

Kentucky Board of Social Work
Monthly Board Meeting
December 11, 2023

Board Members Present:

Hank Cecil, LCSW
Santosh Adhikary, LCSW
Whitney Cassity-Caywood, Ph.D., LCSW
Lori Vogel, LCSW
Laura Guffey, LSW

Staff Present:

Marc Kelly, Executive Director
Vanessa Jones, Executive Assistant
Mark Brengelman, Board Attorney

Call to Order

Hank Cecil called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. ET.

Board Minutes:

November 13, 2023, board meeting minutes – a motion was made by Laura Guffey and seconded by Santosh Adhikary to approve the minutes from the November 13th meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Operations Report:

Marc Kelly, Executive Director reported the following for the operations report:

Applications-79
LSW licenses-2
CSW Licenses-35
LCSW Licenses-33
Renewals-107
Temp permits-5 clinical and 0 non-clinical
Supervision Contracts- 57 approved and 0 deferred
CEUs- 6 providers; 2 sponsors
Total number of licensees-7,387

Santosh Adhikary made a motion to accept the Operations report. Lori Vogel seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Financial Report

Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported board expenditures and revenues for month - Nov income: \$29,487.00; Nov expenses: \$32,383.93; Fund balance: \$653,578.40. The board is awaiting a requested allotment and if not approved the board will seek funding in the third quarter - currently seeking funding for technology updates and additional staff.

Board Members Travel and Per Diem:

Board members per diem and travel for today's (12/11/23) meeting – Santosh Adhikary made a motion to approve the Board's per diem and travel for today. Laura Guffey seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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Board member, Hank Cecil, travel for complaint meeting at board office – Lori Vogel made a motion to approve Hank Cecil’s per diem and travel for the meeting. Laura Guffey seconded. Motion carried with 1 abstention.

Committees

Application Committee

Laura Guffey, LSW & Lori Vogel, LCSW

Applicant 1 –The Committee recommends this applicant’s application be approved to take the Master exam. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 2 –The Committee recommends this applicant’s application be Approved to take the Master exam. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 3–The Committee recommends deferral of this applicant’s application be deferred to the January Board meeting. More information from applicant needed. No motion or vote needed.

Complaint Committee

Santosh Adhikary, LCSW

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to enter an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance on **Complaint 23-29**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to enter a settlement agreement with a suspension of license. Settlement agreement authority is given to the Board Counsel to enter a notice of administrative Hearing if needed on **Complaint No. 23-39**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 23-48** as there is insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 23-52** as there is insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to enter an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance on **Complaint 23-59**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to enter a settlement agreement with a 2-year probated suspension of license. Settlement agreement authority is given to the Board Counsel to enter a notice of administrative Hearing if needed on **Complaint No. 23-62**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 23-65** as there is insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to enter an Assurance of Voluntary Compliance on **Complaint 23-66**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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Operations Committee

Hank Cecil, LCSW

Operations Manual - Hank Cecil shared that staff have provided information on several of their sections and will continue to work on them.

Old Business

ASWB updates- Hank Cecil reported

Exam testing and new company site – Hank Cecil shared that ASWB will not be administering any exams from December 15, 2023, to December 31, 2023. They will start up again in January 2024 with PSI as the exam administrator. He stated there is discussion of future things that will happen throughout 2024.

Compact Licensing updates– Hank Cecil reported

Hank Cecil shared that Florida has introduced the compact into legislation; Missouri has passed it; Ohio is in the Senate; and the compact will be proposed in January 2024 in the KY General Assembly 2024. Seven states must pass the compact before the commission can be activated for implementation.

IT Updates - Hank Cecil reported

The New Board website test view was shared
Conference room – all equipment has been approved by COT and purchased, waiting on installation of the TV and the microphones and cameras. It should be installed sometime in December and usable at the January board meeting.

Regulations update – Hank Cecil and Mark Brengelman reported.

201 KAR 23:160 temporary permits; 201 KAR 23:170 Telehealth; and 201 KAR 23:055 Inactive Status – Hank Cecil shared that this regulation will be reviewed today at the ARRS meeting. Hank and Marc Kelly will attend.

201 KAR 23:080 code of ethical conduct and 201 KAR 23:020 Fees are being worked on by Hank Cecil; Marc Kelly; and Mark Brengelman. They will keep the board updated.

Communication with licensees – Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported

Whitney reported that the IRB at Murray State University and Western Kentucky University have given approval for the research project and the plan is to launch in January 2024. This is the first time this has been done, so all licensees are encouraged to fill out the survey. Hank Cecil reminded all to ensure their emails and contact information are updated with the Board via the self-service portal. Marc Kelly shared he is in the process of hiring a temporary person to assist with this project.

2024 Board meeting dates and retreat- Hank Cecil reported

All Board meetings for 2024 will be the 2nd Monday of each month with a retreat in April at KY Dam Village State Park near Murray, KY. Whitney Cassity-Caywood shared that they have plenty of room at the state park and the parking is good as well. Students will be encouraged to attend. Whitney Cassity-Caywood and Marc Kelly will work on all the details.

New Business

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Behavioral health associate – proposed KY Medicaid amendments to 901 KAR 1:044- Hank Cecil and Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported

Discussion was held on this regulation. Basically the proposed regulation says that a person who is enrolled in a graduate school that they can provide therapy services which implies that they would be doing clinical social work as an MSW candidate and not be a licensed clinical social worker. Public comments will be accepted until January 31, 2024. All comments are welcome. The board was reminded that LCSW supervisors may be asked to supervise and MSW student providing therapy and that this would be aiding and abetting practice without a license. The regulation can be found on the LRC website, and the link will be on the board's Facebook page. Mark Brengelman asked if the board would want to make a statement from the Board. Santosh Adhikary made a motion to give Marc Kelly the ability to write/comment on the regulation for the board before the end of the comment period in January. Whitney Cassity-Caywood seconded. All approved by unanimous voice vote.

Emergency license suspension and revocation- Hank Cecil and Mark Brengelman reported

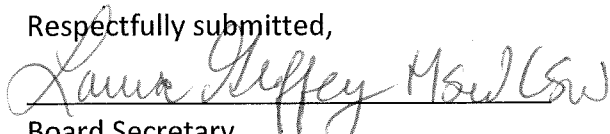
At this time the board does not have a law and the board's legal counsel suggested that the board have a law to enforce an emergency suspension of license. There will need to be a change in statute at some point in the future along with other needed changes.

Announcements – None at this time.

Adjournment - A motion was made by Santosh Adhikary to adjourn the meeting at 12:12 pm. Seconded by Laura Guffey. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

Next meeting: **MONDAY**, February 12, 2024, at 11:30 am at the Board of Social Work Office, 125 Holmes Street, 3rd Floor, Suite 310, Frankfort and via Zoom. (Note: The meeting link can be requested by email to Marc.Kelly@ky.gov on the Friday before the meeting or Monday morning.)

Respectfully submitted,


Board Secretary

Board Approved: _____


Date