



State of Idaho
Division of Occupational and Professional Licenses
Idaho Board of Social Work Examiners

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Minutes of 4/25/2023

Board	Dr. Alex Zamora - Chair	Division	Cesley Metcalfe, Executive Office
Members	Jeri Perkins	Staff:	Greg Loos, Legal Counsel
Present:	April Christenson Lynnet R Keeley Virginia K Dickman		Emily Rough, Board Support Specialist

Board Dr. Donna Lynn Schmid
Members
Absent:

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 AM by Dr. Alex Zamora.

Ms. Metcalfe restated the purpose of Zero-Based Regulation. The Board reviewed suggested updates designed to eliminate duplicative or outdated requirements, remove unnecessary barriers, and increase the ease of readability in its administrative rules. Ms. Metcalfe stated that the language presented has not been shared with stakeholders, who will be provided an opportunity to provide written or verbal comments at a later date. Ms. Metcalfe reminded the Board that the decisions made today are not final and that there will be additional opportunities to further discuss these changes at future Board meetings. Unless otherwise stated, the Board agreed to all suggestions presented.

The Board added a new definition for supervisors. The requirement for registering supervisors will be discontinued, however, this definition allows for similar provisions.

Rule 100 – Approved Colleges and Universities: The Board updated the language to say “Any educational institution accredited by the US Department of Education, a regionally accredited institution of higher education or as otherwise approved by the Board. The social work program must be accredited by the Council on Social Work Education CSWE or as otherwise approved by the Board.” This provides the Board with more flexibility and allows further information to be detailed on their website.

Rule 200 – Licensing Qualifications and Definition of Terms: This was deleted as duplicative of Idaho Code § 54-3206.

Rule 210.01.a. – Generally Applicable Supervision Requirements: Division staff recommended that this rule be deleted as subjective and unenforceable. The Board discussed why this rule is important specifically when reviewing supervision plans. No changes were made.

Rule 210.01.b. – Generally Applicable Supervision Requirements: The last sentence was removed as unnecessary.

Rule 210.3.a. – Pursuing Licensure as Clinical Social Worker: The Board reworded this language to say that the supervision plan must include an affidavit signed by the supervisor to affirm that they meet

the requirements to supervise. This change was made as a substitute piece for removing the requirement for supervisor registration.

Rule 210.3.b.ii. – Pursuing Licensure as Clinical Social Worker: The Division presented language requested by the Board at a previous meeting. The Board approved the addition of “which may include indirect hours that may occur outside the presence of a client” to the end of the last sentence to provide clarity to licensees.

Rule 210.03.c. – Pursuing Licensure as Clinical Social Worker: This was consolidated into one paragraph and the reference to registered supervisors was deleted to reflect the changes being made through ZBR to remove supervisor registration for multiple boards.

Rule 210.03.e. – Pursuing Licensure as Clinical Social Worker: Division staff asked about the rationale for this limitation. The Board discussed the importance of supervisors creating a strong relationship with supervisees so that the supervisor can properly assess if the supervisee is ready for independent licensure. No changes were made.

Rule 210.04 – Out-of-State Supervised Experience: The Board incorporated subsection a. into the main rule and reworded this for clarity. It now reads “The Board may consider supervised experience obtained from jurisdictions with substantially equivalent requirements. Such experience, whether anticipated or obtained, must be approved by the Board. Experience already obtained must have been completed within the five (5) years preceding application.”

Rule 211 – Social Work Supervision Registration: This was deleted because the Board does not have statutory authority to register supervisors. A definition was added to Rule 010. to preserve the supervisor requirements.

Rule 300 – Fees: The Board deleted the exam fee because it is paid to a third party and does not need to be in the Board’s rules.

Rule 350 – Examinations and Endorsement: The intro language was deleted as unnecessary because the authority to approve applications is granted by Idaho Code § 54-3206.

Rule 350.01 – Exam: For conciseness, the Board deleted the subsections and added the sentence “Candidates are required to successfully pass the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) or another Board-approved examination that corresponds with the level of licensure for which they are applying.”

Rule 350.02 – Graduation Date to Qualify for Exam: This was updated to state that graduates from any academic term may qualify for examination immediately preceding the date of graduation.

Rule 350.03.b. – Endorsement: The Board reworded this to say “Has not had a license revoked, suspended, restricted, or otherwise sanctioned by any regulatory entity and has never voluntarily surrendered a license in lieu of discipline” for clarity and to provide the Board flexibility to approve applicants who may have received discipline for minor infractions.

Rule 350.03.c. – Endorsement: The Board deleted “withheld judgment” because it does not have statutory authority to ask applicants about withheld judgments.

Rule 351.01.h. – Continuing Education Requirements: This is duplicative of Idaho Code § 67-2614(7) and was deleted.

Rule 351.02 – Categories of Continuing Education: This section was deleted as unnecessary. The Board did retain the opportunity for licensees to earn no more than twenty continuing education (CE) hours from self-directed professional study activities and growth experiences. This was added as a subsection to Rule 351.01.

Division staff and the Board discussed the efficacy of CE and the research regarding the correlation between required CE hours and improved outcomes. Board members discussed the importance of staying current with new evidence-based approaches and the various ways in which they are asked to demonstrate competency. The Board discussed the possibility of creating different CE requirements for different licensure levels. No changes were made.

Rule 351.03. – Continuing Education Sources: This was removed as an unnecessary barrier for licensees. Language in new Rule 351.01.h. states that all CE hours must be germane to the profession of social work as defined in statute.

Rule 351.04.a. – Documentation: In subsection a. the Board replaced attendance with compliance to ensure that all CE requirements are met and deleted subsection c as unnecessary after this change. Subsection b was deleted as duplicative of Idaho Code § 67-2614(7).

Rule 450 – Statement of Public Policy and Code of Professional Conduct: Division staff asked the Board if it wanted to incorporate by reference the NASW Code of Ethics (Code). The Board discussed concerns about incorporating the Code including that it is frequently updated and the Board may be unaware or not in support of regulations to which it would be holding licensees accountable. It may also cause the Board to have to address updating its rules more frequently if the Board were to adopt the Code and exempt certain sections that were then changed because of a Code update. The Board chose not to adopt the NASW Code of Ethics.

Rule 450.01.c. – The Social Worker’s Ethical Responsibility to Clients: The Board discussed the importance of continuity of care despite the circumstances under which a social worker must terminate services and the importance of allowing clients a choice in who provides treatment. A sentence was added stating that “Prior to or immediately after leaving an agency, providing contact information to a social work client to ensure continuity of care does not constitute solicitation.”

Rule 450.01.f. – The Social Worker’s Ethical Responsibility to Clients: The Board discussed the different reasons for terminating services and the importance of continuity of care. This was reworded to state “The social worker will terminate services to clients, and professional relationships when necessary, ensuring the safest outcomes to the patient and utilizing reasonable steps to avoid abandonment of clients.”

Rule 450.01.h. – The Social Worker’s Ethical Responsibility to Clients: This was reworded for grammar to state that “A social worker may not exploit, sexually or otherwise, their professional relationships with clients, former clients, supervisees, supervisors, students, employees, or research participants.” The definition of sexual harassment was deleted as unnecessary.

Rule 450.02.a. – The Social Worker’s Conduct and Compartment as a Social Worker: The Board added gender identity and sexual orientation as bases for which a social worker may not discriminate. This was important to address because social work is founded on representing marginalized groups.

Rule 450.02.e. – The Social Worker’s Conduct and Compartment as a Social Worker: This was incorporated into Rule 450.01.f.

Rule 450.02.f. – The Social Worker’s Conduct and Comportment as a Social Worker: This was incorporated into Rule 450.01.f.

Rule 450.02.i. – The Social Worker’s Conduct and Comportment as a Social Worker: The first sentence of the intro was retained but the second sentence and all subsections were deleted as unnecessary because a social worker must always safeguard client information and the exceptions are already expressly covered by other legal requirements.

Rule 450.02.j. – The Social Worker’s Conduct and Comportment as a Social Worker: The language was updated to reflect that social workers must report violations of the laws and rules regardless of the relationship they have with parties involved in the violation.

Rule 450.03 – Competent Practice for Social Workers: The Board replaced education, training, and experience with level of licensure because all three are requirements to obtaining a specific licensure level.

Rule 450.03.a. – Competent Practice for Social Workers: The Board reworded this to state that a social worker must “only practice within the boundaries of licensure level” because education, training, supervision, and relevant professional experience are all tied to the licensure level.

Rule 450.04.b. – The Advertising Rules for Social Workers: The Board deleted the second sentence as an unnecessary example and the final sentence as duplicative of Rule 450.04.

Rule 450.04.d. – The Advertising Rules for Social Workers: This was reworded to “Fails to identify conspicuously and accurately the social worker, licensure level, or practice of social work referred to in the advertising. The Board deleted subsections 450.04.e-g as confusing and unnecessary with the new language. Subsection h was deleted for being outside the control of the social worker.

Rule 450.06.c. – The Advertising Rules for Social Workers: The Board replaced “determine” with “conclude after appropriate and documented assessment” to emphasize the importance of documenting the assessment that led to the determination.

Rule 475 – Discipline: This was deleted because the Board does not have statutory authority to issue civil fines and costs and fees are covered by Idaho Code § 67-2604.

Adjourn

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:24 PM MT.

The next meeting is on 05/23/2023.