

**THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
MINUTES
FRIDAY, JULY 18, 2008**

The Virginia Board of Social Work ("Board") meeting convened at 11:40 a.m. on Friday, July 18, 2008 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. David Boehm, Chair, called the meeting to order.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: David R. Boehm
Charles R. Chambers, Jr.
Willie T. Greene, Sr.
Susan Horne-Quatannens
Wayne A. Martin
Catherine L. Moore
Francis N. Nelson, Jr.
Dolores S. Paulson

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: Jill Smeltzer

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Wingfield, Chief Deputy Director
Howard Casway, Sr. Assistant Attorney General
Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst
Patricia L. Larimer, Deputy Executive Director
Catherine Chappell, Administrative Assistant

OTHERS PRESENT: Debra Riggs, NASW-VA
Mark O'Shea, LCSW, Virginia Society of Clinical
Social Workers
Becky Bowers-Lanier

ORDERING OF AGENDA

Mr. Boehm opened the floor to any changes in the order of the Agenda. The Agenda was accepted.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mark O'Shea, LCSW, Virginia Society of Clinical Social Workers, thanked the Board for their continued work on the standards of practice for social workers in an effort to protect the public.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Mr. Chambers moved to accept the minutes of the April 11, 2008 Board meeting. The motion was seconded and carried.

CHAIR'S REPORT – David Boehm

Board of Health Professions

Mr. Boehm advised that the Board of Health Professions would be holding public hearings in August regarding regulation of emerging professions in Virginia. He announced that a board meeting would be held in August as well.

Sanction Reference Points Study

Mr. Boehm stated that he had reviewed an interim report of the Sanction Reference Points Study and that he anticipated a presentation would be made to the full Board in October. He reminded the board members that the study was undertaken to ensure consistency in the disciplinary process across the three behavioral sciences board.

House Bill 1146 Ad Hoc Committee

Mr. Boehm advised that the House Bill 1146 Ad Hoc Committee had prepared a draft response and recommendation to the HB 1146 charge to determine if current education and training requirements for social workers are adequate to assure the public of professional competency and whether current exemptions from requirements for licensure best serve the citizens of the Commonwealth. The Committee planned to meet in August in order to prepare the final document for presentation at the October Board meeting.

Bylaws

Mr. Boehm noted that because of the contemplation of the election of officers at the previous Board meeting, the bylaws had been reviewed and determined to be in need of updating to reflect the change in board member composition and to institute a nominations committee. He noted that any change to the bylaws must be made in writing to all Board members prior to any scheduled Board meeting.

Other

Mr. Boehm noted the recent death of Sue Stolcis, LCSW. He described her contributions to the social work profession and her service on the Board of Social Work.

Executive Director's Report – Evelyn Brown

New Board Member Training

Ms. Brown advised that new board member training was scheduled for October 22, 2008. However, she noted that the Department had received no information about board member appointments from the Governor's office. She remarked that it was not unusual to have appointment and reappointment information received after June 30th, especially when the Governor is busy with the legislature.

Travel Reimbursement

Ms. Brown reported that mileage reimbursement was increased from \$.505 to \$.585.

Budget

Ms. Brown noted that due to State budget constraints, Board member travel, educational opportunities, and equipment purchases continue to be limited. The Agency has implemented teleworking and alternative work schedule policies which have been positively received by staff.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Discipline Committee Report – David Boehm/Patricia Larimer

Mr. Boehm reported that the Committee continues to be busy and has held one informal conference recently, with four informal fact finding conferences and one informal conference to be scheduled and one formal conference to be held. He noted that eight complaints were currently in investigation and two cases at the Board level under probable cause review.

Dr. Paulson expressed her interest in joining the Discipline Committee.

Regulatory Committee Report – Wayne Martin/Elaine Yeatts

- Proposed Regulations for "Clinical Course of Study". Ms. Yeatts presented the revised guidance document for consideration by the Board. She noted that the content of the guidance document would be used to draft regulatory language for the Board's consideration.

Mr. Martin stated that the Regulatory Committee recommended that the Board adopt the revised guidance document. The motion carried.

Ms. Horne-Quatannens added that the Regulatory Committee recommended that the Board adopt the substance of the guidance document as proposed regulation. The motion carried.

- Response to Petition for Rulemaking. Mr. Martin stated that a Petition for Rulemaking had been received which asked for clarification of the requirements for face-to-face client contact during the supervised experience. He stated that the Regulatory Committee recommended that the Board deny the request because proposed regulatory action was pending in this regard. The motion carried.
- Update on Proposed Regulations. Mr. Martin referenced the status report of regulatory action, presented for the Board's information.
- Adoption of Model PPG Regulations. Ms. Yeatts presented model Public Participation Guidelines (PPG) for consideration by the Board. She asked the Board to consider adoption of the language as new Chapter 11 and to repeal the current PPG language in Chapter 10. Such action would be an exempt action and the changes would be effective in 30 days. Mr. Martin moved to adopt the model PPG language as presented. The motion was seconded and carried.

Distance Therapy Committee – Frank Nelson

Mr. Nelson reported that he had represented the Board at the May 2, 2008, Distance Therapy Ad-Hoc meeting at which Dr. Charles McAdams, Board of Counseling Member, presented research he had completed regarding regulation other states have either begun, have developed proposed regulations for or have regulations under discussion. A general consensus of the committee was that there is a need for regulation of distance therapy, but that flexibility in setting requirements is needed among jurisdictions. He stated that the committee would be preparing a guidance document as a resource for all three behavioral sciences boards.

NEW BUSINESS:

2009 Board Meeting dates

The Board agreed to meet on the following days in 2009: January 23, April 17, July 17, and October 16, 2009.

Disciplinary Cases Closed by Staff

Ms. Larimer reported that the Board had previously delegated responsibility to staff to close certain disciplinary cases. She presented a report of such action for the Board's information.

Disciplinary Case Closure Rate

Ms. Brown noted that the Agency website maintained statistics of rates of disciplinary case closure and stated that the Board of Social Work was at 100% of the Agency's target rate.

OLD BUSINESS

None

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Board, Mr. Martin moved to adjourn the meeting. The meeting adjourned at 1:00.

David Boehm, Chair

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director