boards that issue licenses, to allow for the expiration of licenses, with direction from those regulatory boards. The Board of the BSRB met and on May 10, 2021, reviewed the language and determined to enforce expiration dates as of May 28, 2021, even if the state of emergency is extended past that date. On May 11, 2021, this information was posted on the BSRB website and an email was sent to licensees concerning the expiration of licenses, to let them know to take action if needed.
- **BSRB Staff Returning to the Office Full-Time on June 14, 2021.** The Governor's office instructed state agencies to have most staff return to the office full-time, as of Monday, June 14, 2021. We will follow the direction from the Governor while taking steps to ensure the health and safety of staff.
- **HB 2208.** The bill originally requested on behalf of the Board of the BSRB, which includes statutory changes for licensees, has passed both chambers and has been signed by the Governor. The effective date was changed to "upon publication in the Kansas Register." The bill was published on May 6, 2021. The BSRB sought additional clarifications from the Board at the Board meeting on May 10, and following that meeting information was posted to the BSRB website and an email will be sent out later today or tomorrow.

New Business Items SW Advisory Committee Requests. None.

Old Business.

- **Updates on Social Media.** Jane Holzrichter noted that she spoke with Becky Fast, Executive Director of the Kansas Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), regarding reaching out to view language from the national body regarding their social media policy, so this could be pursued in the future. Andrea, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee, will

report back to the Advisory Committee on any discussions on social media language by the Board.

- **Board-Approved Clinical Supervisors for Social Workers.** Carolyn Szafran, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee, discussed the benefits of having board-approval for clinical supervisors. Members of the Advisory Committee discussed whether the BSRB should approve clinical supervisors, noting that a past survey showed support for approval of supervisors, though it was noted that the survey results were from a survey that was several years old. The Advisory Committee reached consensus for staff of the BSRB to work on drafting language for a survey to be sent out to licensees regarding their thoughts on whether licensees would be supportive of having board-approved clinical supervisors.
- **Title Protection and Social Workers in School Districts.** Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Co-Chair of the Advisory Committee, briefed the Advisory Committee on discussions the Board had with Cheri Koochel from the Kansas School Social Workers Association (KSSWA) regarding title protection and social workers employed by school districts. It was noted that Ms. Koochel had requested a letter drafted by the BSRB providing direction and guidance to school districts and other entities, but based on the discussion at the Board meeting, the request of Ms. Koochel was not within the scope of what the Board was able to resolve.

New Business.

- **Legislative Communications.** The Executive Director informed the committee he would be happy to send them information by email to keep them informed of legislative activity, if the members of the Advisory Committee would like that information during each legislative session. The Executive Director noted he will check with the Advisory Committee closer to the beginning of the next legislative session to see how frequently the Advisory Committee would like communications.
- **Legislative Solutions to Assist in the Distribution of Social Workers.** The Executive Director noted that he had heard conversations at the Capitol that there may be potential proposals in the future to assist with workforce issues by examining tuition reimbursement and he asked if the members of the Advisory Committee wished to discuss this topic. The members of the Advisory Committee discussed the topic, noting that the role of the BSRB was primarily focused on public protection, rather than on growing the professions, so members were unsure the BSRB would be able to play a role in these potential endeavors. The Executive Director noted that he would keep the Advisory Committee informed if he learned of any specific proposals.
- **Continuing Education in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** Members of the Advisory Committee discussed potential diversity, equity and inclusion (DEI) requirements for continuing education units (CEUs). It was noted the BSRB received a comment from a licensee recommending a requirement for ongoing education in diversity and/or social justice, similar to other continuing education requirements, such as ethics. Members of the Advisory Committee noted that other states are discussing adding a similar requirement. It was stated that other Advisory Committees have discussed this topic and the Marriage and Family Therapy Advisory Committee suggested lowering other required hours in diagnosis by 3 and making DEI a 3-hour requirement. The Co-Chairs requested members continue to think on this issue and noted that this topic will be revisited at the next Advisory Committee meeting, in an effort to come up with suggestions for the September Board meeting.
- **Records of Deceased Practitioners.** The Executive Director spoke to the Advisory Committee about policies surrounding records of deceased practitioners where there is no logical custodian of the records. The statutes do not speak to this topic, so all of the Advisory Committees are being asked to discuss what should be done with practitioner's records if a practitioner passes away. Some of the other Advisory Committees have expressed support for adding a question on the licensure renewal form to ask for the name of the person who would serve as the custodian of records. It was noted that prior to adding this question on the renewal forms, a regulatory change

would be needed to express that this is a duty of practitioners. The Advisory Committee members expressed support for adding the question on the licensure renewal form.

- **Communication from Licensees.** It was noted that if any Advisory Committee member receives communication from licensees, requesting a response on behalf of the Advisory Committee or from them as a member of the Advisory Committee, to please alert and share those requests with the Executive Director for a response from the BSRB.
- **Meetings.** Members of the Advisory Committee discussed how often to meet. A decision was reached by consensus to meet every other month starting in August of 2021.

Adjournment. The next meeting was scheduled to begin at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 17, 2021. Mike Gillett motioned to adjourn. Cristin Stice seconded. The motion passed.