



MARYLAND Department of Health

BSWE Digital Newsletter

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Board of Social Work EXAMINER

A word from the Executive Director:

As we enter the New Year and the start of the 2025 Maryland Legislative Session, the Board is preparing to respond to legislation that could impact licensed Social Workers in Maryland.

Last year SB0204 "Interstate Social Work Licensure Compact." was introduced but not passed. This year it is being reintroduced as SB 174 and is necessary to allow Maryland to participate in a multi-state licensing compact. It will allow social workers from participating states to practice in Maryland and for Maryland social workers to practice in other participating states. This bill establishes the legislative structure for Maryland to be a participating state.

Passage of this bill is a priority for NASW-MD. The Board of Social Work Examiners once again supports this bill. Maryland will not be able to participate in the compact without passing legislation that outlines the compact. This legislation will increase workforce mobility and enhance collaboration among states within the compact ultimately benefitting both social workers and the clients they serve.

Please visit the Social Work Compact website for more information:

<https://swcompact.org/>

January 2025: Issue III

Upcoming Open Session Meetings

6/13/2025 Virtual

5/9/2025 Room 110

4/11/2025 Virtual

3/14/2025 Room 110

2/14/2025 Virtual

In person meetings are held at 4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215. Meetings start at 10:30am and generally conclude by 12pm.

If a member of the public has a question for the Open Session, please submit them prior to the meeting via email to the Executive Director:

karen.richards2@maryland.gov

Workgroup on Social Worker Requirements for Licensure

The Workgroup will reconvene on January 29, 2025. The group's final report was submitted to the legislature at the beginning of December. Please click on this link for more information about the important work of this group:

<https://health.maryland.gov/workgroup-swrl/Pages/default.aspx>



SUPERVISION POINTERS

Jean James, LCSW-C, Staff Social Worker, BSWE

Supervision is the backbone of assuring the public receives competent and professional Social Work service. Please see the November 2024 issue regarding mandatory supervision of licensees.

Board staff recognize that the regulations around supervision can be somewhat "confusing." Here are some answers to questions we frequently encounter.

Question: *As a newly licensed Social Worker, what are my responsibilities regarding supervision?*

Answer: Supervisees have the opportunity for mentorship through the Supervisory relationship. Here are some highlights of the regulations surrounding that relationship:

- Supervision must be conducted with a Board Approved Supervisor and a contract for supervision must be completed prior to supervision beginning.
- Supervisees must be prepared for supervision and bring in relevant case material for discussion.
- Supervisees must maintain documentation of the supervisory sessions for at least 5 years including the dates, duration, and focus of the sessions

<https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/10.42.08.08.aspx>

Question: *As a Board Approved Supervisor, what are my responsibilities to the Social Workers I am supervising?*

Answer: Supervisors are so important to the growth and development of the supervisee. The mentorship they provide varies but the following regulations provide guidance of what is critical to the supervisory relationship. Please review all the regulations with the link provided below. However, here are some highlights to guide you:

- A contract for supervision must be completed **prior** to supervision beginning.
- Supervisors must determine the supervisee's skill level and ensure that a supervisee is practicing within their scope of practice.
- Supervisors must maintain documentation for at least 5 years outlining the date, duration and focus of supervision. A written evaluation of the supervisee's progress should be completed every six months.

- Since all social workers are accountable to these regulations, it is highly recommended that supervisors ensure that a supervisee is knowledgeable about Health Occupations Article, Title 19, Annotated Code of Maryland, and COMAR 10.42.01—10.42.09.
- When applicable, Supervision Verification Forms document the supervisory practice and must be completed by the supervisor not the supervisee. The Board recommends that there is a discussion about the form ensuring that there is mutual understanding.
- When the time comes for clinical supervision to end, make sure that a reasonable period of time is given to the supervisee and employer to avoid or minimize any harmful effect on the supervisee's clients or patients.

Lastly, remember, all Board Approved Supervisors that wish to maintain their status must complete 3 Supervision CEUs (category I or II) each renewal cycle.

<https://dsd.maryland.gov/regulations/Pages/10.42.08.07.aspx>

Question: *How do I know if a supervisor is Board Approved?*

Answer: <https://mdbnc.health.maryland.gov/bsweVerification/supervisionZip.aspx>

Question: *How often should we meet for supervision? And when does supervision end?*

Answer: Supervisees must receive a minimum of 3 hours of face-to-face supervision per month or 1 hour of face-to-face supervision for every 40 hours worked. Regular clinical supervision must continue until the Social Worker is licensed as an LCSW-C or has achieved Independent Status as an LBSW or LMSW.

Question: *What is the Contract Form that should be used?*

Answer: <https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Documents/Supervision/contractualAgree.pdf>

SURVEY SURVEY!

The Board of Social Work Examiners would like to hear from licensees! With the possibility of legislation this year seeking to eliminate the licensing exam from licensing requirements.

The Board has voted to survey our licensed social workers. The Board wants to be sure when advocating for a position that it is the position shared by the majority of licensees.

In order to manage the data, the Board will RANDOMLY select a proportional sample from the four license levels: LBSW, LMSW, LCSW, and LCSW-C.

The survey will collect demographic data as well as answers to questions about licensure and the exam.

Social Media Sites

Social media sites are a great place to connect with like-minded individuals. Professional Social Work groups are a good way to network and make connections. Sharing resources for clients or posting open therapy slots for new patients are just a few of the helpful posts seen on social media.

However, when looking for answers about licensing and the regulations in Maryland that govern Social Workers, you really must go to our webpage!

Yes, it is not as friendly and easy to navigate as a social media post; however, it does provide ACCURATE answers to questions you may have.

The Board will be working to make the site more user friendly in 2025. Please click the link here to find answers to everything about Social Work licensing in Maryland:

If you are selected to participate, you will receive the survey via the current email we have on file for you.

PLEASE fill it out completely and as soon as possible. THANK YOU



<https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx>

And PLEASE, if can't find your answer on the webpage, email us at:

mdh.socialwork@maryland.gov

MD BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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