

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK

MINUTES OF MEETING

January 23, 2014

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

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 9:20 AM and the meeting was started.

The Open Minutes of the meeting of December 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.

Members review an inquiry from Sarah Hayhurst regarding LICSW supervision requirements. Members indicate the applicant needs two years / twenty four months, not less. A Member notes a contract for supervision may be useful in this situation.

Members discuss attracting new volunteers to serve on the board. Sandra Munroe Wunschel notes the unlicensed and licensed categories for prospective board members.

A member notes RI does not have a license for the baccalaureate degree holder, this is not a new category as many other states have this level of license. Maureen Egan states this would be a good thing as it would provide protection for the workers and the public they are serving. It is noted that unlicensed social workers in a nursing home work with no supervision. Sandra Munroe Wunschel notes this new license category would generate new revenue and this may interest the Department and Legislators. Atty. Steve Morris asks who is the target audience, will they want to get a license.

Maureen Egan states the Model Practice Act in addressing the basic generalist includes numerous areas of background knowledge including but not limited to ethics and psychosocial status. Atty.

Steve Morris indicates the list or background knowledge and the duties sound like they would pertain to anyone practicing social work and asks what additional qualifications would separate a higher level license. A members states a CSW can assess and diagnose. Atty. Morris states that members are suggesting an entry level license for anyone practicing as a social worker.

Daniel Wheelan notes that RI has three colleges granting a bachelors degree in Social Work, but RI has no baccalaureate license category.

Mary Montminy-Danna states it is known that some nursing home staff calls someone a social worker, the individual is a nurse.

Advanced generalist is referenced as another category; this individual would not be clinical and would possess a Masters or a Doctoral degree.

Referencing Section 2.2.3 Sandra Munroe Wunschel indicates there is a long history of this exemption for state workers and asks if it is still relevant in 2014. Mary Montminy-Danna states it is a justice issue, also stating you would not have an unlicensed medical doctor working at a hospital. Maureen Egan indicates that the union is very strong, it is an ongoing issue in hiring staff, and she references risk and liability. Sandra Munroe Wunschel states in the VA system they had a similar exemption, they addressed this by stating that after

1986 you need a license. The administrator states this idea of a sunset date for the exemption to expire may be worth pursuing for RI.

Daniel Wheelan states Section 2.2.3 was put in the 1970's.

Maureen Egan states she had a difference of opinion with board counsel Steve Morris relative to CEU's and a disabled license holder that requested to complete them all online, she states that she feels it is important to complete CEU's face to face, she also indicates we have nothing in the Regulations about technology as it pertains to earning CEU's.

Referencing Section 3.0, specifically Section 3.2 (f) members ask if this is self report, the administrator states it is, we refer to it as an attestation as they are signing the application or renewal stating this is accurate. Members discuss the merits of the applicant providing the Department with a BCI for their initial licensure and an update every two years for renewal. More than one member indicates there is merit to requiring a BCI as they know of a licensed social worker who likely had convictions and continued to work. Members indicate it is a simple matter for Applicants to visit the Office of the AG, pay \$5 and get a BCI. Members and the administrator indicate they were required to get a BCI as a volunteer with various organizations.

Maureen Egan references Section 3.2 (g) and states she had concerns when NASW took steps to discipline someone outside of the board,

she states she has discussed this with Prof. Rick Reamer and they both advise seeking to mandate that NASW report all discipline matters to this board.

Maureen Egan references Section 3.2 (i) and states there is merit to include language “if you suspect” any concerns about controlled substance or alcohol abuse by a licensed social worker.

Referencing Section 3.2 (e) U.S. citizen, a Member indicates schools allow undocumented students to take classes.

Referencing Section 3.0 Sandra Munroe Wunschel states that certain matters are self report, how do we monitor or enforce.

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 10:25 AM.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 10:30 AM. On motion of Sandra Munroe Wunschel, seconded by Maureen 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.

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