

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

3 CAPITOL HILL
CONFERENCE ROOM 104
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Thursday, October 9, 2014
9:00 AM

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Lynn Finocchiaro, LICSW
Connie Gallo, LCSW
Ronda Jones, MSW, QRC
Barry Noel, LCSW
Kimberly Perry, MSW
Dr. Mary Ann Shallcross-Smith
Sandra Munroe Wunschel, LICSW

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

None

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Karl Beauregard, Legal Counsel
Arlene Hartwell, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

None

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held on Thursday, October 9, 2014 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 9:05 AM on a motion by Sandra Munroe Wunschel and seconded by Barry Noel. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the July 31, 2014 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Barry Noel and seconded by Connie Gallo to accept the Open Session minutes of July 31, 2014. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Board Manager Report

- Newly Appointed Board Member
 - Kimberly Perry was introduced as a newly appointed board member.
- ASWB International Technology Task Force
 - Sandra Munroe Wunschel will contact ASWB to identify local representative of the International Technology Task Force.

4. Old Business

- ASWB new board member training
 - Connie Gallo attended and expressed that the training is very helpful.
 - Board members will contact ASWB regarding next training.

- Arlene Hartwell will contact ASWB to notify them of new board member.
- SW Title Protection
 - Section 2.1.3 in the Rules and Regulations for Licensing Clinical Social Workers and Independent Clinical Social Workers does not include the words, “social worker”. The board agreed that Rhode Island statute 5-39.1-3 should be amended to include the words, ”social worker” and that the rules and regulation be revised to reflect the amended statute.
 - Connie Gallo and Barry Noel reported that some agencies allow persons to refer to themselves as social workers when they are not licensed as such and do not have social worker training.
 - Lynn Finocchiaro asked about separation of degree and practice as when a credentialed MSW uses the title when not practicing clinical social work. Arlene Hartwell responded that according to statute 5-39.1(d), as long as the individual is not providing social worker services, h/she does not have to maintain licensure but can identify the degree.
 - The board discussed agency responsibility when allowing employees to misrepresent themselves as social workers.
 - Arlene Hartwell questioned the board’s scope regarding agency responsibility. Karl Beauregard will check the laws on this.
 - Discussion was tabled for further discussion.

5. New Business

- Code of Ethics
 - Board members received a copy of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) Code of Ethics for review. Sandra Munroe Wunschel is a member of NASW and offered to contact NASW to ask about the use of their code of ethics by a state board. Sandra

will also speak with an ASWB representative about a code of ethics which could be adopted by a state board.

- Licensees
 - A list of licenses issued to applicants since the last board meeting was distributed for review.

6. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Sandra Munroe Wunschel and seconded by Barry Noel to adjourn to Closed Session at 10:13 A.M. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

7. Motion to return to Open Session

Motion was made by Sandra Munroe Wunschel and seconded by Ronda Jones at 10:40 to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

8. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board proposed action on one case.

9. Adjournment

The next Board of Social Work Examiners meeting will be held Thursday, January 29, 2015 at 9:00 AM at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made

by Sandra Munroe Wunschel and seconded by Ronda Jones to adjourn at 10:45 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Arlene Hartwell".

Arlene Hartwell
Board Manager
Office of Health Professionals Regulation