



STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF EXAMINERS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS  
4600 Kietzke Lane, Suite C121, Reno, Nevada 89502  
775-688-2555

To: Senator Spearman, Chair  
Legislative Committee on Healthcare

From: Sandy Lowey, LCSW, LADC  
Interim Executive Director

Date: December 31, 2017

Re: Reporting per AB457

Per AB457, the Board of Examiners for Social Workers (Board) has conducted an analysis of the following items

- The necessity of the costs of the Board;
- Whether the fees charged by the Board are necessary and sufficient to pay those costs;
- The need for revision of the regulations of the Board;
- Recognition of licenses from jurisdictions outside of this state (endorsement); and
- Efforts to comply with the amendatory provisions of the act.

In 2017, the Board processed 3106 applications for initial licensure and renewal. Initial licensure is granted via examination or endorsement from another jurisdiction. In 2017, the Board endorsed 102 licenses from jurisdictions outside of this state. As the table below shows, the Board has almost doubled the number of licenses via endorsement issued in the prior two years and the majority of these licensees are Clinical Social Workers (LCSWs). As of December 31, 2017, Nevada has 2906 licensed social workers. In addition, there are currently over 200 social workers in post-graduate clinical internships, which can lead to a LCSW license.

Unfortunately, for every license issued, the state continues to lose social workers and this year saw the loss of 293 licensed social workers, the highest number in the last nine years. The Board continues to work with statewide stakeholders in workforce development activities to increase the number of social workers in our state.

2017 – Applications	
Applications for Licensure by examination	423
Applications for Licensure via endorsement	117
Applications for Renewal of Licensure	2566
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3106</b>

Endorsed Licenses Granted	
2015	53
2016	57
2017	102

Agenda Item IV C (HEALTH CARE)  
Meeting Date: 03-19-18

The Board is a self-funded entity, receiving no money from the state's General Fund. Our budget is based on the fees that are collected annually. Fees limits for the Board are set through the legislature in NRS 641B. The following table shows the when the fee ceilings were set by the legislature, how the fees were administered through the NACs and the status of the fee ceilings at this time.

	Fee Ceilings – Legislature (NRS)			Fee Implementation – Board (NAC)				Current
	1987	1993	1995	Before 1994	1998	2002	2014	2017
<b>LSW / LASW</b>								
Application fee	25.00		40.00	25.00	40.00			At Ceiling
Initial issuance of license	100.00			50.00	60.00	75.00	100.00	At Ceiling
Renewal	150.00			50.00	60.00	75.00	100.00	
Restoration of revoked license	100.00		150.00	100.00	150.00			At Ceiling
Endorsement	100.00			100.00	100.00			At Ceiling
Initial issuance of provisional license		75.00		50.00	60.00			At Ceiling
Restoration of expired license			200.00		150.00		200.00	At Ceiling
Restoration of delinquent license			100.00		30.00	40.00	100.00	At Ceiling
<b>LCSW / LISW</b>								
Application fee	25.00			25.00	40.00			At Ceiling
Initial issuance of license	100.00			100.00				At Ceiling
Renewal	150.00			100.00	125.00	150.00		At Ceiling
Restoration of revoked license	100.00		150.00	100.00	150.00			At Ceiling
Endorsement	100.00			100.00				At Ceiling
Initial issuance of provisional license		75.00		75.00				At Ceiling
Restoration of expired license			200.00		150.00		200.00	At Ceiling
Restoration of delinquent license			100.00	50.00	60.00	75.00	100.00	At Ceiling

As the table shows, the Legislature has granted several new fee categories and one increase in fee ceilings since the inception of the Board in 1987. In several fee categories, it has taken the Board thirty years to reach the maximum fees allowed by the Legislature.

Based on a fiscal review, the Board is not asking for a global increase in fee ceilings even though all but one category is at it's fee maximum. Rather, the Board is requesting consideration of two increases in the fee ceilings established by the Legislature.

1. The Board would like to increase the application fee from \$40.00 to \$100.00. The Social Work Board's application fees are the lowest of all the Occupational Boards. The last increase in the application fees was instituted in 1998.
2. The Board would like to change the initial licensure fee for the LCSW / LISW so that it matches the renewal fee. This would make the fee a consistent \$150.00 annually. This will correct a discrepancy that currently exists in the fee structure in which initial license fees don't match renewal fees for the LCSW/LISW level of licensure.

The fee increases approved in 2014 allowed the Board to begin to set aside money for the legislative mandate to engage in online processing of applications and renewals. Once sufficient funds were available, the Board began to search for a vendor that could provide the services needed to move our existing database into a format that could be managed online, could process renewal applications electronically and could provide online real-time verification of licensure.

In 2016, the Board identified several vendors and at the February 2017 meeting, the Board reviewed three vendors and selected one and authorized the process of contracting. The bid provided for the

entire project was larger than was allowable without going through the state RFP contracting process. The contracting process for projects larger than \$25,000.00 is cumbersome and lengthy. As the Board prepared to move into this process, information regarding the vendor chosen came to light and the Board withdrew the approval. Per AB 457, the Board has fillable forms available for initial licensure on our website. We are, as yet, unable to provide immediate, automatic feedback whether the applicant has submitted all required information. The information in applications is manually entered into our existing database.

We have identified a new vendor and are working with them to provide a bid for services. The Board has the money set aside to pay for the initial build of the eLicensing database and content management system. The Board has some concern about the cost of annual maintenance contracting and a portion of the revenue obtained by increasing the application fee will cover this expense.

If you have any other question, please don't hesitate to contact me.

[slowery@besw.nv.gov](mailto:slowery@besw.nv.gov)

To: Senator Spearman, Chair  
Legislative Committee on Healthcare

From: Sandy Lowery, LCSW, LCADC  
Interim Executive Director

Date: March 9, 2018

Re: Supplemental Information for December 31, 2017 Reporting per AB457

#### Efforts to Comply with AB457

- Board member orientation for new Board members within 60 days and finalizing of orientation for existing Board members by March 1, 2018.
- Annual performance reviews of Board staff are completed
- Annual report regarding complaint process has been submitted.

#### Fiscal Information

In the report submitted on December 31, 2017, the Board indicated that a fiscal review had been completed to support the modest request of an increase in the fee ceilings allowed the Board, see document dated December 31, 2017. Although details of that fiscal review were not requested, the Board is providing you with additional information.

In the past, the Board has maintained adequate reserve amounts as suggested by the Legislative Auditor. The Board had a dramatic increase in expenses in FY2016 and FY2107 related to hiring a lobbyist, paying out staff who will be retiring, realigning existing positions and hiring additional FTE to assist in managing the backlog of disciplinary complaints and filling an Interim Executive **Director's** position. The Board has just completed the interview process for a new Executive Director and will be offering a salary that is more in line with other Boards, further increasing our expenses. These changes have and will drain our reserves. While the Board is able to meet its existing expenses, the ability to rebuild the suggested reserve amount of six months of expenses will be difficult.

The Board is requesting two increases, as noted in the December 31, 2017 report. These two increase will generate approximately \$30,000.00 in additional revenue per year. This will allow us to begin rebuilding our reserves as well as focus on areas that are of importance to the Legislature. We have attached our current budget and a preliminary projection for FY 2018/2019.

I look forward to answering any questions you may have.

# State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers

	Budget 2017/18	Projected Budget 2018/19
Fund Balance	<b>\$ 194,976.00</b>	<b>\$ 11,051.00</b>
Licenses and Fees (Renewal)	\$ 288,430.00	302,850.00
Application fees	19,820.00	20,000.00
Initial License Fees	48,250.00	50,000.00
Provisional Licenses	3,390.00	3,500.00
Endorsement (Transfer) Fees	8,300.00	8,500.00
Miscellaneous Revenue –Other	8,010.00	8,000.00
Disciplinary Costs Reimbursed	4,600.00	4,500.00
Renewal Penalties	7,040.00	7,040.00
Interest Income	10.00	10.00
Total Income	<b>\$ 387,850.00</b>	<b>\$ 404,400.00</b>
Sub-Account Total	<b>\$ 582,826.00</b>	<b>\$ 415,451.00</b>
Salaries	\$ 312,822.00	
Employers Insurance(EICN)	3,972.00	
Employees Retirement(PERS)	35,444.00	
Employees Health Ins(PEBP)	44,580.00	
Unemployment Tax(NUC)	1,836.00	
Employer Paid Medicare	4,063.00	
Sub Account Total	<b>\$ 402,717.00</b>	<b>\$ 259,642.00</b>
Regis Insurance	\$ 2,762.00	3,000.00
In State Travel	4,423.00	5,000.00
Operating Supplies	4,606.00	5,000.00
Printing and Copying	4,228.00	5,000.00
Liability Insurance	1,152.00	1,200.00
Contractual Services Lobbyist	2,500.00	40,000.00
Contractual Services – Audit	4,500.00	5,000.00
Contractual Services – Legal	40,000.00	30,000.00
Legal-Disciplinary (Court Reporters)	730.00	750.00
B & G Assessments	650.00	650.00
Nonstate Building (Rent)	19,913.00	19,913.00
Host Fund	800.00	800.00
Postage	7,649.00	8,000.00
Telephone	1,437.00	1,500.00
Dues (ASWB)	1,000.00	1,000.00
Computer Hardware & Support	70,000.00	25,000.00
Computer Internet	2,708.00	2,708.00
Sub Account Total	<b>\$ 169,058.00</b>	<b>\$ 154,521.00</b>
Total Expenses	<b>\$ 571,775.00</b>	<b>\$ 414,163.00</b>
Reserves	<b>\$ 11,051.00</b>	<b>\$ 1,288.00</b>
Fund Balances:		
Checking Accounts	\$ 11,051.00	
Savings Accounts	\$ -	

**Comparison of Fees for Social Work Boards in States that Border Nevada**

	Nevada	Arizona	California	Idaho	Oregon	Utah
<b>Initial Licensure</b>						
Application for Licensure	Initial (40.00) Endorsement (140.00)	250.00	Initial (100.00) Endorsement (200.00)	Initial (70.00) Endorsement (90.00)	See below	See below
BSW Level License	100.00	100.00	N / A	80.00	150.00 (application and license)	85.00 (application and license)
MSW Level License	100.00	100.00	N / A	80.00	200.00 (application and license)	85.00 (application and license)
Clinical Level License	100.00	250.00	100.00	90.00	460.00 (application and license)	120.00 (application and license)
<b>Renewals</b>						
BSW	Annual (100.00)	Biennial (350.00)	N / A	Annual (80.00)	Biennial (110.00)	Annual (78.00)
MSW	Annual (100.00)	Biennial (350.00)	N / A	Annual (80.00)	Biennial (220.00)	Annual (78.00)
Clinical	Annual (150.00)	Biennial (350.00)	Biennial (120.00)	Annual (90.00)	Biennial (286.00)	Annual (93.00)
<b>Funding Stream for Boards</b>	Self funded with no monies from general fund	Self funded with no monies from the general fund.	Unknown  Made more than a dozen calls to the California Board of Behavioral Sciences and could not reach a person nor get a return call	Self funded but under an umbrella agency that serves 31 other boards and commissions	Self funded with no monies from general fund	Under umbrella agency that serves 81 other boards and commissions. Boards are funded by legislative general fund and Boards return fee income to the state. Any deficit absorbed by state.