

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
SOCIAL WORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 13, 2024**

APPROVED MINUTES

- I. Call to order and Roll Call.** The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Cynthia Schendel at 10am.
- 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 Gillet, Lee Ann Gingery, Jane Holzrichter, Catherine Rech, Eric Schoenecker, and Robin Unruh. Angi Heller-Workman was absent.
- BSRB Staff Members** present by Zoom included David Fye and Leslie Allen.
- Guests:** Representatives from the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), including Lavina Harless, Megan Battaile, and Linda Hogan.
- II. Agenda Approval.** Donna Hoener-Queal moved to approve the agenda. Lee Ann seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Update on the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) License Examination by Lavina Harless, Senior Director of Examination Services for ASWB.** Representatives from ASWB provided updated information on the social work licensing exams. Per representatives from ASWB, the licensing examinations are designed to collect data on how candidates are performing on the major content areas. ASWB noted it previously charged to provide certain resources to educators, but changed this policy recently in an effort to create free resources to assist students. Webinars have been offered by ASWB to inform the public on changes to the examination and additional research can all be found via the ASWB website at ASWB.org. Future research will be conducted to evaluate the competence of these assessments with a test for Mastery Mindset Support, which was a resource that has been offered previously. For testing candidates who were unsuccessful on the examination, ASWB has partnered with a company for follow-up assistance on retaking the examination. In the future, there will be a report on the effectiveness of this resource. This will assist in informing additional supports and resources that might be within reach to offer. In 2023, ASWB issued an RFP for regulatory research that was awarded to three different research groups on the importance of competence assessment for licensing of the profession. A Workforce Coalition has been utilized to evaluate other topics and ASWB is preparing to launch a social work census from March-May 2024, which will assist in the next practice analysis. It was noted that the testing vendor has changed from Pearson VUE to PSI, which began administering examinations in January 2024. The main reason for this change the future ability of PSI to offer online remote proctoring, which was a main goal. Currently, the exams are being provided in the brick-and-mortar sites; however, later this year, 2024, there is a plan to transition and provide an option for candidates to take the examination in their own home. Future initiatives being considered by ASWB include establishing a scholarship program for repeat test takers, and exploring additional assessment models which could include shifting to a modularized version of the exam. This would be a separation of sections of the exam, so that if the candidate was unsuccessful on one part of the exam, they would only need to retake one section of the assessment, instead of the entire assessment.
- IV. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on December 13, 2023.** Lee Ann Gingery moved to approve minutes. Jane Holzrichter seconded. Motion Passed.

V. **Executive Director Report.** David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, provided updates on agency operations, legislative items of interest, and updates from the most recent Board meeting.

VI. **New Business**

- A. **Review Results from 2024 Survey for Social Workers.** The Executive Director noted the Advisory Committee created a list of survey questions and the BSRB distributed this survey to social work licensees. The survey was opened for responses from February 2, 2024, through February 10, 2024. During this time period, 2,716 social workers completed the survey. The Executive Director created a 62-page written report summarizing the data from the survey, which can be found on the Advisory Committee page: <https://www.ksbsrb.ks.gov/about-us/committees/social-work-advisory-committee>. Highlights of survey responses were discussed by members of the Advisory Committee. Demographic questions showed a good level of representation between individuals who primarily worked in an urban community and individuals that primarily worked in a rural committee, as well as across the different levels of licensure. Concerning interest in switching from a single-state license to a multi-state license, if Kansas passes legislation to join a multi-state compact, social workers at the master's level and clinical level showed the highest level of interest, while bachelor's level social workers had about a 49% level of interest in changing to a multi-state license. Concerning whether Kansas should discontinue the requirement of passage of a national examination as a condition of licensure, social workers overwhelmingly responded to the survey that passage of a national examination should remain a requirement for licensure. Concerning continuing education requirements, social workers noted they did not believe a decrease from 40 hours to 30 hours would negatively impact professionalism or safe practice. Further, concerning supervision and the transition from in-person supervision to remote supervision, the majority of respondents replied that there were more positive aspects than negative aspects. Advisory Committee members were asked to continue to review the responses from social workers on the survey, for further discussion at future Advisory Committee meetings.
- B. **Discuss Possible Changes to K.A.R. 102-2-6 Program Approval.** The Executive Director noted that each of the Advisory Committees has been asked to review the regulation including educational standards for licensure for their professions, to see if any updating of program-level requirements or coursework level requirements should be made. It was noted that, unlike other professions under the BSRB, for non-accredited programs, the social work education regulation does not list specific coursework requirements. It was noted that this regulation is currently in the process of being changed, as the Board previously recommended adjusting the "in residence" requirement for applicants from non-accredited programs, so that applicants can meet the requirement either in-person or face-to-face by screen. Also, based on the passage of 2023 Sub. for SB 131, applicants from schools that are "in candidacy" for accreditation do not need to meet the "in residence" requirement to be approved to take the licensing examination. Advisory Committee members were asked to review the language in the regulation, to see if the requirements are still appropriate. Kansas wants to make sure we are not requiring something that would go above the national accrediting requirements, unless there is good reason. Advisory Committee members were asked to review, specifically section B and C. Any specific questions on requirements will be identified at a future meeting and the Executive Director will bring those specific questions to a representative from the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) to see if CSWE includes those requirements from accredited programs.
- C. **Review and Update BSRB Social Work Supervision Manual.** Advisory Committee members were provided a copy of the current supervision manual and were asked to review the document to discuss possible changes at the next Advisory Committee meeting.
- D. **Review of ASWB Model Social Work Practice Act.** Advisory Committee members were provided a copy of a Model Social Work Practice Act from ASWB and were asked to review this document for discussion at future meetings.
- E. **Other Topics for 2024.** Due to time constraints, this item will be discussed at a future meeting.

VII. Next Meeting: Tuesday, April 9, 2024, at 10am.

VIII. Adjournment. Andrea Perdomo-Morales moved to adjourn. Lee Ann Gingery Seconded. Motion Passed. The meeting was adjourned.