

WV Board of Social Work
Board Meeting Minutes

January 18, 2019
WV Board of Social Work

Attendance: Chris Maniskas, Jody Gottlieb, Patricia O'Reilly, Barbara Heasley, Rita Brown, Vickie James, Briana Marino, Guests Tanny O'Connell, Susan Richards and Cammie Chapman, Bureau for Children and Families, Sam Hickman, NASW

Call to Order- Pat O'Reilly opened the meeting

Minutes:

Vickie noted that in preparing the minutes, she could not locate in her notes who moved and seconded the action taken on two disciplinary actions taken last meeting and to be transparent, she recommended the Board revisit action taken on Case 201717JD and Case 201822DW as reflected in the minutes. It was M/S/P (Gottlieb/O'Reilly/all in favor) to affirm the action taken on case on 201717JD with the addition of 3 courses from 'an accredited social work program with content in...' The amended action taken will read: *The Board found Probable Cause of case number 201717JD, Jamie Dodd for numerous ethical violations of the Code of ethics: 1.01-Commitment to clients, 1.03-Informed consent, 1.12-Derogatory language, 1.07-Privacy and Confidentiality, 1.06-Conflicts of Interest, 1.09-Sexual Relationship. The Board voted to suspend her license for five years, and require additional education pending any consideration of reapplication for licensure-no less than 3 courses/classes from an accredited social work program with content in dual relationships, confidentiality and conflict of interest. Should she make application after that time period, she must comply with all applicable application requirements, including a self -reflective essay. Supervision with a Board approved supervisor will also be required for 3 years following reentry to practice.*

It was M/S/P (Gottlieb/Maniskas/all in favor) to affirm the action taken on case on 201822DW with the addition of 3 courses from 'an accredited social work program with content in...' The amended action taken will read: *The Board also found probable cause on case number 201822DW, Dwayne Willis for violation of 1.09 Sexual Relationships. The Board voted to suspend his license for five years and requires an academic course from an accredited social work program with content in ethics as a prerequisite to reapplication for reentering practice. Should he make application after that time period, he must comply with all applicable application requirements, including a self -reflective essay. Supervision with a Board approved supervisor will also be required for 2 years following reentry to practice.*

It was M/S/P (Gottlieb/Maniskas/all in favor) to approve the November minutes as amended.

Financial Reports/Purchasing Card:

Members were referred to the monthly line items report in their packets covering the 2018 fiscal year from July 1 to January 17, 2019. The report reflects revenues of 4141,630 and expenditures of \$95,898; Vickie reminded members that the past few months are the largest renewal period in the two year cycle which accounts for a spike in revenue.

Members were referred to the P Card statements for expenditures for the period of December 8 through January 4 totaling \$454.18 and for expenditures between November 18 through December 12 totaling \$1449.96. Receipts for all transactions were available for member review. It was M/S/P (Gottlieb/Maniskas all in favor) to approve the P card reconciliations/expenditures as submitted.

Vickie also referred members to the Post Audit Division Letter Report-Chapter 30 Boards Fund Balance Analysis in their packets and briefly covered the report and recommendations. It is likely that there will be Legislative action on these recommendations with respect to budgeting and sweeping monies in excess of two times the annual operating budget. The Board's fund balance is 1.5.

Executive Director Update

Personnel-Administrative Assistant: Kevin Nichols left his position on January 11 in order to return to school full time. Options include filling the position with a temporary employee through the statewide contract or filling the full-time position immediately. The Governor's office had contacted the Board regarding sweeping the positions and a response was filed the previous evening. The Board response noted that the Board intended to fill the Administrative position but had not immediate plans to fill the clerk position. It is unclear how sweeping these positions will save any money for the State.

Discussion ensued on the qualifications-whether the ad should note Bachelor's degree required or limit it to a minimum of a BSW, or include BSW preferred. The general consensus was to require the Bachelor's degree and include it on the DOP web page, and request NASW send it out to their list serve along with the WVU list serve.

Legislature/Bills of Interest: Members were referred to the tracking list in their packet and Vickie addressed the status of the bills affecting licensing Boards.

ASWB Policy on Testing – In follow up to Pat's suggestion at the last meeting, Vickie researched the Associate exam which is a Bachelor's exam but with a lower passing score threshold. It is for individuals who do not have a Bachelor's degree. She had talked with Tanya Carpenter at ASWB who also recommended she talk with Dwight Hymans. If this is feasible, this could be a solution for both the restricted and provisional licenses. She has looked at some other states who have different categories of licensure for non BSW or MSWs; some do not require an exam and register, and some have different categories of licensure. More in-depth research is needed.

Office Operations -Vickie noted that she planned to purchase an I pad which will allow her to keep up with the Legislative sessions and not require she keep switching from her computer to listen to relevant committee meetings. The Board was in agreement.

Disciplinary Committee Report

It was M/S/P (O'Reilly/Heasley/all in favor) to go into Executive Session to discuss the status of disciplinary cases as set forth on the agenda. Following discussion, it was M/S/P (O'Reilly/Maniskas/all in favor) to exit Executive Session.

Upon return to the agenda, the Board voted to act (O'Reilly/Maniskas/all in favor) on the following cases (Heasley recused on all votes):

20185WS: Following investigation, the Board found probable cause on Wanda Sluss, who did not cooperate with the investigation. The Board will proceed to hearing.

201820JB: Has refused to pick up all correspondence regarding the complaint, which alleges she bartered psychotropic medication for marijuana from a client. The Board will proceed to hearing.

2210824 Assign for investigation

201826LW-Assign for investigation

Barb Heasley volunteered to preside over the hearings, which will be scheduled on the same day.

Bureau for Children and Families Guests: Tanny O'Connell, Deputy Commissioner for Field Operations (phone), Cami Chapman and Susan Richards, Division of Training

Rita updated the members on the meeting she and Vickie had with Linda Watts two days previously and in follow up to her correspondence. There was confusion on the administrative extension for Restricted Provisional Licensees due to reach the end of their four years. Following discussion, it was M/S/P (Gottlieb/Heasley/all in favor) to issue a blanket extension to all Provisional Licenses who were licensed between June 2015 and June 30, 2016. This extension will go to June 30, 2020.

Vickie will draft a memo to all affected licensees assuring them of the extension.

Work will be ongoing regarding testing and licensing privileges associated with the levels of provisional licensure.

Tanni noted a situation where the Department is losing CPS staff to contiguous states in the Eastern Panhandle due to the higher salaries offered. Some of these individuals have worked three years with a Provisional License. However perhaps 10-12 individuals may be willing to work in WV on a temporary/1000-hour contract. Briana noted that a change in the Code would be required as these individuals would not be eligible for a Provisional License under current law.

Provisional License Requests

Five applications were presented for consideration. It was M/S/P (Heasley/O'Reilly/all in favor) to approve conditionally approve eligibility application requests contingent upon enrollment and within six months of employment for Ella Damron, Maureen Rogers and Nadine Wilson and to conditionally approve Scott George and Alan Williams on ongoing enrollment in an MSW program.

Other License Requests

Eight requests presented and it was M/S/P (O'Reilly/Maniskas/all in favor) to 1) issue a WV license to Jacqueline Witsberger who is licensed in Ohio, passed the Bachelors exam but does not have a degree in social work who both became licensed LSWs through the provisional licensure process to reinstate expired licenses 2) permit John Rush, a current Provisional Licensee to apply for an RPL 3) permit Tiffany Dixon to renew her license without providing proof on enrollment as she is going to Nursing school in the fall (had requested an RPL), 4) reinstate Michelle Earl who let her license lapse after attaining it thought the temporary licensure process 5) allow Cynthia Kelly to count half of the clinical hours she accrued between June 3, 2015 and Oct. 2017, 6) deny a permit request from Beth Elkins 6) issued an 8th and final permit for Hali Baker (Gottlieb recused) and 7) approve the CSWE equivalency for an potential applicant graduating from the University of Idaden, Nigeria

Continuing Education Committee

The Committee Education Committee referred the request of the Huntington VA who wants approval to issue continuing education as an ACES provider through ASWB; if approved, they plan to drop their certification as a WV approved provider. It is unclear if they plan to offer continuing education outside the VA. Vickie noted that while our rules permit individuals to claim credit for continuing education provided out of state approved by ASWB as well as online coursework, we are not an ACES participant. The Board requests that Vickie follow up on acquiring more information from the VA.

Working Group Needs/Assignments/Tasks-planning session

Not addressed due to time constraints

Next meeting date: February 15, 2019 at 11:00 am. at the Board offices.

Meeting Adjourned: It was M/S/P (Maniskas/Gottlieb/all in favor) to adjourn.

Respectfully Submitted,
Vickie James, Executive Director