

**Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board  
Social Work Advisory Committee  
Tuesday, October 19, 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, Angi Heller-Workman, Donna Hoener-Queal, Mike Gillett, Jane Holzrichter, Cristin Stice, and Robin Unruh by Zoom.

**BSRB Staff.** Staff members present included David Fye and Leslie Allen by Zoom. Jane Weiler, Assistant Attorney General, attended the meeting over Zoom.

**Public Comment.** Prior to the meeting, one group of individuals requested to provide public comment at the Advisory Committee meeting concerning the unprofessional conduct regulations for the profession. At the meeting, members of that group began to describe details concerning interactions with an individual licensed by the BSRB that could relate to a potential Report of Alleged Violation (RAV) or investigation involving the licensee. David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, informed the attendees that information concerning a potential active investigation or matters that might relate to a future RAV against a practitioner would need to be received by the BSRB through the receipt of the RAV forms on the BSRB website and submitted to the investigators for the BSRB, rather than being provided in an open meeting of the Board or an Advisory Committee. He noted that the BSRB values the receipt of that information, due to the mission of the BSRB as a public protection agency, but he noted that handling of investigations and complaints must follow a separate process to ensure fairness to the individuals submitting the complaints and the licensees. Jane Weiler, Assistant Attorney General providing legal services to the Board, confirmed that receipt of this information during public comment at an Advisory Committee meeting had the potential to bias members of the Board concerning potential disciplinary matters, so the information would need to be received by the Board using the process described by the Executive Director.

**Introduction of Donna Hoener-Queal.** Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Co-Chair for the Advisory Committee, requested the agenda be adjusted to add the introduction of new BSRB Board member Donna Hoener-Queal. Jane Holzrichter moved to adjust the agenda accordingly and Carolyn Szafran seconded the motion. By consensus, the Advisory Committee approved the motion. Ms. Hoener-Queal introduced herself to the members of the Advisory Committee.

**Review and Approval of Minutes from meetings on May 18, 2021**

- Carolyn Szafran moved to approve the minutes from the May 18, 2021, Advisory Committee meeting as written. Donna Hoener-Queal seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**Executive Director Report.** The Executive Director for the BSRB reported on the following items:

- **BSRB Board Chair and Vice-Chair.** At the July meeting of the Board, Leslie Sewester was elected as the new Chair of the Board. Dave Anderson was elected as the new Vice-Chair of the Board.
- **Mary Ann Gabel.** Former BSRB Executive Director, Mary Ann Gabel, passed away on September 1, 2021. Flowers were sent to the visitation on behalf of the agency and the Board.
- **Budget.** The agency's budget was submitted by the statutory deadline of September 15, 2021. The revised budget estimate totals the same amounts for FY 2022 and FY 2023 that were approved by the 2021 Legislature, though internal adjustments were made due to anticipated reduced expenditures related to the pandemic, which counterbalanced some increased costs.

- **IT Strategic Plan.** The Executive Director submitted the annual 3-year IT plan for the BSRB. Items in the plan include moving the original licensure system from a paper-system to an electronic system and converting from paper records to electronic records.
- **BSRB Website.** Sitefinity, which hosts most state agency websites, including the website for the BSRB, recently experienced problems, and certain information was removed from the BSRB website. Staff for the BSRB has been actively working to re-upload this information.
- **Staff Update.** In June, the Governor directed most state agencies to have staff return to working full-time in state offices. In late August, the Governor directed most state agencies to have staff return to primarily working remotely, so in-person staffing in the office is limited.
- **Administrative Assistant.** There is currently an opening for an Administrative Assistant position with the BSRB. The agency will be advertising the position and hopes to hire a new employee in the near future.
- **Board Annual Planning Meeting.** The Board generally holds an all-day planning meeting in September. Due to the pandemic, the Board was not able to meet in person, so the annual meeting was split into two half-day meetings over Zoom. The first day of the planning meetings was on September 27, 2021. The second day of the planning meetings was on October 25, 2021.
- **Presentations to Students.** The Executive Director noted that he and Leslie Allen, Assistant Director and Licensing Manager for the BSRB, have held several speaking engagements with students from different universities, to answer questions on licensure.

### **Old Business.**

- **Updates on Social Media.** The Executive Director noted that Advisory Committee had discussed potential changes to the unprofessional conduct regulations, specifically due to developments in social media. The Executive Director noted that a report had been sent to members of the Advisory Committee, and the report was the work of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) and other groups. The Executive Director asked the members of the Advisory Committee to review the language in the report for potential changes to the Kansas unprofessional conduct regulations. Committee members discussed that the BSRB Board previously had a social media subcommittee that met on this topic and discussed whether that subcommittee should meet again on this topic. It was the consensus of the Advisory Committee members to continue working on this topic as a group. The members of the Advisory Committee noted they would attempt to review the unprofessional conduct regulations for social workers and compare that language to the information in the report on social media standards.
- **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.
- **Continuing Education in Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI).** Andrea Perdomo-Morales briefed the Advisory Committee on discussions by the Board that Advisory Committees were asked to discuss whether the Board should require 3 hours of continuing education each license renewal period, in the areas of DEI. The Executive Director noted the current proposal would also allow practitioners to satisfy the DEI requirement within existing requirements of ethics and diagnosis and treatment hours, if the hours included both topics. Members discussed whether there was a need for a requirement or whether it should be an option for licensees. It was noted that currently, two jurisdictions require continuing education hours in this area. Jane Holzrichter moved to make no changes to the continuing education hour requirements for the social work profession. Mike Gillett seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.

**New Business.**

- **Advisory Committee Membership.** The Executive Director summarized the purpose of Advisory Committees for the BSRB, the composition of Advisory Committees, responsibilities of Advisory Committee members, and the process by which Advisory Committees should review new applicants for the Advisory Committee. Members of the Social Work Advisory Committee discussed the current membership on the Advisory Committee and began the process of reviewing applicants for the Advisory Committee. Thirty individuals submitted cover letters and resumes in consideration of being added to the Advisory Committee. Advisory Committee members stated they would seek to add as many as 4 new members and each Advisory Committee member was asked to highlight applicants for the rest of the Advisory Committee. Several applicants were highlighted, so the Advisory Committee wished to identify a time to meet prior to the Board's next meeting on November 8, 2021. For the follow up meeting, the Advisory Committee asked the Executive Director to create a revised list of applicants, noting which applicants had been highlighted by the Advisory Committee members.

**Next Meeting.** The Executive Director noted he would send a poll to members of the Advisory Committee to identify a time and date for a short follow-up meeting so the members of the Advisory Committee could finalize recommendations for new members of the Advisory Committee. After this meeting, the next regular meeting of the Advisory Committee would be on December 21, 2021.

**Adjournment.** Carolyn Szafran moved to adjourn the meeting and Angi Heller-Workman seconded the motion. The motion passed by voice vote.