

July 22, 2025

Kris Curtis, Legislative Auditor
Legislative Budget and Audit Committee
Division of Legislative Audit
PO Box 113300
Juneau, AK 99811-3300

Dear Legislative Budget and Audit Committee:

This is the written response to the April 17, 2025 Confidential Preliminary Report, Department of Commerce, Community, and Economic Development (DCCED), Board of Social Work Examiners Sunset Review. I will respond to the recommendation and will state if I agree or disagree with the report's conclusions and recommendations.

Recommendation #1: Office of the Governor, Boards and Commissions director should take steps to ensure board seats are filled in a timely manner.

I agree with this recommendation. Vacant positions have led to delays in processing applications and cancelled meetings due to lack of quorum, and delays with closing out investigations. The board will continue to support efforts in filing vacant board seats, as appropriate.

Recommendation #2: The board chair and DCBPL's director should work together to ensure renewal applicants comply with continuing education regulations or seek a change to regulations as deemed necessary.

When the division transitioned to an online application portal, the online renewal form was created in a standardized format, which did not include additional information about the continuing education contact hours, such as (but not limited to) the name of the sponsoring organization, the title of the course, the dates of attendance, and the number of continuing education contact hours as per 12 AAC 18.200. The board chair will work with the DCBPL's director to ensure that the online renewal process complies with regulations.

Report Conclusions:

I agree with the report conclusions. The Board of Social Work examiners remains committed to serve the public's interest by ensuring that social workers meet and maintain the highest standards of professional and ethical practice.

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the report.

Sincerely,

Anne Wells

Anne Wells, LCSW, LCAS, LPC-S
Chair, Alaska Board of Social Work Examiners