

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
SOCIAL WORK ADVISORY COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2025
DRAFT MINUTES**

I. Call to Order. The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Cynthia Schendel.

Social Work Advisory Committee Members. Advisory Committee members present by Zoom included Cynthia Schendel, Andrea Perdomo-Morales, Mike Gillet, Lee Ann Gingery, Yelando Johnson, Catherine Rech, Christy Sanders, Eric Schoenecker and Robin Unruh. Sarah Berens, Jasmine Cohen-Young, Mary Gill, and Donna Hoener-Queal were absent.

BSRB Staff Members. David Fye was present by Zoom.

II. Agenda Approval Christy Sanders made a motion to approve. Eric Schoenecker seconded. Motion Passed.

III. Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on December 10, 2024. Yelando Johnson made a motion to approve. Eric Schoenecker seconded. Motion Passed.

IV. Executive Director’s Report. David Fye, Executive Director for the BSRB, provide updates on BSRB operations, items from the most recent Board meeting, and legislative updates. The Executive Director also provided an update on licensing trends, which shows an increase from about total 12,100 licensees to about 16,100 licensees over the past ten years. Additionally, a report by the Archbridge Institute was referenced, in which all states were ranked based on occupational licensing requirements, and the state that was ranked as having the lowest “occupational licensing burdens” was Kansas.

V. Continuation of Annual Training for Board Members and Advisory Committee Members. The Executive Director provided the second half of the annual training for Board and Advisory Committee members over expectations in policy documents and requirements under the law.

VI. Old Business

- A. Continued Review and Updates for Social Work Supervision Manual and Timeline Draft**
Co-Chair Cynthia Schendel provided an update on the draft of the updated Supervision Manual, and it was noted that the language in the manual is being reviewed by legal counsel for the Board, with the goal of the Advisory Committee reviewing the information at the next meeting. The Executive Director provided two documents created by BSRB licensing staff, showing step-by-step guides for the clinical licensure application process and the application process by reciprocity. These guides will be posted on the BSRB website and included in the final version of the supervision manual.
- B. Review and Discussion of Reports on ASWB Licensing Examinations.** The Executive Director noted that ASWB commissioned reports from independent researchers at Rutgers School of Social Work to examine additional information related to examination passage rates. Three reports were completed based on this research and those reports were distributed to committee members in previous meetings.
 - i. Report 1 – Profile of Social Work License Examinees.** In this report, information was presented showing correlation of performance separated by demographic characteristics, such as gender, race, ethnicity, age, disability related accommodations, and age the applicant obtained their degree. Further information provided, includes the age of the first attempt of taking the exam and other attempts. Advisory Committee members discussed many differences between these demographic groups, for example, the difference in pass

rates between a young-applicant, and an older applicant. Additional data was reviewed on the amount of time that had passed between graduating from school and taking the exam.

- ii. **Report 2 – Determinants of Licensing Exam Outcomes.** Advisory Committee members discussed the second test, which focused on factors that were good determinants of examination outcomes, such as social demographics, academic backgrounds, and the performance and timing of preparation. Institutional factors included the type of education institution. While individuals who were younger and had a higher GPA tended to perform better, those who did not delay taking the exam also had higher passage rates.
- iii. **Report 3 – Effects of Race and Ethnicity on Clinical Exam Outcomes.** Advisory Committees discussed items of note from the third report, which looked at determinants of the first-time ASWB clinical exam passage estimated the effects of race and ethnicity on exam outcomes. It was noted that exam pass rates varied significantly by age group, gender, primary language, educational background, and employment experiences. Individuals who attended smaller MSW programs and individuals who attended programs that were less selective in admission and served students from lower socioeconomic backgrounds had a lower pass rate than their counterparts. Advisory Committee members discussed that outcomes appeared to be based more on education and economic backgrounds than racial features. Advisory Committee members discussed that while the reports identified factors involving in exam success rate, the next question was how to use this data to improve examination results. Suggestions for improvement included possible mentorship from volunteers who have passed the exam, or broader assistance with preparation or study material to those who may be having trouble when taking the examination.

VII. New Business

- A. **Discussion on New Topics for 2025.** This topic was tabled to a future meeting.

VIII. Next Meetings: Tuesday, April 8, 2025, at 10am (Remote Meeting)

- IX. Adjournment.** Lee Ann Gingery moved to adjourn. Christy Sanders seconded. The meeting was Adjourned.