STATE of OREGON
BOARD of LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
Board Meeting

Friday, September 19. 2025
Via Microsoft Teams
3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, OR 97302

Board Members Present: Amy Ashton-Williams, *LCSW, Board Chair*
Mollie Janssen, *LCSW, Vice Chair*
Paddy Farr, *LCSW*
Nicole Pantley, *Public Member*
Olivia Bormann, *CSWA*

Board Counsel Present: Kyle Martin, *AAG, Oregon Dept. of Justice*

Staff Members Present: Ray Miller, *Executive Director*
Kim Coleman, *Legislative and Licensing Analyst*
Mindy Tucker, *Sr. Compliance Specialist*
Abe Dedek, *Investigator*
Noelle Johnson, *Licensing Compliance Specialist*
Cassie Kanaeholo*, Licensing Assistant*
Wende Thatcher*, Investigator*

Public Present: Michelle Sideroff, *Member of Public*
Cody Corcelius, *Member of Public*
Miranda Bass, *Member of Public*
Kathy Outland, *Member of Public*
"Billy", *Member of Public*
Darin Smith, *Member of Public*

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1. **CALL TO ORDER:**
   Vice Chair Ashton-Williams called the Board Meeting to order at **11:02 am** and provided brief opening remarks.

2. **REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**
   i. Farr moved to approve and adopt the agenda with addition of Alternative Pathways discussion to Old Business section.
   ii. Pantley seconded the motion.
   iii. Roll call taken as follows: Borman: Aye, Farr: Aye, Ashton-Williams: Aye, Pantley: Aye.
   iv. Motion passed 4 - 0, 0 abstention(s)

3. **MINUTES:**
   Vice Chair Ashton-Williams asked if the Board members had an opportunity to review the minutes for the June 27, 2025, Board meeting:

i. Farr requested change to previous minutes to add ASWB Presentation quotes from June 27 board meeting.
ii. Minutes not approved by Board until the changes requested have been made.
iii. BLSW staff will add requested information and represent June 27, 2025, Board Meeting minutes to the Board during the December 5, 2025, meeting.

4. BOARD ELECTIONS:
Vice Chair Ashton-Williams moves board conversation into discussion about Board Chair and Vice Chair elections.

Farr nominates Mollie Jansen for Board Chair; Bormann seconds the motion.
Pantley nominates Amy Ashton-Williams for Board Chair, Ashton-Williams seconds the motion.

Board moved into discussion about nominations.

Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Kyle Martin informed the Board that it could begin discussing nominations for Board Chair and Vice Chair. AAG Kyle Martin noted that nominees may share information about their qualifications and goals.

Farr expressed concerns about Vice Chair Ashton-Williams' involvement with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), given the Board's ongoing evaluation of alternative pathways to licensure. Farr stated that Janssen is less closely connected to ASWB and may therefore offer more objective input, particularly during discussions on licensure alternatives.

Vice Chair Ashton-Williams responded that all Board members currently have ties to ASWB. Vice Chair Ashton-Williams emphasized the importance of maintaining the Board's influence within ASWB and stated that Ashton-Williams' goal as Chair would be to engage in policy discussions that affect the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) and regulated social workers. Vice Chair Ashton-Williams added that Ashton-Williams is committed to ensuring proper procedures as the Board considers alternative pathways.

Farr reiterated concerns that Vice Chair Ashton-Williams' dual role with ASWB could create a conflict of interest and noted that Ashton-Williams had previously voted against moving forward with exploring additional licensure pathways. Farr stated that Janssen's independence and skepticism toward both ASWB and the proposed alternative pathways made Janssen a strong candidate for Chair.

Pantley commented that the selection of a Board Chair could influence the Board's approach to considering alternative pathways and emphasized the importance of leadership that can minimize personal bias. Bormann requested clarification on the differences between the Chair and Vice Chair roles and noted the importance of continued discussion on alternative pathways. AAG Kyle Martin provided clarification of Board Chair and Board Vice Chair roles to Board members.

Executive Director Miller stated that no individual Board member controls the direction of the alternative pathway discussion; decisions must be made collectively. Executive Director Miller also clarified that creating the Board's agenda is the responsibility of the Executive Director. Pantley raised public safety considerations related to alternative pathways and emphasized selecting leaders based on ability and supporting non-biased discussion.

Farr expressed concern that the topic of alternative pathways had been removed from recent agendas and attributed this to the Board Chair and Vice Chair. Executive Director Miller reiterated that agenda development is an administrative responsibility.

Vice Chair Ashton-Williams suggested contacting Janssen to determine if she would accept a nomination for Board Chair after Bormann reminded other members that Janssen is available by phone to provide additional information. Vice Chair Ashton-Williams recommended a brief recess while Director Miller attempted to reach Janssen. **A nine-minute break was called at 11:39 a.m., and the Board reconvened at 11:48 a.m.**

Janssen joined the meeting via TEAMS and requested an update on the discussion. Farr stated that she had nominated Janssen for Board Chair based on her objectivity and independent thinking. Janssen described her experience on the Board and expressed confidence in the Board's collective decision-making. She stated that the role of Board Chair is primarily facilitative and that she does not feel she has the necessary experience to serve in that position at this time. She noted that she believes the Vice Chair role is a better fit for her skills and emphasized that the Chair is not a decision-making role but one that partners with the Executive Director and facilitates Board conversations. Janssen stated that she does not currently have the capacity to serve as Board Chair and declined the nomination.

Board moved forward with Board Chair nominations:

Nomination results for Molly Janssen as Board Chair
Roll Call: Farr: aye, Bormann: nay, Pantley: nay, Ashton-Williams: nay, Janssen: nay.
Motion failed 1-4; 0 abstentions.

Nomination results for Amy Ashton-Williams as Board Chair
Roll Call: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye, Janssen: aye.
Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstentions.

Board elected Amy Ashton-Williams to Board Chair.

Board moved to Vice Chair nominations and vote:

Farr nominates Molly Janssen for Vice Chair; Amy Ashton-Williams seconds the motion.
Roll Call: Farr: aye, Borman: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye, Janssen: aye.
Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstentions.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

Michelle Sideroff, Member of Public, addressed the Board and shared concerns over the procedure of the initial licensure numbers. Sideroff disclosed that the current license issuing process has caused issues with insurance for Sideroffs' agency as well as ethical concerns and financial audit conflicts for the agency as well.

Cody Corcelius, Member of Public, stated that participant is not participating in public comments.

Kathy Outland, LCSW, provided a report about the ASWB Annual Leadership Conference. Outland provided updates and shared a summary of the overall experience during the conference.

"Billy," Member of Public, shared that "Billy" will be providing their public comment during the second public comment period later in the meeting. Shared that "Billy" wishes to view how Board operates until then.

After the public comment portion**, Chair Ashton-Williams** adjourned meeting for 15-minute break. Break began at **12:19 pm**. Meeting reconvened at **12:34 pm**.

6. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:**
Chair Ashton-Williams announced that the Board would now enter the Executive Session to conduct Board business, pursuant to ORS 162.660(2)(b)(f)(h)(i)(l). **The Board entered the Executive Session at 12:39 pm**. Chair Ashton-Williams moved the Board out of the Executive Session at 12:47 pm. The Board decided to go back to the Executive Session at 12:48 pm. **Chair Ashton-Williams moved the Board out of Executive Session at 12:52 pm.**

7. **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORTS:**
Director Miller provided a legislative update. Director Miller shared that there are no new updates at this time. Director Miller did state that he is watching upcoming items to be discussed by legislature but nothing currently coming through that will affect the board. Farr asked Director Miller about the Interstate compact and if there are any updates or movements on it at this time. Director Miller shared that it is very likely to come back to legislature for review. Director Miller shared that the board would take similar steps as before by having Director Miller and assigning a committee to review any compact legislation.

Director Miller provided a Thentia update. Director Miller shared that Thentia's performance has not changed. Director Miller shared that he has witnessed other licensing programs that are more aligned with current board goals and needs. Director Miller shared that the Legislature denied request for general funds to purchase a new licensing system. Director Miller shared that he is working on a fee increase to assist in the board's ability to raise funds and purchase a new licensing system.

Director Miller provided a Board Member update. Director Miller shared that the board has 5 out of 7 board members. Director Miller shared that he has already put in two recommendations for the two vacant public member openings. Director Miller shared that the board is waiting for an update from the Governor's office and the legislature. Director Miller also shared that the board is looking for individuals with the ability to be objective, to work well with others and to think critically to help protect public of Oregon.

Director Miller provided a staffing update. Director Miller shared that the board's financial reserves are limited and that a fee increase will dictate moving forward with staffing. Director Miller stated that he will be hiring a temporary Office Specialist 2 (OS2) within the next month. Director Miller also shared that current board funds do not support the permanent staff needed at this time. Director Miller shared that if a fee increase is approved, then the board and Director Miller can move towards hiring a permanent staff member. Director Miller introduced temporary, part-time

Office Specialist 2 (OS2), Lynette Nobel, to the board and shared briefly about the positive impact Lynette has had on the work that board staff completes.

Director Miller reviewed licensing statistics. Director Miller shared that there are currently 7,362 LCSWs, 1,941 CSWAs, 360 LMSWs, and 36 RBSWs for a total of 9,705 regulated social workers in Oregon. Director Miller stated that is approximately 114 more licensees that have been added since the Juen 27 board meeting.

8. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Chair Ashton-Williams presented the Consumer Protection Committee report.

In the matter of case 2016-01:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Farr seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Borman: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2020-33:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Farr seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2021-05:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Bormann seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2022-01:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Bormann seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2024-24:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Bormann seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2024-38:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Farr seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2024-41:

i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Bormann seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2024-60:
i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Bormann seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2025-01:
i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Farr seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2025-04:
i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Bormann seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2025-25:
i. Ashton-Williams moved to approve the case.
ii. Farr seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

In the matter of case 2025-16, 2025-10, 2025-22:
i. Ashton-Williams moved to close the case.
ii. Farr seconded the motion.
iii. Roll call taken as follows: Farr: aye, Bormann: aye, Pantley: aye, Ashton-Williams: aye.
iv. Motion passed 4-0; 0 abstention(s).

Licensing and Examination Committee Report
Farr announced the committee approved Previous Hours request for LCSW Applicants: Brittney Batista, Jessica Summerville, Martha Dodge, and Taylor Buntin. The Licensing and Examination Committee also approved Previous Hours request for CSWA application: Danielle Goodfellow. The Licensing and Examination Committee also approved a Plan of Supervision Extension Request for: Ariel Daughtery.

Continuing Education Committee Report
Farr announcing committee approved 10 CE requests from LCSW licensees: Angela Zahas, Barbara Balowitz, BriAnna Dupuis, Jessica Gibson, John Caster, Laura Lirette, Mai Rosenberry, Rebecca Honda, Sarah Ruhl. The Continuing Education Committee also discussed the following topics: ability to provide Ethics CE for individuals that attend board meetings.

9. **SPECIAL REVIEWS:**
[No Special Reviews completed]

10. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
"Billy", Member of Public thanked Board members for their time and dedication to public service. "Billy" shared that they are seeking clarification about a complaint that was filed and about Oregon BLSW ORS. "Billy" asked questions to the Board and requested additional information from the Board about complaint and investigation process.

11. **OLD BUSINESS:**
Travel Meeting and Ethics Meeting Training

Board has scheduled an outreach board meeting for Saturday, October 4, 2025, in Newport, OR at the Hallmark Resort. **Janssen** and **Chair Ashton-Williams** will be providing an Ethics Training for licensees that attend virtually and in-person.

Farr asked for clarification of approval by Chair to approve this training prior to training date and then Board ratifying training at next meeting. Board approves Chair to approve and then ratify on October 4, 2025, Board Meeting. Training will be added to October 4, 2025, Board Meeting agenda.

Alternative Pathways

Farr opened discussion about Alternative Pathways Report. Farr shared concerns about the inconsistency in pass rates for National ASWB Exams and diverse regulated social workers. Chair Ashton-Williams requested clarification from AAG Kyle Martin about the required procedures the Board needs to take to move towards adopting alternative pathways to licensure. Executive Director Miller shared the subcommittee process and stated that it is up to the whole Board to decide what happens with alternative pathways moving forward.

Farr motioned to add Alternative Pathways to the agenda for October 4, 2025, Board meeting.
Bormann seconded the motion.
Roll Call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: Nay, Pantley: Aye, Bormann: Aye, Farr: Aye.
Motion passed 3-1, 0 abstention(s).

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**
ASWB Delegate and Alternate –

Chair Ashton-Williams nominates Nicole Pantley as ASWB Delegate, Bormann seconded.
Roll Call taken as follows: Bormann: Aye, Farr: Aye, Ashton-Williams: Aye, Pantley: Aye
Motion passed 4-0, 0 abstentions.

Chair Ashton-Williams nominates Paddy Farr as alternate ASWB delegate, Pantley seconded.
Roll Call taken as follows: Pantley: Aye, Bormann: Aye, Farr: Aye, Ashton-Williams: Aye
Motion passed 4-0, 0 abstentions.

13. **APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA:**
    i. **Bormann moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.**
    ii. Farr seconded.

iii. Roll call is as follows: Pantley: Aye, Ashton-Williams: Aye, Farr: Aye, Bormann: Aye
iv. Motion passed 4-0, 0 abstentions.

14. CORRESPONDENCE:
Director Miller provided all board members with letter sent by LCSW, Vana O'Brien. Board members read letter and asked Director Miller if there were any additional steps they needed to take. Director Miller shared that the board members can just read the letter. Board discussed their ability to provide an exception.

15. ANNOUNCEMENTS:
NASW update – no current updates from NASW representatives.
ASWB update – no current updates from ASWB representatives, moved onto training.

16. TRAINING:
DAS – EIS – 2025 Information Security Training: Foundations – Board decided to complete required trainings individually.

17. ADJOURNMENT:
Chair Ashton-Williams adjourned the Board meeting at 2:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Noelle Johnson, *Licensing Compliance Specialist*