



## *Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board*

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### **Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes** **Thursday, July 21, 2011**

**Members Present:** Mr. Tim Brady, Mr. Don McTigue, Mr. Bob Nelson,  
Mr. Steve Polovick

**Staff Present:** Mr. Bill Hegarty, Ms. Tracey Hosom, Mr. Andy Miller,  
Mr. Jim Rough, Ms. Tammy Tingle, Mr. Doug Warne

#### **1) Meeting Called to Order**

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

#### **2) Approval of the May 19 & 20 Minutes**

Mr. Nelson asked if any changes or discussion was needed for the May 19 & 20 minutes. Mr. Brady made a motion to approve the minutes. Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **3) Discussion/Approval of the July 21 & 22 Agenda**

Mr. Brady requested to add a Correspondence item to the agenda. The Board engaged in general discussion as to whether Hardship correspondence should include the requestor's name in the meeting minutes, and unanimously agreed not to disclose those names in the minutes.

Mr. Nelson motioned to approve the agenda. Mr. Brady seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### 4) **Investigations**

a) Mr. Hegarty conducted a general discussion of supervision evaluation. He indicated a complaint had arisen from an LSW whose LISW supervisor submitted what the supervisee believes to be an unfair evaluation, having given no indication at any point during the supervision process that anything was amiss. Members of the board agreed that supervisors should provide periodic updates to the supervisee on progress and conduct, but the supervisee is also responsible for requesting periodic updates from supervisor.

#### **b) Closed Cases**

Mr. Brady made a motion to close the following cases, as he had determined that no actionable offenses had been found. Mr. McTigue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2011-7	Custody issues. No violation found
2011-50	Confidentiality. No violation found.
2011-68	Confidentiality. No violation found.
2011-78	Custody issue. Close with no violation.
2011-84	Boundary violations. Close with caution.
2011-88	Boundary violation. No violation found.
2011-93	Competency. No violation found.

Mr. Nelson made a motion to close the following cases, as he had determined that no actionable offenses had been found. Mr. McTigue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2010-172	Custody issues. Close with caution.
2011-67	Sexual harassment. Close with no violation.
2011-80	Record keeping. Close with caution.
2011-89	Record keeping. No violation found.
2011-91	Competency. Close with no violation.
2011-113	Practice on a lapsed license. Close with caution.
2011-118	Competency. Close with no violation.

#### **c) Executive Session**

Mr. Nelson requested that the SWPSC meeting go into Executive Session at 9:38 a.m. for the purpose of discussing investigations. Accepted by a roll call vote: Mr. Brady—yes, Mr. McTigue—yes, Mr. Polovick—yes.

Mr. Nelson moved that the SWPSC meeting come out of Executive Session at 9:44 a.m. Accepted by a roll call vote: Mr. Brady—yes, Mr. McTigue—yes, Mr. Polovick—yes.

#### **d) Consent Agreements**

**1) Ms. Rebecca J. Vocca:** In March 2011, while employed as a licensed social worker in a Columbus Ohio agency, Ms. Vocca created a false clinical note and agency expense document, indicating she had met with a client of the agency when in fact this meeting did not take place on the date or place indicated in the clinical note. This constitutes a violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-5-09(B). Ms. Vocca admits to these allegations.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Vocca based on the evidence in the document. Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**2) Ms. Stephanie S. Adams:** Ms. Adams allowed her license to lapse September 17, 2006, and has continued to practice without it in violation of Ohio Revised Code section 4757. The Board received a new LSW application from Ms. Adams on June 3, 2011, at which time the board received information that Ms. Adams had been practicing without a license. Ms. Adams admits to these allegations.

Mr. McTigue made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Adams based on the evidence in the document. Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried.

**3) Ms. Colleen G. Scarborough:** Ms. Scarborough renewed her social work license through March 20, 2013. In May 2011, Ms. Scarborough was audited for compliance with continuing education requirements, and was not able to provide proof of the 30 hours needed to have renewed her license, in violation of Ohio Revised Code Section 4757.36(C)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-11-01 (C)(20)(b). Ms. Scarborough admits to these allegations.

Mr. Brady made a motion to accept the consent agreement between the Board and Ms. Scarborough based on the evidence in the document. Mr. McTigue seconded the motion. Motion carried.

#### **e) Goldman Review (Licensure)**

**1) Alexandra Kost:** Mr. Polovick moved to deny Ms. Kosts social work application because Ms. Kost did not possess a qualifying degree in social work as required by Ohio Revised Code 4757.28(B)(2) and Ohio Administrative Section 4757-19-01(C)(2). Mr. McTigue seconded the motion. Motion carried, with Mr. Nelson abstaining.

**2) Sonya Williams:** Mr. Brady moved to deny Ms. Williams's social work assistant application because, on the date of her application, she did not possess the good moral character set forth in the Ohio Revised Code 4757.29(A)(1) and Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-1-04(D). Mr. Polovick seconded the motion. Motion carried, with Mr. McTigue abstaining.

## **5) Correspondence**

**a) Parceanur A. Whitsette:** Ms. Whitsette sent a request to the Board asking that she be able to use either the program Skype or the telephone to supervise her LSWs. The Board agreed unanimously that Skype was acceptable, but that the telephone was not. The Board takes no position on any of the security issues related to using Skype, and leaves it to the individual supervisor to decide whether to use the program.

**b) Rose Marie Pryor:** Ms. Pryor had contacted the Board, concerned that LSW applicants are routinely promoted to management positions instead of LISWs, resulting in a situation where LSWs are administratively supervising LISWs, which Ms. Pryor feels is contrary to the purpose of the licensure. The Board agreed unanimously that this is not an issue that the CSWMFT can regulate.

**c) Daphne K Lindo:** Mr. Brady was contacted by Ms. Lindo in response to an issue discussed in the March 18 & 19 Board meeting. Mr. Brady had previously vocalized his opinion that Ohio lacked a program blending behavioral health into primary care, as practiced by Cherokee Health Systems. Ms. Lindo contacted Mr. Brady to discuss a program in Lima, Ohio, that does follow the Cherokee Health Systems Clinical Model. Mr. Brady indicated to the Board that he will respond and apologize to Ms. Lindo.

## **6) Approval of Applications for Licensure**

A motion was made by Mr. McTigue to approve the 312 LSW applicants and the 130 LISW applicants approved by the staff, and the 12 SWA applicants registered by the staff, from May 19, 2011 through July 20, 2011. Seconded by Mr. Nelson. Motion carried.

## **7) Clarification Issues for the CSWMFT Board**

**a) Expunged criminal records:** The question was raised as to whether the Board wanted to review applicants' expunged criminal records. The Board discussed, and determined that it would be unfair to review expunged records. Mr. McTigue suggested this issue be raised at the full Board meeting..

**b) Review of previous convictions:** An issue recently arose where an applicant who had previously applied for an LSW, disclosed her criminal record, and was reviewed and approved by the Board is now applying for an LISW license and is facing the possibility of undergoing review once again. The Board discussed the possibilities of establishing timeframes where misdemeanors would no longer need to be reported. The Board discussed the fact that there may be no written rule on this issue. Discussion was tabled, and moved to Old Business for the next meeting.

**c) Reparations for falsification of records:** Mr. Nelson raised the issue that licensed social workers who falsify expense documents and client information are currently sent to a year of counseling in order to make reparations. Mr. Nelson feels that these individuals have embarrassed the profession, and that the punishment ought to include paying back the profession in some way. The possibility of fines and mandatory volunteerism were discussed.

#### **8) Working Meeting**

The SWPSC proceeded with a working meeting to review pending applications for licensure, files to be audited, CEU Programs & Providers, and Licensure Renewal Issues.

#### **9) Meeting Adjourned**

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 1:00 p.m.

**Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes**  
**Friday, July 22, 2011**

**Members Present:** Mr. Tim Brady, Mr. Don McTigue, Mr. Bob Nelson,  
Mr. Steve Polovick, Ms. Jennifer Riesbeck-Lee

**Staff Present:** Ms. Margaret-Ann Ajordan, Ms. Tracey Hosom,  
Mr. Andy Miller, Mr. Jim Rough, Mr. Doug Warne

**Guest Present:** Ms. Danielle Smith, NASW Liaison

**5) Meeting Called to Order**

Mr. Nelson called the meeting to order at 9:03 a.m.

**2) New Business**

**Exam pass/fail rate:** The SWPSC discussed this year's pass/fail rates for the Bachelors, Clinical, and Advanced Generalist Exams. Advanced Generalist passing scores are low this year, likely due to the exam being free of charge for the first six months of the year. The issue was raised that a number of MSWs are advised to sit for the Clinical or Advanced Generalist exams directly out of school, while the ASWB recommends that exam-takers should have completed their two years of post-LSW supervision. The SWPSC supports this view.

**Hardship requests:**

a) The SWPSC first confirmed that all hardship requests will remain anonymous in the meeting minutes. The individuals involved will be contacted by the Board, but their names will not be made available to the public since no disciplinary action is involved.

b) The Board received a request from an applicant to be supervised by a licensee other than an LISW-S. Mr. Nelson moved to vote. Mr. Nelson—yes, Ms. Riesbeck-Lee—yes, Mr. Polovick—yes, Mr. Brady—no, Mr. McTigue—no. Request approved.

c) The Board received a request from a supervisee who was supervised from June 2009 through June 2011 by a licensee who was not licensed as a supervisor until October 2009. The supervisee made a request for the supervision hours to count, since he/she was unaware of the supervisor's lack of licensure. Mr. Nelson moved to vote. Mr. Nelson—yes, Ms. Riesbeck-Lee—yes, Mr. Polovick—no, Mr. Brady—yes, Mr. McTigue—yes. Request approved. Mr. Polovick proposed a letter of reprimand be sent to the supervisor for misrepresentation of credentials. The SWPSC agreed.

### **3) NASW**

Danielle Smith reported that she would begin as Executive Director of NASW-OH on August 1<sup>st</sup>. She also reminded the SWPSC that their conference would begin on December 2<sup>nd</sup>.

The SWPSC discussed whether the NASW was able to help LSWs be connected with other licensees for the purpose of finding available supervisors. Ms. Smith confirmed that the NASW does have a directory to assist with this.

The cost of NASW membership fees were discussed. Ms. Smith indicated that NASW fees are comparable to other professional associations, and a sliding scale is available for those who phone the national NASW number.

### **4) Old Business**

**Doctorate Degree and Social Work Licensure:** Mr. Rough raised the issue of a recent LISW applicant who has a doctorate in social work but not an MSW/MSSA. Current laws and rules allow applicants with a doctoral degree ONLY to be licensed by the Board. Mr. Rough discussed this issue with the ASWB, and determined that this is a new issue, that there are no PhD programs specifically for social work, all are philosophy doctorates with a specialization in clinical social work. There is some question as to whether these doctorate programs include field instruction, they do not seem to. Mr. Nelson raised the issue that MSW programs already are accredited by the CSWE and include field placement and clinical work, while a PhD is a teaching degree not well suited for direct practice. Mr. Polovick moved for a rule change, that in order for licensees to be eligible for LISW licensure, they must have completed a CSWE-accredited Master's program, and applicants for LSW licensure must hold a Bachelor's degree in Social Work or have graduated from a CSWE-accredited Master's program, with the exception of applicants holding a related degree conferred prior to 10/10/92. Ms. Riesbeck-Lee seconded the motion. The SWPSC voted unanimously to pass the motion, motion carried. The current PhD applicant will be investigated to see if his/her PhD program is equivalent to a Master's degree, and notified of the intended rule change.

### **5) Executive Directors Report**

Mr. Rough reported on current pending legislation that affects the Board, and discussed the previous fiscal year's budget. A new employee will be hired in January to accommodate an increase in CEU audits, which began a brief discussion of CEU penalties and fines. Mr. Rough's opinion was that if a licensee failed an audit, the licensee should pay an administrative fine each following renewal period and be required to submit proof of CEU credits. Mr. Rough hopes to have a new licensing computer system in place in the next 18-24 months.

**6) Executive Committee Report**

Mr. Nelson reported that Mr. Rough's Executive Directors Report highlighted issues discussed in the Executive Committee Meeting, and there were no further issues to discuss.

**7) CEU Committee**

Mr. Polovick discussed the CEU committee's meeting minutes. Reported that there was a general consensus that fees for deficient CEU credits need to be higher than the cost of simply completing the CEUs, to discourage licensees from paying the fines without completing the credits. Ms. Ajordan described the current CEU audit process, and how disciplinary action is currently administered. The SWPSC discussed the importance of making sure licensees are completing the credits, since they reflect baseline competency, and the Board needs to ensure that credits are completed in addition to fines being paid. The SWPSC agreed on the need for change in their current laws and rules, and encouraged the implementation of small fines for a trial period.

**8) Working Meeting**

The SWPSC proceeded with a working meeting at 11:00 a.m. to review pending applications for licensure, files to be audited, CEU Programs & Providers, and Licensure Renewal Issues.

**9) Meeting Adjourned**

Mr. Nelson adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

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Mr. Robert Nelson, Chairperson