

# **BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK**

## **MINUTES OF MEETING**

**December 19, 2013**

### **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.**

**Board members in attendance: Board members not in attendance:**

**Maureen Egan Diane Giarrusso**

**Mary Montminy-Danna**

**Mary Ann Shallcross Smith Staff members in attendance**

**Daniel Wheelan J. Michel Martineau, Administrator**

**Sandra Munroe Wunschel Steve Morris, Esq.**

**A quorum was established at 9:10 AM and the meeting was started.**

**The Open Minutes of the meeting of September 19, 2013 were presented and reviewed. On motion of Sandra Munroe Wunschel, seconded by Maureen Egan, it was unanimously voted to accept the Open Minutes.**

**The administrator distributes a copy of an inquiry from Atty. Susan Edwards regarding the scope of practice. Members discuss and Atty. Morris advises the board that this matter is outside of their duties, the best response is to provide direction to RI Law and RI Rules and Regulations addressing licensed Social Workers. The administrator states he will address this and provide a link for convenient access to the information.**

**Members discuss making proposed changes to the RI Rules and Regulations. Maureen Egan states she has made a discussion list that includes technology used in practice, something not currently addressed in RI, also on the topic of supervision, the national organization (NASW) suggests supervision even for LICSW. Maureen Egan states that record keeping and a client's rights policy are additional matters for consideration. A Member states the subject of mandatory reporting of impaired professionals. A Member states technology means different things; many consider Skype communication as equal to face to face.**

**Maureen Egan raises the subject of consideration of including bachelor's degree education in licensing. Members state this subject has been addressed in the past but did not move forward. Mary**

**Montminy-Danna states there are three colleges in RI that grant a BSW.**

**Maureen Egan indicates a license holder who is on disability may look to do all CEU online. Sandra Munroe Wunschel states she participated in a Microsoft online Internet CEU program, it is considered live because there is an opportunity to interact with the instructor in real time via computer or telephone.**

**Maureen Egan references CSWE and points out there is a generalist exam that bachelors level and masters level people can take and it makes them feel like a professional, it is not used in RI and Law would need to be changed. A Member indicates CSWE does not approve of any social work Doctoral program.**

**Maureen Egan mentions that unlicensed social workers may still work for the state. Daniel Wheelan states the last time they tried to include the BSW category in the licensing process, Russ Spaight, a former Administrator said this would create a significant workload and the Department would not support the change unless the money goes to a restricted receipt account available to the Department.**

**Maureen Egan states the protection of the public is the main purpose of the board. Daniel Wheelan states that Massachusetts eliminated the exemption, now all social workers must be licensed to work in the state. Atty. Morris references the license and indicates the**

**mechanism for protecting the public is the board. The administrator asks if Rick Harris and NASW have a presence at the state house to try and address this matter, Members indicate yes NASW is well represented.**

**Maureen Egan references the NASW Model Practice Act and asks the administrator if he has a copy, then states she will work to find a copy for Member Mary Ann Shallcross Smith.**

### **Regulations – Page (i) Introduction**

**Sandra Munroe Wunschel indicates there is no mention of protecting the public. Maureen Egan suggests language from the Model Practice Act addresses that point, “The purpose of the ASWB Model Act is simple: to provide a resource to legislatures and social work boards when addressing issues related to the public protection mission of regulating the practice of social work”.**

### **Regulations – Page 1 Definitions**

**Maureen Egan asks if the Definitions page is required, Atty. Morris indicates it is required.**

**Referencing the last paragraph of Section 1.3 “Clinical social work practice” Sandra Munroe Wunschel asks why is the following language necessary “Clinical social work services shall not include psychological testing and nothing in the Act or in these rules and**

**regulations shall be construed as permitting social workers to practice psychology". Members discuss the relevance of this sentence. Atty. Morris states you may clarify and extend in the regulations, but if what you propose changing differs with the Law, you need to propose changing the Law. Atty. Morris**

**states a psychological test that's been requested for a psychological profile is psychological, but a test from a social work perspective is different and that is okay.**

**Referencing Section 1.4 "Contact hours" Sandra Munroe Wunschel suggests expanding to address face to face and non contact.**

**As it pertains seeking approval of CEU courses, Maureen Egan states that Rick Harris of the RI Chapter of NASW advises requestors they may send in information for approval after the program was given (see CE Application Summary, Section V. #2).**

**Referencing Section 1.8 "Experience" "during a 24 month to 72 month period", a Member says this may be an issue for a woman who took time away from the program to have a child. A Member says she receives calls for guidance and clarification. Atty. Morris and the administrator advise board members to please direct those calls to the administrator, people call board members because they recognize**

**you are on the board, but board members need to remain impartial because complaints or applications with problems may be brought to them for a determination and it is required that you not have a conflict. Mary Montminy-Danna references “1,500 hours” and asks if this is with people or groups.**

**Referencing Section 1.9 “Non-contact hours” A Member states that some Internet courses do provide an opportunity for interaction, Members discuss. Sandra Munroe Wunschel suggests deleting the first part of 1.9, keep “Continuing education programs that do not provide for direct interaction between faculty and the participant”.**

**Referencing Section 1.11 “Supervision” A Member states most people in private practice do not have supervision. Daniel Wheelan states that in private practice it would not be supervision but it would be consultation. Maureen Egan states we may expect people with a LICSW to have supervision, Sandra Munroe Wunschel asks “good to or must”, Maureen Egan responds “must”.**

**Mary Montminy-Danna references issues that come up including record keeping, impropriety, data, lack of supervision and asks how can we put this back in the regulations. Sandra Munroe Wunschel states some are at risk, but others are in a hospital setting where they have support and adds that those independent in their office may be isolated. Atty. Morris asks if he has this right, if it is the same repeating issue; don’t add specific language as we already have it**

covered. Atty. Morris asks are 99% of license holders okay, and 1% bad, Members respond yes, Atty. Morris states then don't address all.

Mary Montminy indicates she has never been audited for CE, another Members states they have been and say an audit is a random selection.

A Member says please consider special supervision for an impaired professional, Atty. Morris references Affiliated Monitoring that HEALTH works with for this professional service.

#### **Adjournment to Executive Session**

On motion of Mary Ann Shallcross Smith, seconded by Maureen Egan, 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 10:18 AM.

#### **Return to Open Session**

The Open Session was called back to order at 10:30 AM. On motion of Mary Montminy-Danna, seconded by Daniel Wheelan, 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.

**C13-120 Dismissed**

**C13-450 Dismissed**

**A motion was made by Sandra Munroe Wunschel to accept the Executive minutes of the meeting held September 19, 2013, seconded by Maureen Egan, it passed unanimously.**

**Adjournment**

**On motion of Sandra Munroe Wunschel, seconded by Maureen Egan, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 10:35 am.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**J. Michel Martineau**

**Health Policy Administrator**