

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

MINUTES OF MEETING

July 9, 2012

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Social Work was called to order on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Rhode Island Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established at 9:10 am.

Board members in attendance:

Maureen Egan

Diane Giarrusso

Mary Montminy-Danna

Daniel Wheelan

Board members not in attendance:

Sandra Munroe Wunschel

Staff members in attendance:

Rosemary Sheets

Others in attendance:

Rick Harris

A discussion was held regarding the past practice of including in the open minutes the names and information of individuals who failed the Social Worker exam three times and appeared before the board as required. It was unanimously agreed that candidates will appear in executive session and names or personal information will not be presented in open minutes. It was also suggested that the regulatory language requiring thrice unsuccessful exam candidates to appear before the board could be reviewed and possibly changed to a voluntary appearance at the candidate's request.

The board was informed that the May 14, 2012 open minutes were amended to remove identifying and personal information of the two exam candidates and posted on the SOS website. The amended minutes of the meeting of May 14, 2012 were presented and reviewed.

On motion of Ms. Giarrusso, seconded by Mr. Wheelan, it was unanimously voted to accept the amended minutes as presented.

Business

The Board discussed a number of current professional practice issues and possible amendments to the RI General Law 5-39.1. The Board members agreed to research issues assigned to each member for discussion at an additional statute/regulation review meeting scheduled for August 20, 2012 at 9:00 am. The board was informed that any legislative changes must be vetted through HEALTH's

legislative committee and the Director. The Board also discussed possible inclusion of specific ethics language in Section 8.0 Grounds for Denial, Suspension or Revocation of License/Violations of [R5-39.1 CSW/ICSW] rather than the current language in Section 8.1(m) of violations “to the provisions of the NASW Code of Ethics of reference 1 herein and as adopted by the Board.”

The issue of on-line Master of Social Work degrees was reviewed. A discussion ensued with additional input from Rick Harris, Executive Director of NASW-RI. It was unanimously approved by the board that on-line programs accredited by the national accrediting body, Counsel on Social Work Education (CSWE), are acceptable programs to obtain a Rhode Island Social Worker license. Mr. Harris agreed to include the decision in a future NASW-RI newsletter.

Board member Mary Montminy-Dana requested a date change for the September and November meetings from Monday to Tuesday in order to be available to participate in the meetings. The board agreed to the following date changes:

The September 10 and November 12 board meetings are changed to Tuesday, September 18, 2012 and Tuesday November 27, 2012. Both meetings to be held at 9:00 am.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Ms. Giarrusso, seconded by Mr. Wheelan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to

sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. The Open Session adjourned at 10:15 am.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 10:35 am.

On motion of Mr. Wheelen, seconded by Ms. Egan, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

There was one vote taken in the Executive Session:

It was unanimously voted there were no grounds to open a case regarding a complaint against an LICSW.

Adjournment

On motion of Ms. Giarrusso, seconded by Ms. Egan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Sheets

Board Administrator

Health Professions Regulation