

SPRING 2010



Bulletin of BSWE



Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C, Board Chair

Greetings!

This is my final message to you as Board Chair; I will complete my term on the Board, effective June 30, 2010. I am pleased to report that there will be a seamless transition as I introduce the new Board Chair, Daniel Buccino and new Vice Chair, Judy Levy. These individuals, as well as all Board members, are dedicated to the mission of this organization.

Over the past two years, the Board and staff have accomplished many things and continue to seek ways to better serve the public and licensees.

I would like to share some of the highlights:

Statute Revision... During the 2010 session of the General Assembly there were two Bills that impact how the Board will do business in the future. Please read the accompanying article on 2010 Legislation.

Continuing Education... The Continuing Education Regulations were revised and are now in effect. Please become familiar with the changes and govern yourself accordingly.

On-line Newsletter... The semi-annual newsletter is now electronically sent to licensees. Previous newsletter editions can be viewed via BSWE's Web site.

E-mail Alerts... Licensees receive timely and relevant information via email. Please READ the email alerts so that you can stay updated on changes and new information that may impact the practice of social work.

Website... The website has been revised and is user friendly. The BSWE website links to most of the relevant social work statues and regulations.

Ethics Regulation... The Board (members and staff) and various social work organizations are in the process of revising the Ethics Regulations. You will be kept apprised of revisions.

I would like to thank Jim Merrow, Executive Director for his leadership and the Board staff for their hard work. Thank you, Board members for supporting me and giving of your time and talents to serve the citizens of Maryland and our licensees.

Serving on the Board has been challenging, yet rewarding. It has required me to carefully analyze situations and think outside the box for long term solutions. I will take this experience into other areas of my life and use the knowledge gained to further serve the social work profession.

Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C

Board Chair

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**IMPORTANT
UPDATES**

- ◆ CEU Regulations
- ◆ 2010 Renewal
- ◆ 2010 Legislation

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MEET BOARD MEMBERS



**Dan Buccino, LCSW-C, BCD
Vice Chair**

**Please note that the Board makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list; however, the occasional typographical error may occur. Please contact the Board office with any questions or for clarification.*



**Trinita Robinson
Consumer Member
Secretary/ Treasurer**

Updated Sanctions: From May 9, 2009 through April 9, 2010 *

NAME	STATUS
Sabrina W. Adams, LCSW-C License No: 07640	Consent Order dated 9/11/2009. Licensee reprimanded and fined for failing to comply with continuing education requirements for license renewal.
Dewsill Denise James, LGSW License No: G11553	Consent Order dated 9/11/2009. Licensee reprimanded and fined for practicing social work without a license.
Joseph Robert James, LCSW-C License No: 02478	Letter of Surrender dated 3/12/2010 for allegations of professional misconduct. Surrender of license effective 7/1/2010.
Yin Kam Leung, LSWA License No: A04867	Consent Order dated 9/11/2009. Licensee reprimanded and fined for practicing social work without a license.
Holly McAllister, LGSW License No: G12627	Consent Order dated 12/11/2009. Licensee reprimanded and fined for failing to comply with continuing education requirements for license renewal.
James Dewitt Sloan, Jr., LGSW License No: G06292	Consent Order dated 9/11/2009. Licensee reprimanded and fined for practicing social work without a license.
Donny Wendell Smith, LCSW-C License No: 08197	Order of Reinstatement dated 4/9/2010. Licensee placed on probation for 1 year with conditions.
Michelle Stone, LCSW-C License No: 05528	Consent Order dated 1/8/2010. Licensee reprimanded and fined for practicing social work without a license.
David Charles Williams LCSW-C License No: 09559	Order of Revocation dated 2/24/2010 for misconduct, incompetence and unprofessional behavior.

Child Custody Complaints

During the past several years the Board has received a number of child custody complaints against social workers either performing court ordered evaluations or providing treatment as a result of the evaluations. The complainant is in most cases the non-custodial parent and the complaints center on the social worker showing bias during the evaluation or not including the non-custodial parent in the treatment of the child. While the Board does not believe it should become involved in personality disputes or treatment issues, it does believe that social work practice dealing with the children of divorced or separated parents should involve some practice protocols.

In cases of custody evaluations, social workers should remain unbiased and stay within the instructions or guidelines given by the court.

In cases of treatment after the divorce, it is essential that the social worker request a copy of the court orders granting the divorce and establishing custody of the child. The order should state everything upon which the parties have agreed regarding the rights and duties of the parents in the custody of the child. This information should be obtained at the first appointment. This is a standard of practice that the Board expects its licensees to maintain.

New CONTINUING EDUCATION REGULATIONS

On March 22, 2010 the Board's new CEU regulations became effective. The new regulations will affect the October 31, 2010 renewal period. To see if they affect you and your license renewal, go to <http://www.dhmdh.md.gov/bswe/>

The list below gives an overview of the major changes.

1. The number of required CEU's for LGSW, LCSW and LCSW-C's remains at 40 (at least 20 of which must be in Category I). However, the total has been reduced to 30 for LSWA's (at least 15 of which must be in Category I).
2. Category I trainings (including Ethics) can now be taken in 1.0 hour increments
3. The maximum allowable Category II online credits have increased from 10 to 20 (from 10 to 15 for LSWA's)
4. Sign language and a foreign language course taken to enhance client services are now eligible for up to 6 CEU's in Category I
5. The number of Category I credits obtainable from taking an academic course has been reduced from 15 per academic credit to 5 per academic credit
6. The number of Category I credits for an audited academic course has been reduced from number of hours of class instruction to 3 CEUs per 1 academic credit.

Requests for extensions of time to satisfy the CEU requirements must now be received no later than August 31. To request an extension, a licensee must submit a renewal application, renewal fee, a written request and supporting documentation. An extension may be granted if the licensee attempted to meet the CEU requirements but failed to because of a functional impairment; prolonged illness; mandatory military service or deployment; prolonged absence from the United States; financial hardship. The Board will review each request and may or may not grant an extension. If granted, a six month conditional license will be issued. Licensees will have six months to meet their CEU requirements.

If a licensee's CEU requirements are not satisfied at the time of license renewal in October, and if a request for an extension of time to obtain the CEU credits has not been received by August 31st, then the license will be non-renewed. Licensees then risk practicing social work without a license and will need to apply for reinstatement.

The Board would like to thank the social work associations, the various educational institutions, and the individual licensees who provided input and comments that helped the Board craft these new regulations.

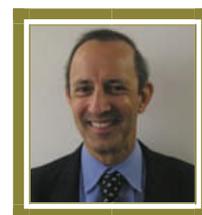
New Look

By the time you read this, the Board may already have its *new look* website up and running. In an effort to enhance its ability to communicate with our licensees and to provide more information and services to the public, the Board has upgraded its website. The new site offers more links and a more graphic interface. The upgrade is in response to your comments given in the survey we sent out last spring. Please check out our site <http://www.dhmdh.md.gov/bswe/>



Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C

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Geoffrey Greif, DSW, LCSW-C
 Educational Member



Judy Levy, LCSW-C

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 ★ *Membership* ★
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 ★ *Board of* ★
 ★ *Social Work* ★
 ★ *Examiners.* ★
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Harriet Mandell, LCSW-C

Board Members and their Terms

Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C
Board Chair
 07/01/2006- 06/30/2010

Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C
Board Member
 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2013

Thomas Smith, LSWA
Board Member
 07/01/2007- 06/30/2010

Daniel L. Buccino, LCSW-C, BCD
Vice Chair
 07/01/2008- 06/30/2012

Geoffrey Greif, DSW, LCSW-C
Educational Member
 10/01/2008- 06/30/2012

Loretta Wall, LCSW-C
Board Member
 07/01/2007- 06/30/2011

Trinita Robinson
Consumer Member (Secretary/Treasurer)
 07/01/2009 - 06/30/2013

Judy Levy, LCSW-C
Board Member
 07/01/2007 - 06/30/2011

Lillye Wells
Consumer Member
 07/01/2008- 06/30/2012

Stephanie Andrews, LCSW-C
Board Member
 05/01/2009- 06/30/2013

A. Denise Peak, LGSW
Board Member
 07/01/2008 - 06/30/2012

Harriet Mandell, LCSW-C
Board Member
 07/01/2009- 06/30/2013

New Board Member

Harriet Mandell, LCSW-C

Harriet joined the Board in July 2009. She has a Bachelor of Arts degree from Goucher College and a Master of Social Work degree from the University of Maryland. Harriet brings both clinical and managerial experience to the Board. Currently she is employed by the University of Maryland Medical School as the Director of Practice Operations at University Family Medicine. She resides in Baltimore City.

Supervision

PLEASE BE REMINDED: All social work supervisors must be qualified to supervise a licensed social worker in the practice of social work.

In general, the qualifications are as follows:

- 1) **License:** Shall hold an active Maryland Certified Social Worker (LCSW) license ; or Maryland Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C) license.
- 2) **Training:** Shall have completed a) one social work graduate course in supervision from a master's degree program accredited by the Council on Social Work Education; OR b) 12 hours of agency-sponsored supervision training; OR c) 12 credit hours of continuing education in social work supervision by a Board-authorized sponsor.
- 3) **Experience:** Shall have completed 18 months of active social work experience after obtaining an LCSW or LCSW-C.

(continued on page 7)

2010 Legislation

During the 2010 session the Maryland General Assembly passed two pieces of legislation that affect the Board.

House Bill 927 – This bill alters the requirements for an out-of-state applicant seeking a LCSW or LCSW-C license. Applicants that are licensed to practice social work in another state at the LCSW or LCSW-C level and have passed an examination in that state as a condition of licensure and have performed at least 1,000 hours of compensated social work per year for 5 out of the 10 years preceding may be licensed in Maryland.

HB 927 was in response to 2009 legislation (HB510/SB628) requiring the Board to establish a workgroup to examine issues affecting the status of clinical social workers in the workforce and to submit recommendation to the General Assembly before January 1, 2010. The Legislature had concerns that many highly-qualified employment candidates, experienced licensed social workers from other states, were lost because of certain barriers in the Board’s statutes and regulations.

The workgroup was comprised of three Board members, Board staff, and prominent stakeholders from the social work and mental health communities.

Representatives from the National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter, the Community Behavioral Health Association, Department of Human Resources, University of Maryland Medical Systems, Maryland Society for Clinical Social Work, The Center for Children, and the Maryland Society for Social Work Leaders in Health Care participated in the workgroup.

This legislation addresses the clinical workforce crisis by balancing the need of Maryland health care employers to recruit highly qualified clinical social workers with advanced licensure from other states and BSWE’s mission to protect the public in its licensing and regulation of social work practice in Maryland. This change is effective October 1, 2010.

House Bill 114 – This bill set standardized guidelines for all health occupation boards regarding the disciplinary process and sanctioning of licensees. The bill also requires the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to establish goals for the timeliness of complaint resolution.

This legislation is a result the Task Force on the Discipline of Health Care Professionals and Improved Patient Care. The task force submitted 24 recommendations and this bill includes many of the task force’s statutory recommendations. These changes are effective July 1, 2010.



Stephanie Andrews, LCSW-C

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Thomas Smith, LSWA

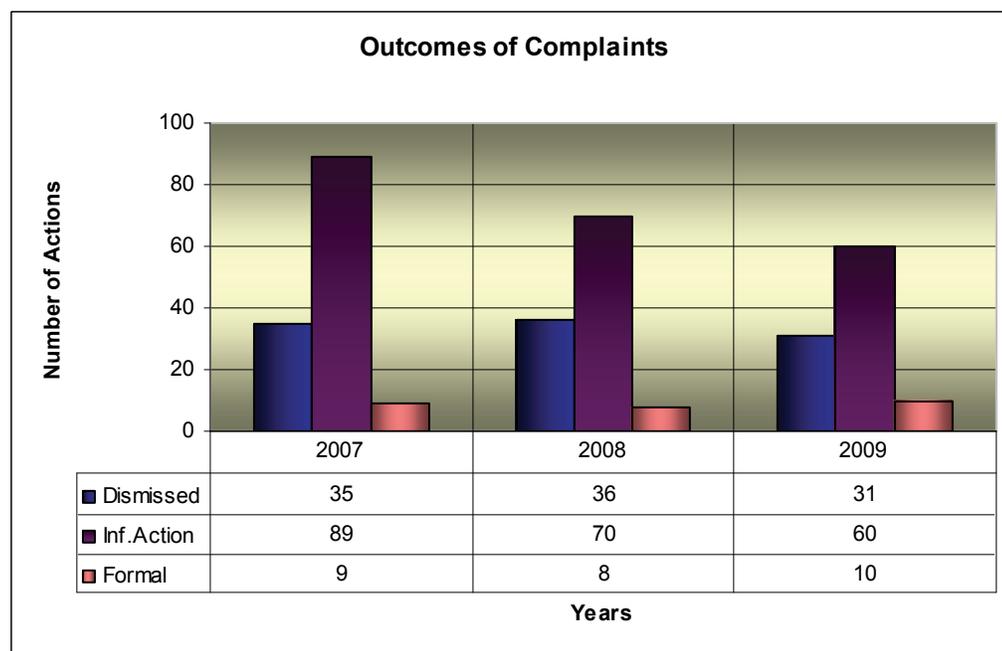
Outcomes of Complaints

The second chart shows, by category, the outcome of the complaints. Many complaints are dismissed without a formal investigation if there is no evidence of a violation. Other complaints are resolved through informal Board action. A Letter of Education, for example, is intended to advise the licensee about “best practice” issues, while a Letter of Admonishment is typically used for minor violations of the Board’s statute or regulations that do not result in patient harm. Both types of letters are non-public documents that remain in the licensee’s file but may not be disclosed to the public without the express consent of the licensee. A Pre-Charge Consent Order, typically offered to licensees who practice without an active license or fail the CEU audit in lieu of formal charges, includes a public Reprimand and a fine of up to \$1500. The Reprimand is part of the licensee’s permanent record and, as a formal disciplinary action, is reportable to anyone who files a request.



A. Denise Peak, LGSW

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All social work supervisors must be qualified to supervise a licensed social worker in the practice of social work.
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Supervision (Continued from page 4)

To supervise an LGSW for advanced licensure the LCSW or LCSW-C supervisor must meet the following additional qualifications:

- 4) Have filed with the Board the supervisory registration form;
- 5) Have a license that is unencumbered and without restrictions or conditions due to the disciplinary action for the 5 years preceding supervisor status;
- 6) Have been approved as a supervisor by the Board; and
- 7) Have established prior to the initiation of supervision and maintained a written contract for advanced licensure to provide supervision with the supervisee.

For questions: Please contact

Anne E. Walker, LCSW-C Staff Social Worker 410-764-5963 or walkera@dhhm.state.md.us

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