

**BC College of Social Workers
Board Meeting**

Meeting Minutes

Meeting No. 26

Date: September 28, 2013

Place: College office

Chair: Elizabeth Jones

Members present:

Ed Berry
Doris Darvasi
Bruce Hallsor
Andrea Harstone
Susan Hogman
Leonard Ibbs

Deborah Jones
Curtis Magnuson
Susan Noakes
Colleen Spier
Jacqueline Stokes

Staff in attendance:

John Mayr, Registrar
Christeen Young, Recorder

1) Call to Order

The Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

2) Approval of Agenda

The members of the Board considered the draft agenda as previously distributed for the meeting.

Motion: To accept the agenda as circulated.
The motion was adopted.

3) In Camera session at 09:08

The Board excluded all non- board members from the meeting pursuant to section 13(5)(c) of the Bylaws which states personnel matters or property acquisition will be discussed. For the purpose of the minutes, the Board advised that they finalized the Registrar's performance evaluation for the year ending June 30, 2013.

In Camera session concluded at 09:24.

4) Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

The members of the Board considered the draft minutes from meeting 25 held June 8, 2013.

Motion: To approve the draft minutes.
The motion was adopted.

5) Confirmation of Resolution conducted by electronic means

The Board confirmed, for the purpose of the minutes, the following resolution made and accepted by electronic means in between the dates of July 29 - 30, 2013.

Be it resolved that:

In accordance with the authority established in section 9 of the Social Workers Act (2008 SBC Ch.31) and subject to the approval of the Minister as required by the Social Workers Act, the Board amend the Bylaws of the British Columbia College of Social Workers, as indicated in the Schedule attached to this Resolution.

6) Chair's Report

a) Strategic Planning

The Board had a general discussion about a strategic planning session. The current plan will be two years old. There was agreement that it was time to hold another session. A date for the session will be selected at the November meeting to include members newly elected to the Board for the term starting January 2014.

b) Communications Policy

The Board considered a draft policy to guide the distribution of information about courses and other opportunities to registrants. The policy considers the regulatory nature of the College and provides for the College to distribute information that fits within the mandate of the College. The policy was approved in principle.

c) ASWB Conference

The Chair of the Board and Registrar will be attending the ASWB Fall conference held November 7 – 9, 2013.

d) Meeting with the Deans and Directors

The Chair reported on a meeting between educators and the College held September 24, 2013. She reported that the meeting was generally positive. The discussion included issues related to education, regulation and the implementation of a licensure examination. It is hoped that similar meetings will be held at least annually.

7) Registrar's Report

a) Licensure Exam Consultation

The Registrar reported that he met with a number of Directors representing BC schools of social work regarding the College's intent to implement a licensure exam for all applicants of the College. The meetings were constructive. He advised that the consultation process will continue into 2014 with plans to arrange a meeting between the College, Directors and educators, ASWB, and other parties next year.

b) Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators

The Registrar reported on the meeting of the Canadian Council of Social Work Regulators held September 21, 2013. He is leading the effort to transition the Council to the *Canada Not-For-Profit Corporations Act*, and continues to contribute to the panel considering the next phase of the competency profile project.

c) Election to the Board

The Registrar reported that election planning is in its final phases. For this year's election voting will take place by electronic means. Registrants without email addresses will receive a paper ballot. An independent elections returning officer has been engaged for the purpose of receiving any mail in ballots and verifying the results of the election.

d) Public Awareness Campaign

The College launched the first phase of the public awareness campaign. Public awareness notices are currently in place in buses and transit in all major centres in the province. The next phase will launch in early 2014.

e) Towards Developing a Respectful Relationship

There continues to be thinking done about how to best approach this project. Chelsea Cooledge, Director of Professional Practice, met with Sechelt First Nations at Sechelt Longhouse in September. Staff of the College also took part in the Reconciliation Walk and will develop an approach based on the Reconciliation Canada model.

8) Committee Reports

a) Quality Assurance Committee

i) Continuing Professional Development (CPD) Program Proposal

The Chair reported that the proposed amendments to the Bylaws of the College have been approved by the Minister. The program will launch on November 1, 2013. Work is progressing on material and tools for registrants.

ii) Standards and Code of Ethics Workgroup

The Standards workgroup has been conducting early activities. These include preliminary research on leading models and discussions within the workgroup with the intent of building capacity and understanding. This work is being led by the professional staff in the office.

b) Registration Committee

The Chair of the Committee reported that the committee had recently met to further consider the implementation of a licensure examination. After discussion, the committee adopted a motion for approval by the Board. The committee is of the opinion that an implementation date needs to be set and communicated to stakeholders. They advised that the Registrar will be continuing his work consulting with educators, students and others.

The Chair of the Committee presented the following motion:

Motion: Whereas the Bylaws for the College provide as a condition of registration under section 41, that an applicant successfully complete an examination required by the Board, and

The Board of the College has previously indicated its intention to implement an examination, and

To provide sufficient time for educational institutions and other stakeholders to make suitable preparations, and

To provide students in social work programs with notice of the intent of the College,

That the Board approve as the date after which any applicant, subject to the limitations set out below, must successfully complete the examinations as determined by the Board is September 1, 2015.

This requirement does not apply to applications made under the labour mobility provisions of either the Agreement on Internal Trade, or the New West Partnership Trade Agreement, or to applicants that have successfully completed an examination in another jurisdiction determined equivalent by the Board of BCCSW.

The motion was adopted.

i) Elimination of Exemption for Health Authorities

The amendment to the Social Workers Regulation to remove “regional health boards” from the list of exempt persons took effect on September 1, 2013. As a result of the change the College received and processed 358 applications from social workers employed by health authorities.

The transition went well with only a couple anecdotal reports of persons employed as social workers who did not meet the requirements for registration. Those individuals did not submit an application to the College therefore no formal decisions were made.

c) Inquiry Committee

i) Reports to the Board

The Chair of the Inquiry Committee presented three files as required by section 28(1) of the *Social Workers Act*. When the Committee does not direct the Registrar to issue a citation it must report that to the Board. Three members of the Discipline Committee left the meeting during the Inquiry Committee reports to the Board.

2012-08 The Board received the report of the Inquiry Committee into the matter related to file 2012-08.

Moved that after considering the report of the Inquiry Committee the Board act pursuant to section 28(2)(a) of the *Social Workers Act* and confirms the Inquiry Committee's decision.

The motion was adopted.

2013-01 The Board received the report of the Inquiry Committee into the matter related to file 2013-01.

Moved that after considering the report of the Inquiry Committee the Board act pursuant to section 28(2)(a) of the *Social Workers Act* and confirms the Inquiry Committee's decision.

The motion was adopted.

2013-06 The Board received the report of the Inquiry Committee into the matter related to file 2013-06.

Moved that after considering the report of the Inquiry Committee the Board act pursuant to section 28(2)(a) of the *Social Workers Act* and confirms the Inquiry Committee's decision.

The motion was adopted.

ii) Policy Development – Private Practice Incorporation

The Board had a discussion about creating a class of registrants for professional corporations. The members directed staff to further investigate the issue.

d) Finance Committee

The Chair of the Committee presented the internal financial statements.

Motion: To approve the internal financial statements for filing.

The motion was adopted.

9) Other Business

a) Board Member Training

Colleen Spier, Andrea Harstone, Deborah Jones, and Jacqueline Stokes attended the ASWB new board member training. All reported that the training was relevant and valuable. All members of the current Board have now attended the new board member training.

b) College Records Retention and Destruction Policy

The Board discussed the issue of record retention and destruction. The Bylaws establish the manner by which the College is to dispose of records but not any time requirements for retention or destruction. There are a number of legal requirements in an assortment of legislation. The Board directed the Registrar to develop a draft policy for consideration by the Board.

10) BC Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

Representatives from the BC Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (BCAMFT) attended the meeting. The BCAMFT expressed an interest in having the BC College of Social Workers expand its jurisdiction to include the regulation of marriage and family therapists in BC.

The Board had a general discussion about the possibility of the College regulating marriage and family therapists. It was acknowledged that the inclusion of another profession would likely require a change in legislation. There was some discussion as to whether regulation could be achieved through amending the College Bylaws to add another class. The Board directed the Registrar to make inquiries within government about possibilities and the next steps.

11) Adjournment

Motion: To adjourn the meeting at 1:54pm.

The motion was adopted.

	Chair
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