

State of Ohio  
Counselor, Social Worker And  
Marriage & Family Therapist Board

Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC) Minutes

May 20, 2005

Meeting was called to order by: Ms. Gwen DaCons-Taylor, Chairperson

Other Members Present: Mr. Glenn Abraham,  
Dr. Theresa Cluse-Tolar, and  
Ms. Molly Michelbrink

Members Absent: Mr. Rocky Black

Staff Present: Mr. Bill Hegarty, Ms. Marcia Holleman,  
Mr. Jim Rough, and Ms. Tammy Tingle

Guests Present: Mr. Henry Lustig - NASW Liaison

1. APPROVAL OF AGENDA FOR THE 5/20/05 SWPSC MEETING
2. APPROVAL OF MARCH 18, 2005 SWPSC MINUTES

A motion was made by Mr. Abraham to approve the March 18, 2005 SWPSC minutes. Seconded By Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

3. INVESTIGATIONS

A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to close the following cases as the investigation staff had determined no actionable offenses had been found:

0410181	0412225	0412229	0502005	0502007	0502010
0502015	0502017	0502020	0503031	0503032	0503034
0503038	0503044				

Seconded By Mr. Abraham. Motion carried.

Mr. Hegarty requested that the SWPSC Meeting go into Executive Session.

Accepted By A Unanimous Roll Call Vote.

Ms. Michelbrink moved to come out of executive session, seconded by Dr. Cluse-Tolar which passed unanimously.

The following actions were taken as noted for the cases below:

- CONSENT AGREEMENTS

Traci Keesee - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. DaCons-Taylor. Motion carried.

Irma Lambert - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

Susan Pearce - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

Kathy Mercon - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

Karen Crawford - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

Beverly Frierson - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

Amy Russ - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

- NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR A HEARING

Donald Zlotnik - Moved to accept by Dr. Cluse-Tolar, seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

- GOLDMAN CASES

Thomas Kraft - A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to revoke the license due to improper record keeping and failure to cooperate in a Board investigation. Seconded by Ms. DaCons-Taylor. Motion carried.

Latosha Woodson – A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to deny the application for Social Worker Assistant. The applicant’s coursework did not meet the requirements for licensure. Seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

Brenda James - A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to deny the application for Social Worker Assistant. The applicant’s coursework did not meet the requirements for licensure. Seconded by Ms. DaCons-Taylor. Motion carried.

Denise Aiken - A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to deny the application for Social Worker Assistant. The applicant’s coursework did not meet the requirements for licensure. Seconded by Ms. DaCons-Taylor. Motion carried.

Gaye Winget - A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to deny the application for Social Worker Assistant. The applicant’s coursework did not meet the requirements for licensure. Seconded by Ms. DaCons-Taylor. Motion carried.

Dr. Cluse-Tolar asked Mr. Hegarty about the process to contract with professionals to provide Impaired Practitioner Evaluations. She expressed the need for the Board Investigation Liaisons to have more in depth and detailed evaluations to include a MMPI when appropriate.

Mr. Hegarty responded that the Board would need the names of professionals who would be willing to perform the service on a state contract. The committee discussed who should be contacted to make recommendations of the names of professionals to provide the evaluations. The following entities were discussed: The Ohio Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), The Ohio State University (OSU), and advertising in the local newspapers. Mr. Rough said that he would speak with Ms. Elaine Stepp with the NASW to assist in this process by placing an advertisement in the NASW Newsletter and requesting interested professionals to contact the Board.

The committee continued to discuss whether or not to open the opportunity up to other professions to provide the evaluations. Other professions would include Professional Clinical Counselors (PCC’s), Professional Counselors (PC’s), Psychiatrists, and Psychologists. Mr. Abraham expressed his concern that this recommendation gives the impression that Social Workers are not competent to perform the Impaired Practitioner Evaluations.

Dr. Cluse-Tolar suggested that the Board not only have a professional submit their resume and/or vitae, but to also include a redacted evaluation. The redacted evaluation would give the Board a sample of the type of service the professional offers. She reiterated the fact that the bottom line is to protect the public. Mr. Lustig suggested that the Board develop a template for the purpose of showing exactly what an evaluation needs to contain. His concern was that although the lack of a MMPI is critical, would that alone provide an accurate assessment?

The committee responded by asking Mr. Rough and Mr. Hegarty to go forward and find professionals who would be willing to participate in this endeavor.

#### 4. APPROVAL / DENIAL OF APPLICATIONS

- APPROVAL FOR SWA, LSW AND LISW APPLICATIONS:

SWA	16 Applications Approved
LSW	98 Applications Approved
LSW (Related Degree)	18 Applications Approved
LISW	68 Applications Approved
Total	200 Applications Approved For Licensure

A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to approve these applications. Seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.

- INTENTS TO DENY

SWA	1 Application Denied – Failure To Meet Coursework Requirements
LSW (Related Degrees)	2 Applications Denied - Failure To Meet Coursework Requirements

## 5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Mr. Rough discussed the correspondence the Board has received from the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) regarding the pre-approval of applicants to take the social worker exam. Mr. Rough showed several examples of what can go wrong when a person who is not eligible to take the exam, does take the exam. He expressed that he is not looking for the committee to make a decision at the meeting today, but that he would like for the committee to discuss the idea and perhaps act on a decision at the July Board meeting.

The committee discussed the pros and cons of exam pre-approval. Mr. Rough said that the concern of ASWB is the overall protection of the integrity of the exam. Dr. Cluse-Tolar commented on the possibility of the delay in obtaining licensure if an applicant must be pre-approved to take the exam. Also, she does not believe that pre-approval necessarily protects the integrity of the exam. Mr. Rough said that the Board would be willing to send a letter to the academic institutions in Ohio to see what issues and comments they would have regarding exam pre-approval. Mr. Rough further indicated that with the implementation of the new computer system (CAVU), the Board will be able to issue a license in a much timelier manner. In addition, if an applicant provides a letter of good standing from the academic institution in the student's last quarter or semester, then the letter can be used as a basis for exam pre-approval.

Mr. Abraham commented that he has never agreed with exam pre-approval because of the length of time it takes for an applicant to actually be able to take the exam. His belief is that pre-approval would only increase the turnaround time. Mr. Abraham further commented that the ACT Testing Centers rarely lose control of the exam with regard to cheating, etc., and that there are plenty of prep courses and study guides that are utilized for a person to prepare for the exam. Mr. Lustig commented that in his opinion the temporary license is not a valuable asset for an applicant because they are unable to use it for billing purposes. Mr. Abraham agreed and asked if there is a way to change the temporary license so that it can be used for billing purposes. Mr. Rough said that with the CAVU system, the Board will be able to issue a license number to be used in conjunction with the temporary license.

The main concern of the SWPSC was the overall turnaround time in the process of taking the exam. Mr. Rough indicated that he would work with Ms. Holleman to determine the timelines of the ASWB exam, and will report on it at the July Board meeting. Mr. Rough also encouraged the SWPSC members to visit the ACT test centers and request to observe the exam process. For information on scheduling a visit, they should review the ASWB Policy Manual.

Mr. Rough reviewed with the SWPSC the 2004 ASWB Examination Pass Rates. The report showed that the National Pass Rate is 64% and the Ohio Pass Rate is 67.2%.

Ms. DaCons-Taylor discussed the Amended Work Rules of the Board and her concern with item 2.3, #11. Her belief is that before the Executive Director would testify, etc. they should notify the Board Chair or the Board Chair designee to make them aware of the action. Mr. Rough agreed with her and asked that the issue be raised at the full board meeting.

Mr. Rough said that he would like the committee to determine who will be attending the ASWB Annual Conference in Dearborn, MI on November 4 -6, 2005 and make a motion to the Board for approval.

## 6. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence from a current LSW who is having difficulty passing the ASWB Clinical exam was discussed. The SWPSC determined that the Board must adhere to the statute that a score less than a 70% cannot be accepted as passing.

Correspondence was reviewed from potential applicants who have felony and/or misdemeanor convictions and now wish to pursue a degree in Social Work. Their underlying question was as to whether or not the SWPSC would approve their applications if they pursue this endeavor. The

decision of the SWPSC was that they cannot make a decision at this point in time. Cases such as this are reviewed on a case-by-case basis at the time the applicant applies for licensure.

#### 7. ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARDS (ASWB)

The SWPSC approved a motion made by Ms. Michelbrink and seconded by Dr. Cluse-Tovar for Mr. Rough and Mr. Abraham to attend the ASWB Annual Conference Dearborn, MI on November 4 -6, 2005.

#### 8. NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS (NASW) – OHIO CHAPTER

Mr. Lustig commented that the Committee on Inquiry (COI), which handles complaints on NASW members, has formalized a “surrogate sanctioning process” for licensees who have been disciplined by the Board.

#### 9. NEW BUSINESS

Dr. Cluse-Tolar reported on what was discussed during the May 19, 2005 meeting of the Education Committee. The committee has received correspondence from a licensee who has multiple licenses and is required to obtain 30 CEU’s for each license. The licensee is challenging the statute regarding this requirement. The Education Committee will be reviewing the statute and proposing a plan to resolve the issue of what a licensee with multiple licenses will need to do to maintain the licenses.

Dr. Cluse-Tolar said that the Education Committee also discussed Post-Program Approvals for workshops, seminars, etc. that are offered in the state of Ohio and what the renewal process will be for licensees and CEU Providers once the Board is on the CAVU system. Mr. Lustig asked if there are written guidelines for CEU Providers to follow regarding the renewal of their provider status.

Dr. Cluse-Tolar encouraged Mr. Abraham to run for a committee position with the ASWB to represent the state of Ohio. Ms. Michelbrink and Ms. DaCons-Tolar agreed that this would be an excellent idea. Mr. Abraham responded that he has been a member of the ASWB Program Committee and Finance Committee and that he would have to take a look at the amount of time a committee member would have to dedicate to the committees that have available positions. Ms. DaCons-Taylor reported that the Nominating Committee has available positions and required a minimal amount of time. Ms. DaCons-Taylor also recommended that the committee ask Mr. Rocky Black if he would be interested in running for a committee position with the ASWB.

Dr. Cluse-Tolar indicated that she is very interested in attending the Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation (CLEAR) Conference in Phoenix, AZ in September, 2005. Ms. DaCons-Taylor, Ms. Michelbrink and Mr. Abraham agreed that it would be excellent for her to attend since she is the Social Worker Investigative Liaison for the Board.

Mr. Henry Lustig gave additional input regarding the Impaired Practitioner Evaluations which was discussed earlier. Mr. Lustig suggested that if the MMPI is given by another professional such as a PC, PCC, Psychiatrist, or Psychologist, then perhaps have a licensed Social Worker to do the actual evaluation. This would act as a joint collaboration between the professions.

This could eliminate the concern for the feeling that a Social Worker is not qualified to do the evaluation, if the Board opens the opportunity for other professions to provide an evaluation.

#### 10. MEETING ADJOURNED

A motion was made by Dr. Cluse-Tolar to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Ms. Michelbrink. Motion carried.