

Make a difference!

SPRING 2016

BSWE Newsletter

BSWE Spring 2016 Newsletter



Colleagues,

Welcome to the flowers, sunshine and warming breezes of Spring. Apart from the January blizzard, we had a relatively mild winter. In this edition of the BSWE newsletter, I want to welcome our latest Board member and say thank you to those members who have completed two full terms and will be stepping down after our June 2016 meeting. Recent newcomer to the Board is Jerry Farrell who has made solid contributions to our work. With a bit of sadness that comes with planned goodbyes, I want to recognize the honor that is due to Denise Peak and Loretta Wall. Their innumerable contributions have been considerable and their experience and wisdom will be greatly missed. Yet, we wish them well with the knowledge that they will continue to make solid contributions to the practice of social work in Maryland.

Since the Board's primary purpose is to protect the public, I want to take this opportunity to share the kinds of disciplinary issues we have dealt with this year. It is my hope that our readers will practice more diligently if you have knowledge about what kind of activities lead to disciplinary action for some licensees.

Since 2015, the BSWE has received valid multiple complaints about:

- Clinical supervisors who are not BSWE approved as required creating hardship for licensed graduates who are working toward Advanced licensure. Accordingly, the Board decided that this type of action will result in sanctions and possibly substantial fines,
- Inadequate or no documentation,
- Impaired social workers,
- Violent social workers,
- Social workers in possession of child pornography,
- Violations of confidentiality,
- Financial and sexual boundary violations,
- Treating children without full parental consent,

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- Overly subjective custody evaluations, and
- Insurance fraud.

In every instance, the Board and staff are diligent and mindful of the licensee's right for due process. One may read about specific violations on the BSWE website under Public Orders for more information.

I would also like to mention the sometimes overlooked component of social work practice in Maryland. One area for potential future planning for licensees, especially those social workers in a private practice, is to identify for clients who will take care of your practice related records should you, the licensee, become disabled or die. The BSWE Code of Ethics requires such planning to avoid harm to the client.

My final contribution to this edition is a discussion about social worker safety. It seems that we are practicing in a more dangerous world where we sometimes find ourselves on the front lines. As a licensee who has practiced in the mental health field for 36 years, I want to encourage each licensee to be aware of external surroundings where you work. The Syracuse University School of Social Work has an excellent document titled, "[Social Worker Safety Tips](http://dhmh.maryland.gov/bswe/Documents/Tips/safetytips.pdf)" (link: <http://dhmh.maryland.gov/bswe/Documents/Tips/safetytips.pdf>).

I wanted to share the Office Visit Safety Tips:

- Plan an emergency escape route
- Beware of how to gain help including 911 - can 911 be called directly or must another number be called first
- Arrange furniture in office to prevent entrapment (sit where you have quickest access to the doorway)
- Avoid working alone in office after regular working hours, notify someone you are working late and keep all exterior doors locked
- Avoid seeing clients alone after hours
- Have co-worker attend meeting when interviewing possibly threatening clients or if you feel your personal safety might be threatened
- Keep desk and office clear of objects that could be used as a weapon (stapler, letter opener, 3 hole punch tools, paper weights, glass bottles, glass framed pictures, etc.)
- Keep your automobile locked at all times

I wish everyone a pleasant spring and fun summer.

Mark Lannon, LCSW-C,



**MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK
VISIT TO BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS – MARCH 11, 2016**

By Thelma Rich, LCSW, Board Member

Morgan State University's School of Social Work students' visit to the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) on Friday, March 11, 2016, marked another historic learning opportunity at the Open Session of the BSWE for both undergraduate and graduate students. Our Dean, Dr. Anna McPhatter, faculty and program administrators consistently inform them about the value and the importance of professional licensure on all levels. Our students are committed to being prepared urban social work practitioners and leaders for the 21st century.

Following are some of their observations in quotes:

BSW Student: "Visiting the BSWE was an amazing learning experience. Students were able to network, receive essential licensure information, and observe what issues and work the Board has to handle."

BSW Student: "The elements of the meeting I found most interesting were the topics of licensure, the experience requirements, the passing rates for ASWB examinations, how the Board works, and how to access the Board's many resources."

BSW Student: "It was also stated that as social workers, we affect lives every day over the course of time. Not only do I think this message was crucial for me but also for all students."

MSW Student: "It was inspiring to see our faculty represented."

MSW Student: "My eyes were finally opened to realize we must be licensed to serve the public in an expert, professional manner."

MSW Student: "It was a great visit that enabled me to see professionals at work to protect the public and the profession."

Feedback from our students indicates overwhelmingly that this is a needed yearly semester learning experience. We appreciate Prof. Thelma Rich, Director of Field Education, Professor Johanna Cottman, Assistant Director of Field Education and Professor Loretta Wall for this effort of professional growth and development.

BSWE BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

The Board of Social Work Examiners is in the process of recruiting for two Board Member vacancies. The following seats are open for nominations:

- One LGSW seat
- One LCSW seat



The individuals appointed will be required to attend one Board Meeting a month, participate in one or more Board Committees, and participate in disciplinary hearings or committees. Please note that serving on the Board requires the commitment of non-meeting time for review of case and investigative materials, reports, as well as pertinent information for upcoming meetings.

For further information including the application instructions and forms, please visit the Board's website at www.dhmh.maryland.gov/bswe and click on the Board Membership Information tab in the left column.

Deadline for submission May 31, 2016

NEW CONSUMER BOARD MEMBER



The newest Board member appointed by Governor Larry Hogan is Captain Gerard M. Farrell (Ret.) from Annapolis, Maryland. A graduate of the United States Naval Academy, Captain Farrell had a career as operating executive or commanding officer on a number of ships including the USS Princeton. In 1995, he was appointed Deputy Commandant of Midshipmen at the U.S. Naval Academy. In 2000, he became Deputy Program Manager, Northrop Grumman Corporation, and later appointed Executive Director, Commissioned Officers Association, U.S. Public Health Service. We are pleased that Captain Farrell has joined the Maryland Board of Social work Examiners.

POST RENEWAL CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS AUDIT UPDATE

April 2016

The Board randomly selected 700 active licensees for the Continuing Education Units (CEUs) audit for the period November 1, 2013 – October 31, 2015. As you may be aware, the Board has an agreement with the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) whereby they contact the selected licensees, review the CEUs submission, and determine whether or not the licensee meets all the requirements per current regulations. If it is determined that the licensee does not meet the requirements, this information is forwarded to the Board for further review and follow up. The 2015 Audit findings from ASWB are:

- Percentage of Licensees that met all requirements: 93 %
- Percentage of Licensees that did not meet all requirements: 7 %

****NOTE:** It is important to retain your CEU certificates and documentation obtained from the trainings, workshops, on-line courses, webinars, conferences, etc. attended.

FYI - BOARD AUTHORIZED SPONSORS QUESTIONNAIRE

The Board of Social Work Examiners is in the process of updating its Board Authorized Continuing Education Sponsors Database. Our goal is to ensure that the sponsor information listed on the Board's website, posted on the CEU webpage, is accurate and up-to-date. The first step was to contact each Board Authorized Sponsor to update its contact information and website address. Once this information is compiled, the List of Authorized Sponsors will be updated to reflect the data collected in the Questionnaires. An email group will be set up so that the Board will be able to provide information as needed to the Sponsors.



The second step will require a new questionnaire to be emailed to the Sponsors outlining additional questions around continuing education activities that were offered and planned learning activities in the future.

FILM AND DISCUSSION CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITY

Effective January 1, 2017, a film with discussion program offered by Board Authorized and Automatically Authorized Sponsors will no longer be approved for Category I CEUs. This activity may be eligible for Category II CEUs.

This continuing education activity must be designed with a course outline and learning objectives. The film discussion must be interactive, based on the learning objectives for the training, and it must enhance social work practice and improve the licensee's professional skills and knowledge. The target audience should be social workers and other professionals.

FORMS— Petition for Emergency Evaluation Certification by Peace Officer, Physician, or Qualified Persons

Do you have access to the current Petition for Emergency Evaluation form or the Certification by Peace Officer form? If not, they can be obtained online at

<http://www.courts.state.md.us/district/dctcivforms.html> .

The form # are CC –DC-013— Petition for Emergency Evaluation

CC-DC—014— Certification by Peace Officer, Physician, or Qualified Persons

Special thanks to Ms. Lindsay Shawley, LCSW-C, Outpatient Team Leader, The Mental Health Center of Western Maryland, Inc. for bringing this matter to our attention.

NEW BSWE WEBSITE

MD Board of Social Work
Examiners »

[Purpose of the Board of Social Work Examiners](#)



The Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board) has redesigned its website in accordance with the Maryland Department of Information Technology standardized guidelines. The website has been designed to be viewed across all devices with ease. The updated site is more user friendly with all links into the Board's pages on either side of the homepage screen. The Board welcomes comments and feedback on the newly redesigned website.

DOES YOUR LICENSE EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 31, 2016?

Avoid anxiety and stress at renewal time by reviewing your documentation for continuing education **NOW**. A licensee renewing by October 31, 2016 will need 40 (30 for LBSW) credit units to renew her/his license. Pull out your continuing education documentation and use the [Continuing Education Report Form](#) provided on the Board's web site to keep track of your trainings. **If you have not obtained 40 (30 for LBSW) credit units since November 1, 2014, you still have time.**

A license renewal reminder notice will be mailed by July 8, 2016.

2016 online license renewals begin on July 15, 2016.

Reminders:

- On or after November 1, 2016, a licensee shall not practice social work in Maryland if she/he did not renew her/his license. There is no "Grace Period".
- Social Workers who were issued a new license between January 2014 and October 2014 can use continuing education credits earned from the date the license was issued. This "extra time" only applies to new licensees.
- The 3 Category I credit units required in Ethics cannot be obtained through a home study or on-line program.
- Before calling the Board with a question on continuing education, please read COMAR 10.42.06, Continuing Education Requirements. In addition, there is continuing education information on the Board's website, www.dhmh.maryland.gov/bswe/



Please note that approximately 6,800 Maryland social work licenses will need to be renewed by October 31, 2016.

Notification of Change in Name or Street Address or Email

It is the responsibility of a licensee to notify the Board of Social Work Examiners (the Board) promptly of any change in contact information. For a change in name, please mail or fax (410-358-2469) a copy of legal documentation to the Board.

For a change in address, postal and / or email, please use the form on the Board's website. The Board's newsletter and various notifications are sent to licensees using the email address.

REMINDERS

Per THE ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARDS' website:

“The Association of Social Work Boards' Approved Continuing Education (ACE) program identifies and recognizes high-quality continuing education providers that can deliver quality programs in many topics, through in-person or distance learning settings.”

For more information, click on <http://www.aswb.org/ace>

Sponsors

If you have a concern around an approved sponsor and/or the trainings or activities you have taken, please contact the approved sponsor directly. If you would like to speak with a staff member, please contact:

Deborah A. Evans, CEU Coordinator at deborah.evans@maryland.gov

Discipline

Public Orders (formal disciplinary actions) from 2005 – present may be viewed on the Board's website: www.dhmf.maryland.gov/bswe . The link to the Public Orders is on the right menu.

Supervision

The Board can only accept hours of social work experience & social work supervision for advanced licensure if:

- ⇒ The LCSW or LCSW-C supervisor is Board approved and
- ⇒ The contract for supervision was initiated before supervision began

Official Address of Record

The mailing address provided to the Board is the official address of record and is considered part of a public record.

Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue, Room 318,
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Phone: 410-764-4788
Toll Free — 1-877-526-2541
TDD: 1-800-526-2541
Fax — 410-358-2469