

1 State of Alaska  
2 DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
3 DIVISION OF CORPORATION, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING  
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5 BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK LICENSE EXAMINERS  
6 Minutes of the meeting September 16, 2024  
7

8 Oral Hearing of Public Comment on Regulation Project 2024200183  
9

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11 By the authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.86.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62,  
12 Article 6, the oral hearing of public comment by the Board of Social Work Examiners originated via Zoom.  
13

14 **Agenda Item – Call to Order/Roll Call**

15 The Chair brought the meeting to order at 5:05 pm  
16

17 On record: 5:05pm  
18

19 **Board Members Present Constituting a Quorum**

20 Ann Applebee, Chair, LCSW

21 Stacey Stone

22 Amber Taylor  
23

24 **Board Members Absent**

25 Anne Wells  
26

27 **Staff Members Present**

28 Alyssa Castles, Occupational Licensing Examiner III  
29

30 **Agenda Item – Public Comment**

31 Oral hearing of public comment started at 5:05pm

32 See Addendum A for public comment summaries and limited board responses.

33 Oral hearing of public comment ended at 6:00pm  
34

35 **Agenda Item - Adjourn**

36 Off record: 6:00pm

1  
2 **Addendum A: Public Comments**  
3

4 **Kimberly Pettit**

5 Requests that the board consider requirements of other similarly licensed professionals.  
6 Requests that the board consider financial impact of synchronous requirements.  
7

8 **Niko Thompson**

9 In support of Kimberly Pettit's comment.  
10 Would like the board to consider proposed regulation's barrier to licensure for limiting supervision  
11 available to supervisees.  
12

13 **Ana Fulcher**

14 In support of Niko Thompson's comment.  
15 Proposed regulation would limit supervisor income.  
16 Proposed regulation would limit supervisor availability.  
17

18 **Sierra Casteel**

19 In support of Niko Thompson's comment.  
20

21 **Leigh**

22 Concerned with limited availability of synchronous CEUs, in particular in-person CEUs.  
23

24 **Tasha Childs**

25 Not speaking on behalf of NASW – Alaska Chapter.  
26 The CEU approval process is lengthy – requiring synchronous CEUs creates a barrier to licensure.  
27 Synchronous CEUs will incur increased cost to social workers.  
28 Changes to supervision are unclear.  
29 Proposed regulation language is ambiguous in reference to requirements for non-social work  
30 supervisors. The board may struggle to implement proposed language as it is.  
31

32 **Monique Carter**

33 Requests that the board consider impact on potential clients, in particular lapses in care.  
34

35 **Amanda**

36 In support of Tasha Childs' comment.  
37 Limiting the number of supervisees would create a barrier to licensure.  
38

39 *After all public members present had been given an opportunity to speak, board chair Ann Applebee*  
40 *chose to respond to questions*

41 **Ann Applebee, Chair:** Currently Alaska has no requirements of a supervisor aside from licensure. The  
42 board reviewed other states and other professional requirements when formulating proposed  
43 regulation changes.

44 The definition of synchronous includes in-person and live webinars.

45 Limiting the number of supervisees per supervisor could present a delay in supervision; the board has to  
46 weigh this against the public safety of an over-tasked supervisor. The board believes that a supervisor  
47 working a full-time job cannot fulfill the role of supervisor to more than five supervisees.

48 The proposed changes for supervisors would apply to all license types (PsyD, MD/DO, LPC, etc).

49

50 *Unidentified Public Member entered the call*

51 **Public Member**

52 In-person CEUs are an issue for rural Alaskans.

53

54 *After all public members present had been given an opportunity to speak, board member Stacey Stone chose to respond to questions*

56 **Stacey Stone:** The board is considering changes based on other professions and other states' social work programs.

58 Synchronous education is beneficial for the learning process.

59 Thanks to those participating; public comment is welcome in all board meetings.

60 Our goal is to benefit the public.

61

62 **Amanda**

63 Larger organizations provide the bulk of postgraduate social work supervision. These agencies have clinical supervisors whose primary role is to provide supervision. These professionals have more than 5 supervisees working toward licensure. The proposed regulations will limit how many social workers can receive supervision at a time. The proposed regulations will also impact the employment of social work supervisors.

68

69 **Tasha Childs**

70 Requested data regarding number of in-process supervisees.

71 **Ann Applebee:** That data is not currently available.

72

73 **Niko Thompson**

74 Requested the motivation for limiting number supervisees.

75 **Ann Applebee:** The board's research of other States' supervision revealed that a limit of supervisees per supervisor was beneficial.

77

78 **Monique Carter**

79 How is the board supporting social work students and interns?

80 How is the board ensuring diverse supervisors are available to provide supervision?

81 How are students going to find supervisors with cultural competence training?

82 How can social work interns in rural communities find qualified supervisors who will have met the new requirements?

84 **Ann Applebee:** These supervision changes will apply only to supervisees working toward their LCSW.

85 The board requires cultural competency CEUs from all social workers, including supervisors.

86

87 **Tasha Childs**

88 Inquired about a public list of supervisors and their supervisees.

89 **Alyssa Castles:** All LCSWs are publicly listed and qualified to supervise. I will inquire with the division as to publishing a list of supervisees.

91 **Ann Applebee:** In favor of a list of supervisors who qualify under the proposed regulation changes.

92 The board might not have the authority, however, and would encourage NASW to look into it.

93 In response to a question, Ann clarified that the ultimate decision regarding proposed changes will come from a vote of the board.

94

95

96 **Ana Fulcher**

97 Requested a timeline for the project.

98 **Alyssa Castles:** The board hopes to finalize the project within a year; however, the board has considered  
99 transitional language to allow for awareness and implementation of the changes.