

Kentucky Board of Social Work

Monthly Board Meeting

March 13, 2023

**Board Members Present:**

Hank Cecil, LCSW

Santosh Adhikary, LCSW

Whitney Cassity-Caywood, Ph.D., LCSW

Lori Vogel, LCSW

James Haggie, CSW

Laura Guffey, LSW

**Staff Present:**

Marc Kelly, Executive Director

Vanessa Jones, Executive Assistant

Mark Brengelman, Board Attorney

**Call to Order**

Whitney Cassity-Caywood called the meeting to order at 11:30 a.m. ET.

**Operations Report:**

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

Applications-71

LSW licenses-8

CSW Licenses-39

LCSW Licenses-33

Reinstatements-9

Renewals-98

Temp permits-8

Supervision Contracts- 58 approved; 2 deferred due to page 3 section D being completed with %s instead of the hours. We need hours in that section; not %s.

CEUs-12 providers; and 5 sponsorship renewals

Hank Cecil made a motion to accept the Operations report. James Haggie seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## **Financial Report**

James Haggie reported that there is nothing unusual to report but we will need to access our revenues because our expenditures will go up in the final quarter with the final yearly rent payment coming out. He stated Marc Kelly has requested \$80,000 from our case balance for the remainder of our operating costs for the rest of this year. Marc Kelly shared he has emailed and called the legislature and we are just waiting to hear from them. We accessed the monies last year so we don't see why would not be able to access it this year. Vanessa Jones shared she will check the monthly balance each month to see if we get it in case it is approved before we receive the notice. James Haggie reminded all that we will want to petition the state for more money in the next budget year. He suggested we request \$414,000 or we will continue to need to request monies from our cash balance each year. He shared we also want to look at hiring additional personnel in the future, so we will need the additional monies to help cover that expenditure. He asked Marc Kelly and Vanessa Jones to look into the process of how we can request another position.

## **Board Members Travel and Per Diem:**

Board members per diem and travel for the Board retreat on March 12<sup>th</sup> at the Hampton Inn in Frankfort. James Haggie made a motion to approve the Board's per diem and travel for March 12 retreat meeting. Hank Cecil seconded. All approved by a unanimous voice vote.

Board members per diem and travel for today's (3/13/23) meeting – Hank made a motion to approve the Board's per diem and travel for today. Santosh Adhikary seconded. All approved by a unanimous voice vote.

## **Board Minutes:**

February 14, 2023 board meeting minutes – a motion was made by Hank Cecil and seconded by Lori Vogel to approve the minutes from the February 14<sup>th</sup> meeting. All approved by a unanimous voice vote.

## **Committees**

### **Application Committee**

**James Haggie, CSW**

Applicant 1 – James Haggie reported that this applicant will need to submit additional information and he will have Vanessa Jones request it. Then once it is received we can review it again. So, there is no recommendation at this time.

Applicant 2 – James Haggie reported this applicant is requesting to sit for the LSW Bachelor exam. This applicant had prior felony charges but was cleared in 2017. They have a job lined up so they have also requested a temporary permit as well. Due to them having things completed and doing well, the Board recommends this applicant be allowed to sit for the exam and be issued a temporary permit. James Haggie made a motion. Lori Vogel seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 3 – James Haggie reported this applicant is requesting to sit for the MSW Master exam. This applicant had prior felony charges but they are working on expungement. They are working in a recovery agency to help others. Due to them having things completed and doing well, the Board recommends this applicant be allowed to sit for the exam. James Haggie made a motion. Lori Vogel seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## Complaint Committee

Hank Cecil, LCSW

A recommendation and motion was made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 22-74** with a letter of suggestion as there are no violations of laws, rules, or administrative regulations governing the practice of social work. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion was made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 22-76** as there is insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion was made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 22-77** as there are no violations of laws, rules, or administrative regulations governing the practice of social work. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion was made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 22-78** as the conduct complained of does not warrant disciplinary or other remedial action. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion was made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 23-02** as the conduct complained of does not warrant disciplinary or other remedial action. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

## Operations Committee

Hank Cecil, LCSW

Operations Manual - Hank Cecil reported they things are moving forward with the operations manual. He stated we will work on this section by section. We have started on several sections at the retreat and will continue to work on them. James Haggie has send information on the application and finance committee processes for those sections. He shared we will have a section on onboarding process of new Board members and staff; and a section on ASWB. He stated the goal is to ensure transitions of Board members and staff have a process.

## **Old Business**

**ASWB delegate assembly update-** Whitney Cassidy-Caywood reported the following:

She attended the "Engaging with ASWB" online meeting on 2/16/23;

She shared they have hired HUMRRO as their 3rd party consultant. HUMRRO is collecting qualitative data about experiences with the exams through targeted focus groups both in-person and online. These ran Jan 23 and will end May '23. Their findings will be included in the annual data publication of ASWB in August '23;

She encouraged board members, staff, and any interested parties to sign up for one of the online meeting options. They are on the ASWB website under exam initiatives;

She shared HUMRRO will conduct one of these focus groups at the Nat. Association of Black Social Workers' annual conference to ensure their input;

She shared ASWB has also contracted with 5th Theory, a minority owned and led business that has developed an empirically-supported tool called "Test Mastery Mindset", which is a guided journal to help people prepare for the exam. It is currently being offered for free to anyone who has not passed the test on the first try. Anyone who has not passed their test can request access, although ASWB is proactively offering access to those not passing since the program began. This is a pilot program, but preliminary data indicate it is being seen as successful by those using it;

She shared ASWB has also made available free exam resources for educators AND supervisors. As of the 2/16 meeting, they reported 700 people had signed up for the material;

She shared ASWB has also made test preparation materials free for potential test-takers, which is material that used to have a fee;

She shared ASWB has put out an RFP to solicit bids for vendors to create the exams. They have used Pearson for several years but are accepting bids and 8 vendors (as of 2/16) had submitted notices of intention to bid;

She shared ASWB is working to ensure there is diverse representation among those who write exam questions and information about that is available on their website. There has also been discussion of possibly breaking the exam into sections so that individuals might retake sections of the test that they don't pass rather than having to re-take the entire exams. This would be similar to what some other professions do with their licensure exams;

She stated during the meeting, other efforts to address exam pass-rate disparity were discussed such as entities (a university and one state board) paying for exam fees for those who did not pass. NASW-MN is reported to be encouraging BIPOC representation in the field by providing review prep course materials for exams, paying initial licensure fees, providing 2 years of licensed supervision with BIPOC supervisors, and providing \$2500 student stipends to those identifying as BIPOC;

She shared the keynote speaker at the upcoming ASWB Education meeting is Joy Kim from Rutgers, whose research has focused on the testing data, and we look forward to hearing more about this critical issue;

She shared the ASWB Executive Director, Dr. Stacey Hardy-Chandler and Board President, Dr. Roxroy Reid have been visiting jurisdictions to address concerns about the exams. While they don't plan future in-person visits, they have a recorded video addressing the issues, I was told we may request access to the recording, and we will plan to view it at our next meeting

Compact Licensing updates—Hank Cecil reported that the final model law for the compact was released on Feb 27<sup>th</sup> and was introduced as HB 405 in the KY House. However, the KY General Assembly is in its last days, and the compact is not likely to pass this year. He stated it would be good for all to go to the general assembly to watch the legislative process. He shared that three other states, Missouri, Nevada, and South Carolina, have proposed the compact legislation. KY was the fourth to propose a bill, and it will take seven states to pass the law before the compact can take effect. Brenda Rosen, NASW KY Chapter Exec Dir., shared with the board that social workers are low on the legislator's list since the legislators have a lot going on with other issues and that the compact may be brought up during the interim legislative session. Hank Cecil stated that he would send out the list of organizations involved in the compact process to anyone who wants it.

Code of Conduct - Hank Cecil shared we discussed and went over this document at the retreat yesterday. During that discussion it was decided that we this document name would be changed to "Board of Social Work Board Expectations". He stated the final version with the new name is in the members packets. He then shared it will be in the operations manual and will be in the new member onboarding packets. He stated this is meant to be a guide to help us (new members) know the roles of this board. James Haggie made a motion to accept and adopt the Board of Social Work Board Expectations form. Hank Cecil seconded. All approved by unanimous voice vote.

Regulations update – Marc Kelly reported that the renewal regulation, 23:051 is filed with amendments and the meeting was held last week. He stated all went well and we are just waiting on the final approval from them. Marc Kelly reported the temporary permit regulation 23:016 had extensive changes to it, so we will be submitting a new regulation rather than an amended one. Once that is ready

we will file it. Marc Kelly reported that the telehealth regulation will be a new regulation. He shared Hank Cecil developed a draft that is in the Board packets. Hank Cecil shared the draft pertains more to social work. He stated we want this to help protect CSW's when providing telehealth and how we define telehealth social work for all of us to use. Marc Kelly reported that the inactive status 23:055 will be expiring in September of this year and there is only one small anticipated change to it. He shared that we will need to check to see if we can just change the one small item only or if we will need to go through the whole process since we want to keep it as is except that one change. Marc Kelly will contact the Regs Compiler for the process.

Marc Kelly, Hank Cecil, and Mark Brengelman, Board attorney will work on all the regulations.

2023 Board retreat update – Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported that we met yesterday all day and it went great. She shared that we accomplished many things. Laura Guffey, new LSW Board member, thanked everyone for being so inclusive and she is excited to be working with everyone. She shared that sat in the application and finance committees and she is happy to join either of the committee once James as resigned from the Board. Hank Cecil shared that he learned a lot from each other and feels this could be something we can build on. He was glad staff was able to attend and that everything went well. He feels it was very productive and enjoyed the healthy discussions. Santosh Adhikary thanked all for a great retreat. He thought it was very productive and we accomplished things that needed to be done. Whitney Cassity-Caywood shared we will plan more retreats in the future.

### **New Business**

Hank Cecil shared that he and Marc Kelly are working on streaming the Board meetings. They will be meeting with our technology staff today and hope to have this up and going by next meeting.

Whitney Cassity-Caywood shared that the meeting dates were discussed during the retreat yesterday and wanted to mention it to all today and get feedback from all about changing the day to the second Monday of each month. Discussion was held and all were fine with changing that day to Mondays starting in May. Santosh Adhikary suggested keeping the meeting for April on the Tuesday, so it gives all time to discuss with their employers and double check their calendars. Whitney Cassity-Caywood stated that would work fine so we will keep the April meeting for Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup> and then the May meeting will be potentially Monday May 8<sup>th</sup>. Vanessa Jones will make a list of the Monday dates for the rest year and send out to all Board members to be voted on at the April meeting.

**Announcements** – No announcements at this time.

Brenda Rosen did share that Advocacy Day went great and she thanked Marc Kelly for attending. She stated they are trying to engage students and do this 365 days a year.

**Adjournment** - A motion was made by Hank Cecil to adjourn the meeting at 12:38 pm. Seconded by Laura Guffey. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned.

**Next meeting:** Tuesday, April 11, 2023, at 11:30am at the Board of Social Work Office, 125 Holmes Street, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, Suite 310, Frankfort.