



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes

Thursday, January 18, 2007

Members Present: Dr. Theresa Cluse-Tolar, Ms. Karen Huey,
Ms. Jennifer Riesbeck-Lee, Ms. Molly Tucker
Staff Present: Mr. Bill Hegarty, Ms. Jennifer Kreinbrink, Mr. Jim Rough
Guest Present: Mr. Peter R. Casey IV, Assistant Attorney General

1. The SWPSC meeting was called to order by Ms. Tucker at 9:05 a.m. Seconded by Dr. Cluse-Tolar. Motion carried.

2. **Discussion/Approval of Agenda**

Ms. Tucker asked if there were any changes or discussion of the agenda. No changes or discussion were made. Ms. Riesbeck-Lee moved to approve the agenda. Seconded by Dr. Cluse-Tolar. Motion carried.

3. **Personnel Committee**

Ms. Riesbeck-Lee discussed the performance of Mr. Rough and his performance goals and log. Mr. Rough will be working on incorporating both the agency's and governor's goals. Mr. Rough will also be contacting Mr. Kenneth Trivison in regards to Senate Bill 213 and further contact Senator Webster.

4. **Working Meeting**

The SWPSC proceeded with a working meeting to Review Applications for Licensure; Correspondence; CEU Programs and Providers; and Renewal Issues.

5. **Correspondence**

Ms. Susan Essenmacher- Ms. Essenmacher made a request for limited licensure. She was unable to pass the clinical examination and requested a limited LSW license. The committee does not grant limited licensure. Ms. Essenmacher will need to pass one of the LISW examinations to receive her LSW.

Ms. Meredith Heider- Ms. Heider made a request for special accommodations for the LISW supervision hours. Per Ms. Heider, she is the only social worker at her agency, is physically challenged and the potential supervisor lives far from her. Ms. Heider requested the following special conditions: weekly hour long telephone conversations with supervisor, documentation of conversations and face-to-face meetings every 30-60 days. The committee decided that, per Rule 4757-23-01 (A)(2)(a) of the Administrative Code, Ms. Heider will be required to receive face-to-face supervision.

6. Rule Review

The committee continued to review and make suggested changes to the proposed rules. The committee also reviewed the statutes and rules defining social work practice in light of the terms used in them: 4757-21-02, 4757.26, 4757.26(D), 4757.01(C) and 4757-3-01(P). These statute sections and rules are being re-reviewed to make them more understandable for someone who is not licensed. Dr. Cluse-Tolar will assign a graduate student to provide definitions for the services and job duties that social work licensees provide to clients. The committee will review these specific rule changes at the March meeting.

Mr. Casey discussed the CEU Waiver and the impact on the renewal process. The SWPSC suggested that this waiver go to the CEU Committee.

Mr. Hegarty answered the question that the committee posed at the November meeting in regards to rule 4757-05-01-Impaired Practice. He stated that some social workers are too impaired and do not realize that they are harming client(s). Social workers need to be vigilant to the actions of their fellow licensees.

7. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned by Ms. Tucker at 4:45 p.m.

Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes

Friday, January 19, 2007

Members Present: Dr. Theresa Cluse-Tolar, Ms. Karen Huey, Ms. Jennifer Riesbeck-Lee, Ms. Molly Tucker

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Hegarty, Ms. Tracey Hosom, Ms. Jennifer Kreinbrink
Mr. Jim Rough

Guest Present: Mr. Henry Lustig, National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
Liaison

Ms. Tucker called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m.

1. Discussion/Approval of Agenda

Ms. Tucker asked if there were any changes or discussion of the agenda. No changes or discussion were made. Dr. Cluse-Tolar made the motion to approve the agenda. Seconded by Ms. Riesbeck-Lee. Motion carried.

2. Approval of November 17 & 18, 2006 SWPSC Minutes

Ms. Tucker asked for the approval of the November, 2007 minutes. Dr. Cluse-Tolar made the motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Ms. Riesbeck-Lee. Motion carried.

3. Discussion of Pending Applicants

None.

4. Approval of Applications for Licensure

A motion was made by Ms. Riesbeck-Lee to approve the following applications for licensure. Seconded by Ms. Huey. Motion carried.

The following applications were approved for licensure:

SWA - 20 Applications Approved
LSW - 84 Applications Approved
LSW (Related Degree) - 8 Applications Approved
LISW - 32 Applications Approved

A total of 144 new Social Workers were licensed in January, 2007.

5. National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Mr. Lustig informed the SWPSC that the Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers will have a Lobby Day on March 14, 2007.

He also thanked the committee for the Parity Bill and he will be revisiting the public employee's exemption status. Mr. Lustig will be submitting a letter requesting approval for paying LISW supervisors.

6. Investigations

(A) Closed Cases

Dr. Cluse-Tolar made a motion that the following cases be closed as the investigative staff had determined no actionable offenses had been found. Ms. Riesbeck-Lee seconded the motion. Motion carried.

2006-125	2006-139	2006-147	2006-148	2006-150	2006-160
2006-162	2006-178	2006-186	2006-197	2007-7	

(B) Executive Session

Ms. Tucker requested that the SWPSC meeting go into Executive Session at 9:30 a.m. to discuss Consent Agreements. Accepted By A Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Jennifer Riesbeck-Lee moved that the SWPSC come out of Executive Session at 9:40 a.m. Accepted By A Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

(C) Consent Agreements

Julie A. Baxa, LSW – Ms. Baxa entered into a Consent Agreement on the basis of the following stipulations, admissions and understandings:

A motion was made by Ms. Riesbeck-Lee to accept the Consent Agreement based on the following terms and conditions. Seconded by Ms. Huey. Motion carried.

1. Ms. Baxa's license to practice social work is hereby **Suspended** for 9 months beginning January 19, 2007, and ending October 18, 2007.

2. After Ms. Baxa serves her suspension and returns to work as a social worker, she must receive face-to-face supervision, by an individual pre-approved by the Board, one-hour every week for a period of 2 years. Ms. Baxa should not select a supervisor with which she has a prior relationship. If any previous relationship with the supervisor exists, Ms. Baxa must provide full disclosure of such a relationship in the request for supervisor approval. The 2-year supervision period will not begin until her supervisor is approved. Supervision should focus on, but not limited to, Ms. Baxa's role in professional relationships, ethical decision-making, and proper record keeping. Ms. Baxa's supervisor is required to submit a report to the Board, quarterly, detailing topics discussed during supervision sessions, areas of concern, and areas for improvement. At the end of the 2-year supervised period, Ms. Baxa's supervisor will make a final report encompassing the 2 years of supervision. If Ms. Baxa's supervisor is concerned with her practice at any time the Board should be notified immediately. It is Ms. Baxa's responsibility to ensure that the Board receives supervisor's reports. All costs associated with the supervision are at the expense of Ms. Baxa.
3. Ms. Baxa must take and pass a college level social work ethics course. The course must be taken for credit, part of a social work program from an accredited university, and pre-approval by the Board. This cannot be an on-line or distance learning course. Once Ms. Baxa successfully completes this course, she must ensure official transcripts are sent directly from the university to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office no later than January 31, 2008. The credit earned from the course may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal. All costs associated with the course are at the expense of Ms. Baxa.

Linda S. Hurst, LISW – Ms. Hurst entered into a Consent Agreement on the basis of the following stipulations, admissions and understandings:

A motion was made by Ms. Reisbeck-Lee to accept the Consent Agreement based on the following terms and conditions. Seconded by Ms. Huey. Motion carried.

1. Ms. Hurst's license to practice social work is **Reprimanded**.
2. Ms. Hurst must work under supervision for two (2) years with a minimum of one hour of face-to-face supervision per week or two hours of face-to-face supervision, two times per month, beginning on the date that the supervisor is approved. The supervisor must be pre-approved by the Board Deputy Director or his designee. The supervisor must submit quarterly reports regarding the supervision. Supervision should focus on, but not be limited to, areas of concern, areas for improvement, record keeping practices, and ethical decision making. Quarters consist of the following dates: Jan.-Mar, Apr.-Jun., Jul.-Sept., and Oct.-Dec. and the reports must be received for each quarter. If Ms. Hurst's supervisor is concerned with her practice at any time the Board should be notified immediately. Ms. Hurst is responsible for the submission of the reports to the Board. All cost associated with the supervision are the responsibility of Ms. Hurst. Once Ms. Hurst successfully completes this supervision, she must ensure verification of completion is sent to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office.
3. Ms. Hurst must repay \$3,650.00 to Aids Resource Center (ARC). The total amount must be paid in full within two (2) years from the date that the consent agreement was signed. Ms. Hurst must ensure proof of repayment is sent to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office and the proof must be received within the two year period.

4. Ms. Hurst must take an additional six (6) hours in social work ethics continuing education. All hours must be pre-approved by the Board's Deputy Director or his designee. Once Ms. Hurst successfully completes this continuing education, she must send verification directly to the attention of the Investigation Unit at the Board office. The certificates verifying completion are due in the Board office no later than October 19, 2007. The credit earned from the workshops may not be used toward the thirty (30) hours of continuing education required for license renewal. All costs associated with the continuing education are at the expense of Ms. Hurst.

(D) Impairment Request

Michael L. Cheatham, LSW

The Board determined that it has reason to order Mr. Cheatham to submit to an examination under Ohio Adm. Code, Section 4757-11-02(B). This determination is based upon information received from First Step, Fostoria, Ohio and Summit Employee Assistance Program, Fremont, Ohio that indicates Mr. Cheatham may suffer from possible alcohol impairment. The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee is concerned about his ability to practice and function as a licensed social worker.

(E) Goldman Review

Deborah Supelak, LISW

As required in the case of *Goldman v. State Medical Board* (March 29, 1996) Franklin County Court of Appeals 95APE10-1358, all cases where a Board issues a Notice for Opportunity for Hearing and the individual does not request a hearing, the Board still must review evidence presented to it and make specific findings of fact. In this case, Ms. Supelak did not request a hearing after the Notice for Opportunity for Hearing was published in The Columbus Dispatch.

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee has reviewed the evidence prepared in this case. The committee finds that Ms. Supelak did not take reasonable steps to ensure that documentation in records is accurate and reflects the services provided. Based on this, the committee orders that Ms. Supelak's license to practice social work (I-0010059) be **REVOKED**. As Ordered by the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

7. Executive Directors Report

Mr. Rough welcomed the Board's new public members; Mr. Fred Dailey and Ms. Karen Huey. He reported that the following members have been re-appointed: Mr. Ken Trivison, Ms. Molly Tucker, and Mr. Jan White.

Mr. Rough reported that Representative Webster will propose a new bill to correct the MFT statute issue and it may have a senate sponsor.

Mr. Rough reported they have begun the process for implementing online applications for counselor trainees. The online social worker trainee applications are working out well.

Mr. Rough reported that they continue to work on the criminal background check statute, which if passed, will require an implementation rule.

Mr. Rough briefly discussed his annual evaluation and performance review.

Mr. Rough reported that he wants to implement a laws and rules examination that can be completed online via the Board's website. If implemented, this examination would be required for initial licensure and be available for ethics CEU hours. The fee and CEU credit amount is still undetermined. Mr. Rough would like for it to be online by October 2007.

8. Old Business

The committee continued to review and make suggested changes to the proposed rules, drafted revisions will be given to Mr. Rough.

9. New Business

A. **Review of 4757-5-02(A)(5) Ethical responsibilities concerning clients/consumers of services:** The SWPSC discussed the language of services being provided to clients/consumers. The committee will discuss the language being used in further detail with Mr. Casey at the March meeting.

10. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

Ms. Tucker said that the spring conference is in April and Dr. Cluse-Tolar wants to attend. She is waiting for her registration.

Ms. Tucker said that she is on the ASWB ACE committee, and will attend a meeting in March in Culpeper, VA. She said that if any committee member has questions for the meeting, please give them to her.

Ms. Tucker congratulated Mr. Rough his appointment to ASWB Administrator Committee chair.

11. Executive Session

Ms. Tucker requested that the SWPSC meeting go into Executive Session at 11:10 a.m. to discuss personnel issues. Accepted By A Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Jennifer Riesbeck-Lee moved that the SWPSC come out of Executive Session at 11:32 a.m. Accepted By A Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

12. Meeting Adjourned

A motion was made by Ms. Huey to adjourn the meeting at 11:33 a.m. Seconded by Ms. Riesbeck-Lee. Motion carried.

Ms. Molly Tucker, Chairperson