

Summer 2009



Bulletin of BSWE



*Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C
Board Chair*

- ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
- ★ **Special points** ★
- ★ **of interest:** ★
- ★ • **Continuing** ★
- ★ **Education** ★
- ★ • **Report child** ★
- ★ **Abuse** ★
- ★ • **CEU Extensions** ★
- ★ • **Licensing** ★
- ★ **Examination** ★
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Greetings,

The Maryland General Assembly just completed the 2009 session; I want to report on legislation that will affect social work licensing.

Senate Bill 628/House Bill 510: require the Board, when reviewing an application for licensure to practice social work, to notify each applicant of whether the applicant has been approved to take the licensure examination within 60 days after the application is submitted. In addition, it requires the Board to establish a workgroup of interested stakeholders to examine and make recommendations to the General Assembly regarding the substance of licensure and the process by which licenses are issued. The Board has already begun taking steps to implement these Bills and will keep licensees informed of our progress.

Board Highlights

Membership

In May 2009, Stephanie Andrews joined the BSWE. She is the Department of Human Resources' appointee. We welcome Stephanie and look forward to her participation and contributions.

Customer Satisfaction Survey

The Board is seeking methods by which it can better communicate with its licensees and the citizens of Maryland. A Customer Satisfaction Survey to solicit feedback and concerns from interested parties will be available soon on the Board's website.

Renewal of License

In August 2009, the Board staff will notify approximately 6,000 licensees of their pending renewal. A few reminders.....

It is the licensee's responsibility to:

- Ensure that the Board has your current mailing / email address.
- Complete a minimum of 40 Continuing Education Units (CEU) with at least three category I hours in ethics.
- Request an extension of time to complete the CEU requirements in writing before October 1 of the renewal year, if necessary.

It is a violation to practice social work on a lapsed license. Violators are subjected to disciplinary actions by the Board.

Issues related to renewal can be avoided if social workers READ, READ and RE-READ the regulations governing renewal of license and the continuing education requirements. The regulations are readily accessible at the Board's website: www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/

Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C
Chair, BSWE

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 January 1, 2009 through May 8, 2009 *

NAME	STATUS
LaChandra Colbert, LGSW G10593	License reinstated administratively on 10/24/2008. Order of Reinstatement issued 03/13/2009
Arthur Makhholm, Jr. LCSW-C 03387	Licensee reprimanded and fined by Consent Order dated 02/13/2009
Priyanthi Marzorati G11164	Letter of Surrender effective 05/08/2009
Shirley Singer, LGSW G07430	Order Lifting Suspension effective 02/13/2009. Licensee on probation for 1 year with conditions.
Joy Smith, LCSW-C 12812	Licensee reprimanded and fined by Consent Order dated 02/13/2009
Patricia Tenanty, LCSW-C 01355	Order Lifting Probation effective 02/13/2009. License reinstated without restrictions or conditions.
Tamberlee Williams, LGSW G07472	Order Lifting Probation effective 02/13/2009. License reinstated without restrictions or conditions.

Report Child Abuse: When to Report

Maryland Law requires social workers and other professionals, notwithstanding any other provisions of the law including any law on privileged communication, to report suspected child abuse to local law enforcement or the local Department of Social Services. Cases of suspected neglect must be reported to the local Department of Social Services. The purpose of this law is to protect children who have been subject to abuse or neglect by mandating the reporting of any suspected abuse or neglect and to protect the social worker by giving immunity to any individual who reports, in good faith, a suspected incident of abuse or neglect. The reporting requirement covers children who live in this State, regardless of where the suspected abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred.

If the suspected abuse or neglect is alleged to have occurred outside of this State, the social workers would report the incident to local law enforcement or the local Department of Social Services. It would be the responsibility of local law enforcement or the local Department of Social Services to report the incident to the appropriate out-of-state authorities. There is no requirement in the law that obligates the social worker to conduct an investigation to obtain "proof" before reporting the suspected abuse or neglect.

The law does not provide for a statute of limitation on reporting child abuse. Failure of a social worker to report suspected child abuse or neglect is also a violation under the Social Work Practice Act and subjects a licensee to potential discipline against his/her license. Go to www.mlis.state.md.us to read the relevant statutes.

Profiles

The National Association of Social Workers (NASW) as part of its National Social Work Public Education Campaign created a website to educate prospective social workers about the scope and vitality of the profession. The "One Profession. Countless Possibilities" can be found at www.50ways.socialworkblog.org.

Three Marylanders were selected to represent the field: Senator Barbara Mikulski, Judith Schagrin, LCSW-C, and the Board's Vice-chair Daniel Buccino, LCSW-C. Go to the website and read what these three have to say about their profession.

Licensing Examination: Maryland VS North America

Each year the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) sends the Board a report on the pass/fail rates for Maryland and the other member jurisdictions. ASWB advises that the best indication of a true pass rate for a jurisdiction is the first-time rate rather than the total group. ASWB also cautions the percentages of pass/fail are most representative on groups of candidates over 200 and are not representative of groups with less than 100 candidates. The only category that was not representative for Maryland was the Advanced Generalist with only 35 candidates taking the exam. In 2008, 1,480 Marylanders took the licensing exam of which 776 passed. Overall 30,767 candidates took the ASWB licensing exam with 18,727 successfully passing the exam.

License Levels	Exam Category	Maryland	North America
Bachelors	First-time	77.8%	77.03%
	Repeat	25.0%	28.7%
	Total	62.8%	67.4%
Masters	First-time	72.4%	74.0%
	Repeat	17.9%	21.0%
	Total	52.3%	57.6%
Advance Generalist	First-time	43.8%	58.3%
	Repeat	21.1%	17.6%
	Total	31.4%	46.5%
Clinical	First-time	76.8%	75.9%
	Repeat	20.0%	31.1%
	Total	51.8%	62.6%

Continuing Education

The Board is in the process of revising its continuing education requirements. Since the CEU requirements are part of the Board's regulations any changes must go through the State's regulatory review process. Part of this process requires the Board to publish the proposed changes in the Maryland Register and elicit public comments. The proposed changes will be published in the July 6, 2009 issue. At that time the proposed changes will be posted on our website.

If you would like to comment, please send your written comments to:
 Ms. Michele Phinney,
 Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
 201 W. Preston Street, Baltimore, MD 21201



Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
The Board is in the process of revising its continuing education requirements ... The changes will be published in the Maryland Register on July 6, 2009.
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Geoffrey Greif, DSW, LCSW-C
 Educational Member



Judy Levy, LCSW-C

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 ★ *Membership* ★
 ★ *requirements* ★
 ★ *for the* ★
 ★ *Maryland* ★
 ★ *Board of* ★
 ★ *Social Work* ★
 ★ *Examiners.* ★
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Board Members and their Terms

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

Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C
Board Member
 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2009

Thomas Smith, LSWA
Board Member
 07/01/2006- 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)
 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2009

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

Board Memberships

To become a member of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners:
 Requirements:

- Must be a resident of the State of Maryland
- Must be licensed in the State of Maryland

Except for the Licensed Social Worker Associate (LSWA) or Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW), an applicant must have been licensed in the State for five years immediately preceding the appointment and actively employed in the field of social work for at least three of the five years immediately preceding the appointment. Applicants may be licensed at any level for these positions (LSWA, LGSW, LCSW, LCSW-C).

If interested please contact :

Anna Lieberman at the Dept of Health and Mental Hygiene,
 Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations,
 Room 519A, 201 W. Preston Street,
 Baltimore, MD 21201
 Telephone:410-767-4049, Fax 410-333-7687,
 Email: alieberman@dhmh.state.md.us

New Board Member

Stephanie Andrews, LCSW-C

Stephanie joined the Board in May 2009 as a member representing the Department of Human Resources. Stephanie earned her Master of Social Work degree at the University of Maryland. Currently, she is a Social Work Supervisor with Child Protective Services, Washington County Department of Social Services.



A. Denise Peak, LGSW

Customer Service Evaluation

The Board would like to hear from you. We would appreciate your participation in a short evaluation. The Board of Social Work Examiners is constantly looking for ways in which we can provide the most useful services to social work licensees, applicants, and the general public. Sometimes we may make a change in our procedures which seems to us to be an improvement but appears to the customer to be an annoyance. Sometimes a relatively minor issue that can easily be resolved, if we know about it, becomes a major frustration to those people affected by it. For example, the continuing education section of our

new online license renewal process has been a major frustration to some applicants. This section of the process has been rewritten for the next renewal cycle and hopefully will reduce the amount of frustration. We recently implemented a telephone tree in order to direct calls to the appropriate staff member but sometimes a caller gets routed to the voice mail box and cannot seem to get a live response. Of course we cannot eliminate all frustration when it comes to the licensing process. We also continually have to deal with rewrites of our statute, by the legislature and updates of our regulations in order to simplify the rules and procedures for licensees and applicants,

while still serving the public by ensuring that the State of Maryland’s licensed social workers are fully qualified. Keep in mind that this is an evaluation of the Board’s services and your responses will be used to improve our services in the future. If you received this Newsletter via email, please click on www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe and select “Customer Services Evaluation” or if you are reading the hard copy of the Newsletter please go to www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe and select “Customer Services Evaluation.”

Record that Record

The Board’s regulation requires that licensees maintain documentation in a client’s record. The notes or entries must be legible. Information in the record must accurately reflect the services provided to include treatment plans, treatment goals, and progress notes. The times and dates of services must also be noted. The client’s privacy can be protected by including only information directly relevant to the delivery of services.

In addition, the records must be “reasonably accessible for the period required by law, after termination of service.” Under the State’s Health-General Article, a health care provider, unless a patient is notified, must keep, except in the case of a minor patient, medical records, laboratory or x-ray reports for five years after the record or report is made. In the case of a minor patient, a medical record, laboratory or x-ray reports may not be destroyed until the patient attains the age of majority plus three years or for five years after the record or report is made, unless the parent or guardian of the minor is notified.



Stephanie Andrews, LCSW-C

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★ *The Board* ★
★ *would like to* ★
★ *hear from* ★
★ *you. We* ★
★ *would* ★
★ *appreciate* ★
★ *your* ★
★ *participation* ★
★ *in a short,* ★
★ *simple* ★
★ *evaluation.* ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Thomas Smith, LSWA



Loretta Wall, LCSW-C

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 ★ You may only ★
 ★ renew on-line ★
 ★ between ★
 ★ August 15, ★
 ★ 2009 and ★
 ★ October 31, ★
 ★ 2009. ★
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Lillye Wells
Consumer Member

License Renewals

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners will again offer Online Renewal system in the fall of 2009. Therefore, the social workers who will be eligible to renew in 2009 will receive a renewal notice with instructions from the Board in July/August. You will then be able to go to the Board's website, at www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/ and log on to Renew Online.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please be advised that this will be your only renewal notice.
You may only renew on-line between August 15, 2009 and October 31, 2009.

Before you begin, you will need the following:

1. Your Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners license number and Social Security number.
2. Your Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners CEU records to be listed for submission.
3. Internet access.
4. Your Visa or MasterCard. Your checkbook or money order, if mailing in payment.
5. A printer, to print a copy of your application and Invoice or Receipt.

To Renew Online:

1. Go to the Board's website at www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/
2. Click **RENEWALS**.
3. Read the instructions and click **ONLINE RENEWALS** to proceed to the Logon Screen.
4. From the dropdown menu: Select a License Type.
5. Enter your Logon ID (Your Board of Social Work Examiners License Number -5 digits- without the A or G prefix for the Associate and Graduate levels)
6. Enter your password (The last four digits of your Social Security Number)
7. Fill in the information as requested; note that some areas may already be completed.
8. Preview your application and then click **AFFIRM AND MAKE PAYMENT**. Note that once submitted the application cannot be changed. Print and maintain a copy of your application.
9. Prior to selecting a method of payment, you must certify that all information in the application is accurate and correct.

Payment Methods:

1. Select Visa or MasterCard credit card payment. Only click once to confirm payment. Applications will be processed within 1-2 business days. This system does not accept American Express or Discover.

OR

2. Select **PAYMENT BY MAIL** to mail in your check or money order to the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners address, Attn. Licensing Unit. Your license will not be processed until payment is received. The Board must receive payment on or before October 31st.

If you are unable to complete your application online for any reason, please download and print the renewal form from the Board's website at www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What paperwork will I send in?

When you renew online, no paperwork is required. You will attest electronically that you have completed your continuing education (CEU) requirement.

What if I do not have access to the internet?

In July/August, you will receive instructions regarding the renewal process. The instructions on how to request a paper renewal application will be in the letter.

Will there be an audit?

Yes. After the renewal is over, the Board will conduct an audit. Those randomly selected for audit will be required to submit certificates of completion of CE, along with brochures, agendas or outlines.

Is it secure?

Yes. The Board's website uses the same security as your banking institution.

Supervision

The regulations on supervision became effective July 1, 2004 and were revised December 17, 2007. The months since 2004 have been a major learning curve as social workers learn the regulations and how they affect their practice. Since some questions continue to arise on a certain number of topics, we offer this as a refresher as well as a “first -time” primer to those who are new to this!

All LSWA and LGSW social workers must receive at least 3 hours per month of face-to-face supervision from a qualified LCSW or LCSW-C. These hours can be individual or group and can be obtained/provided in a schedule that is workable for all parties. They must be face-to-face supervision hours; therefore, telephonic or electronic is not acceptable.

The LCSW or LCSW-C who is providing supervision must meet the qualifications as set forth in COMAR 10.42.08.04. In addition, those who wish to supervise LGSW social workers for the purposes of advanced licensure must register with the Board to be an approved supervisor.

Supervision must be provided/obtained until an individual attains the LCSW or LCSW-C license. Completion of the requirements to apply for advanced licensure is not a signal to stop supervision, nor passing the required ASWB test. A individual is allowed to practice without supervision when that individual receives his/her advance license from the board.

Supervision session notes must be maintained by both supervisor and supervisee. These notes are **not** the same as case record documentation. Reviewing cases and the specifics of an LGSW’s work with a specific client population/work designation is only **one** part of the supervisory process. However, supervising in the practice of social work should encompass the critical areas of worker strengths and weaknesses, areas of skill, areas in need of further professional development. See COMAR 10.42.08.02(B)(5): “Supervision means a formalized professional relationship between a supervisor and supervisee in which the supervisor directs, monitors, and evaluates the supervisee’s social work practice while promoting development of the supervisee’s knowledge, skills and abilities to provide social work services in an ethical and competent manner.”

Supervision should be about developing the individual’s professionalism. It is important to remember that the supervisory process should always be focused on the provision of quality social work services. One of the ultimate rewards of strong and “healthy” supervisory relationships is the development of the skills and abilities of both the supervisor and supervisee, and the recipient of the excellent growth will always be the clients – whether those clients be individuals, families, communities, or organizations.

CEU Extensions

Each renewal cycle, the Board grants a limited number of extensions to licensees who need an additional six months to complete their continuing education requirements. These extensions are approved only in cases of undue hardship. Extensions are not granted to licensees whose workshops are cancelled or even those who are unemployed. It is expected that all licensees will begin the process of obtaining their CEUs as soon as their new license is issued and will search out the many affordable courses that exist.

If you need an extension and feel you meet the undue hardship criterion, please send a letter detailing your reason for your request as well as documentation (e.g., a physician’s note, military papers) to: Deborah Evans, Compliance Officer, by September 1, 2009.



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 ★ *If you need an* ★
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 ★ *as well as* ★
 ★ *documentation* ★
 ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



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We're on the Web!

<http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/>