

Winter 2008



Special points of interest:

- **Social Work Supervision Reminder**
- **Licensing Exam & Pass/Fail Rates**
- **Change of Address**
- **Board Memberships**

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Bulletin of BSWE



Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C
Board Chair

Greetings,

Recently, I was appointed Chair of the Board of Social Work Examiners. I was initially appointed to the Board in January 2004, filling an unexpired term which ended June 2006. After which, I was reappointed to the Board and will continue serving through 2010. As a social worker with 24 years of experience, including child protective service, domestic violence, mental health, and employee assistance, I feel honored and privileged to serve as Chair for the next two years for this distinguished organization.

We are experiencing very exciting and challenging times for the Board. The Board is busy reviewing complaints, revising regulations, and seeking improved methods to better serve the citizens and licensees of Maryland.

I would like to highlight a few happenings at the Board.

- The Board just completed electronic licensure renewal for the second cycle and approximately three-fourths of the licensees renewed on-line. According to the feedback, the process was user friendly. This is progress. The Board staff has worked diligently to improve the renewal process and will continue to work out any glitches within the system.
- The Board members and staff just completed revising the Continuing Education Regulations. The CE Regulations are at the Department

of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Regulation and Policy Coordination for review and legal sufficiency and will be publicized for comments before they become final. Feedback is encouraged and welcomed.

- The Board is also working diligently to update the statute. We hope to have a draft completed in the spring 2009. Our key stakeholders will have an opportunity to review the statute and make comments before it goes to the Governor's office for inclusion in his legislative package.
- The Board membership has increased from 11 to 12 members. The additional member, Dr. Geoffrey Greif from the University of Maryland, School of Social Work, has been appointed to fill this position and represents academia. We welcome Dr. Greif and look forward to his participation and contributions.

Serving on the Board is an awesome responsibility. The members take this responsibility seriously and stand ready to execute the principles, rules, and regulations governing the profession. Board members are proactive in their approach to ensure that the mission of the Board is executed in a professional, fair and timely manner.

Finally, the Board would like to thank Yvonne Perret for serving as Chair for the past 2 ½ years. The Board, social work licensees, and the citizens of Maryland were well served by Yvonne's leadership. Her continued contributions will be valuable as we move forward into the coming year.

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 Spring 2008 Newsletter through December 31, 2008 *

NAME	STATUS
James Steven Brown, LCSW-C 02568	Probation lifted & license reinstated without conditions effective 04/25/2002
Patricia Ann Caruana, LCSW-C 08427	License Surrendered 09/12/2008
Andrea Nichole Denston, LGSW 13842	Licensee reprimanded. 10/10/2008
Anthony Tyrone Estreet, LGSW 13176	Licensee on Probation 10/12/2007
Sarah Elizabeth Kelly, LCSW-C 12677	License Surrendered 09/12/2008
Lewis Oscar Moon, LCSW-C 05606	Probation lifted & license reinstated without conditions effective 05/09/2008
Melvin Shandler, LCSW-C 00934	License Surrendered 12/12/2008
Michelle L. Sloan, LCSW-C 12864	License Revoked 09/12/2008

Social Work Supervision Reminder *by Thomas Smith, LSWA*

Reminder to LSWAs:

This is a friendly reminder to Licensed Social Work Associates (LSWA). An **LSWA MUST be supervised** by a **qualified social work supervisor** who is licensed at the Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) level or Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C) level . An **LSWA MAY NOT supervise** an individual in the practice of social work. The Board has received complaints involving LSWAs who are not receiving the required social work supervision and are supervising other social workers. The Board is bringing this matter to your attention so that your practice is in accordance with the social work statute and regulations.

Reminder to LGSWs:

A Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW) **MUST be supervised** by a qualified social work supervisor who is licensed at the LCSW or LCSW-C level. An **LGSW MAY NOT supervise** an individual in the practice of social work. The Board is bringing this matter to your attention so that your practice is in accordance with the social work statute and regulations.

Reminder to LCSWs & LCSW-Cs:

A qualified social work supervisor is an individual who is licensed by the Maryland Board at the LCSW or LCSW-C level; has obtained at least 18 months of social work experience after obtaining the LCSW or LCSW-C license; and has met the educational requirement in social work supervision training. **All** LCSW and LCSW-C supervisors must have met these requirements to qualify as social work supervisors. LCSWs or LCSW-Cs wishing to supervise Licensed Graduate Social Workers for advanced licensure must file a registration form with the Board; have a license which is unencumbered and without restrictions or conditions due to discipline for the 5 years

Licensing Exams and Pass/Fail Rates by Yvonne Perret, LCSW-C

Annually, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners receives a report from the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) on the pass/fail rates for the categories of exams for North America as well as for the state. Such pass/fail rates are provided for first-time test-takers as well as for repeat test-takers. ASWB notes that percentages of pass and fail are “most representative on groups of candidates over 200. These percentages are not representative of groups with less than 100 candidates, and generalizations should not be made from rates for these groups.”

Given this caveat, the Board is intrigued that Maryland’s 2007 pass rates are lower than the North American percentages in all test categories. For example, for a Bachelor’s exam, for first-time test takers, the North American percentage is

78.1%; Maryland’s is 70.4%. This would be for the LSWA licensure category. This category does not, for Maryland, have the requisite 200 exam takers to be representative but remains a concern.

For the LGSW license, the Maryland pass rate is 71.6% compared to the North American rate of 73.4%. This pass rate is the most favorable of all the categories. In Maryland, 475 individuals took this test for the first time. Thus, the results are certainly valid. For the LCSW exam, the pass rate for Maryland is 36.4% compared with the North American average of 58.2%. This exam has the lowest number of first-time test-takers of all the exams and also the lowest pass of all of the exams offered, something that ASWB needs to consider.

Lastly, for the LCSW-C exam, an exam that 258 Marylanders

took for the first time, Maryland’s pass rate is 70.9% compared to the North American rate of 73.9%. This clinical exam is the one on which Marylanders score best compared to the North American rate.

All of us who are licensed in Maryland should be concerned about Maryland’s overall lower rate of passage of these licensing exams as compared to the North American average. We need to work together with our academic institutions and supervisors who prepare practitioners for understanding what they need to know to pass these exams so as to improve these rates. After all, passage of these exams is a requirement for licensure. It is a shame that we see a number of Marylanders take these exams over and over and not pass. Let’s work together to do something to improve this situation.



Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C

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 ★ *Maryland’s* ★
 ★ *2007 pass* ★
 ★ *rates are* ★
 ★ *lower than* ★
 ★ *the North* ★
 ★ *American* ★
 ★ *percentages* ★
 ★ *in all test* ★
 ★ *categories...* ★
 ★ *Let’s work* ★
 ★ *together to do* ★
 ★ *something to* ★
 ★ *improve this* ★
 ★ *situation.* ★
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Social Work Supervision Reminder by Thomas Smith, LSWA

(Continued from Page 2)

preceding supervisory status; have been approved as a supervisor by the Board; and have established and maintained a written contract for advanced licensure to provide supervision to the supervisee.

It is the responsibility of all licensed social workers to practice social work in accordance with the social work statute and regulations. Please review the entire chapter on supervision, COMAR 10.42.08, which can be found on the Board’s web site. The staff Social Worker, Anne E. Walker, LCSW-C, can be contacted for any needed clarification. walkera@dohmh.state.md.us or 410-764-5963.



Geoffrey Greif, DSW, LCSW-C
 Educational Member



Judy Levy, LCSW-C

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★
 ★ *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

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

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

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

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

Trinita Robinson
Consumer Member (Secretary/Treasurer)
 07/01/2005 - 06/30/2009

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

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

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

Yvonne M. Perret, LCSW-C
Board Member
 07/01/2007- 06/30/2011

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

Attention

To practice social work in Maryland, you must be licensed by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners. Also, you *must be licensed as a LGSW* to begin to accumulate the hours necessary to qualify for advanced licensure (LCSW & LCSW-C). Hours gained prior to LGSW status will *NOT* be accepted.

Anyone interested in verifying the licensing status of a social worker should check out the Board of Social Work Examiner's website at <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/> or contact the Board office at 410-764-4788.



A. Denise Peak, LGSW

Board Members

A Fond Farewell To:

Philip Newsom, LCSW-C
Phil left the Board in June, 2008. He was the Department of Human Resources representative and he served since August, 2005. Phil retired from state service in June after many years as the Bureau Chief for Child Protective Services in the Prince George's County Department of Social Services. His experience and dry wit will be missed.

Stephanie Sharpe, LGSW
Stephanie left the Board in June, 2008. Stephanie was the Graduate level representative, and she served since March, 2002. She continues to work in a hospital setting and has been appointed to serve as a Board member on the Board of Nursing Home Administrators.

Change of Address

State law provides that licensed health care professionals notify their licensing boards within 60 days of any change of address. Although the reasons for this are obvious, many licensees tend to overlook this responsibility. This causes problems not only for the health occupation boards but also for the licensee. The biggest problem is that the licensee's notice of renewal is not received. This in turn can cause the licensee to have to pay a late renewal fee or in some cases a fine for practicing without a license. It costs the boards money in staff time, repeat mailing and printing. This is a problem for not only the BSWE but all boards. To recoup some of the costs, the boards have instituted a fee for licensees that do not notify the board of a change of address within 60 days. Effective August 25, 2008, the BSWE will charge \$25 to any licensee that fails to notify the board within the required time frame. Since the BSWE, like most of our society, is communicating more and more electronically, it would be a good idea to notify the BSWE if your e-mail address changes. To see all the BSWE fees, go to our website: <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/>

Say Hello To:

Lillye Wells
Lillye joined the Board in June, 2008 as a consumer member. She is a retired educator from Rockingham, North Carolina. She got her Bachelor's in English and History from North Carolina A&T and her Master's from the University of Bridgeport in Connecticut.

Geoffrey Greif, DSW, LCSW-C
Geoffrey joined the Board in October, 2008 as a member representing the social work educational programs. This is a new Board position that was created by the 2008 General Assembly. Geoffrey earned his Bachelor's from Ohio Wesleyan University, his Master's at the University of Pennsylvania, and his Doctorate at the Columbia University School of Social

Work. Currently, Geoffrey is Associate Dean of the Master's program at the University of Maryland School of Social Work.

Denise Peak, LGSW
Denise joined the Board in July, 2008 as a member representing Graduate level licensees. Denise earned her Bachelor's from the University of North Carolina at Wilmington and her Master's from Howard University. She is employed by the Southern Maryland Hospital Subacute Care Center in Clinton, Maryland.



Yvonne M. Perret, LCSW-C

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★
★ *“By law,* ★
★ *licensees are* ★
★ *required to* ★
★ *notify the* ★
★ *Board in* ★
★ *writing of* ★
★ *changes in* ★
★ *address* ★
★ *within 60* ★
★ *days.”* ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



Thomas Smith, LSWA



Loretta Wall, LCSW-C

☆☆☆☆☆
 ☆ *Become a* ☆
 ☆ *Volunteer.* ☆
 ☆ *Join* ☆
 ☆ *Maryland* ☆
 ☆ *Professional* ☆
 ☆ *Volunteer* ☆
 ☆ *Corps* ☆
 ☆☆☆☆☆



Lillye Wells
Consumer Member

Where they are

For the last two renewal cycles, the Board has been capturing some demographics on the licensees. Listed below is a breakdown of social workers by jurisdiction, license category, gender, race and type of employment. The jurisdiction is based on the address of record on file with the Board. The information on employment is given in categories that are used by the Maryland Health Care Commission for all licensed health occupation professionals.

Jurisdiction

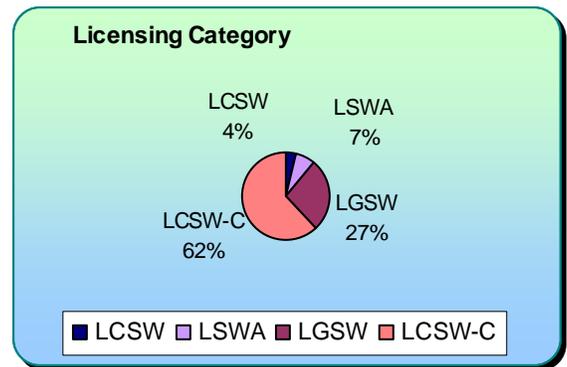
Anne Arundel	783
Allegany	114
Baltimore	1890
Baltimore City	1757
Caroline	42
Cecil	80
Charles	101
Carroll	302
Calvert	101
Dorchester	76
Frederick	350
Garrett	42
Harford	362
Howard	751
Kent	44
Montgomery	2267
Prince George's	855
Queen Anne's	47
St. Mary's	66
Somerset	36
Talbot	95
Washington	187
Wicomico	227
Worcester	75
Out of State	1445

Employment Type

Solo	1266
Single Specialty	914
Multiple Specialty	964
HMO	105
Hospital	1338
Non-acute Care	603
Other Facility	2689
Substitute	67
Contractual	340
Volunteer	39
Unaccounted/no data	3769

Licensing Category

Associates (LSWA)	885
Graduates (LGSW)	3265
Certified (LCSW)	427
Certified- Clinical (LCSW-C)	7527



Gender

	Female	Male
Associates (LSWA)	803	82
Graduates (LGSW)	2870	395
Certified (LCSW)	339	88
Certified- Clinical (LCSW-C)	6402	1125

Race

White	7231
African American	1945
American Indian / Alaska Native	19
Asian	121
Hispanic	130
Other	2658

Funding the Needs

Background

The Health Professionals Boards and Commissions (“the Boards”) program consists of eighteen (18) regulatory boards and one (1) regulatory commission. The Boards are responsible for licensing health care professionals or organizations, setting standards of care, monitoring continuing education requirements, investigating/handling complaints and ensuring compliance of orders involving health care professionals. The Commission on Kidney Disease sets physical and medical standards for kidney dialysis and transplant facilities.

As a result of Senate Bill 655 (1992), most of the Boards became Special Funded. All revenues (fees) collected go directly into each board’s fund and are used exclusively to cover the costs of operating that board. No other State funds may be used to pay for a special-funded board’s operating activities.

The Boards license, certify, or register approximately 235,800 individuals, including the Board of Social Work Examiners (BSWE) with over 12,000 active licensees. The Boards are planning to operate with an aggregate FY 2009 appropriation of \$24 million. Of that amount, the BSWE has an approved budget of \$1.3 million.

Fees and Revenues

The Boards within the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene retain independent responsibility for the administration of their professional practice and associated mandates. This independent authority gives each of the Boards responsibility for their own actions and decisions. However, the Boards must adhere to State budgetary, procurement and personnel rules and regulations.

In calendar year 2008, BSWE was required to increase some of its fees to meet the required revenue needs. The Board is like any other business in that it plans for future needs with current actions. In planning for its fiscal needs, the Board tries to project five years into the future. The five year planning not only helps staff in managing the BSWE’s resources, but it also gives some stability to the licensees’ fees. The last time the BSWE had an increase in fees was 2003. The BSWE used that planning cycle to help set up the on-line renewal process and make upgrades to its website. In the future, the Board will be upgrading its complaint and compliance data base to comply with state and federal reporting requirements.

Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps

The Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps (MPVC) consists of thousands of licensed professionals in health care ready to assist with disaster and emergency recovery during a declared emergency situation. MPVC is a registered Medical Reserve Corps with the National Association of County & City Health Officials.

On September 23, 2008 MPVC held a training and orientation for new and previously registered untrained volunteers. The event was well attended and feedback was positive. MPVC plans to hold another training session on January 27, 2009.

If you are interested in becoming a part of the **Maryland Professional Volunteer Corps**, please go to the BSWE website: <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/> to complete an application for processing. If you have additional questions, follow the link to MPVC website.



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★ *BSWE was* ★
★ *required to* ★
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★ *of its fees to* ★
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★ *required* ★
★ *revenue* ★
★ *needs.* ★
★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



BOARD STAFF MEMBERS

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Louise C. Bohle
Licensing Coordinator

Diane V. Cooper
Office Supervisor

Deborah A. Evans
Compliance Officer

Asa R. Frost, Jr.
Director of Administrative Unit

Gloria Jean Hammel, LCSW-C
Director of Certification & Licensing

Howard F. (Rick) Kenney
Health Occupations Investigator

Lolita Lee
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Beverly J. Lewis
Licensing Coordinator

Riya Rahman
Database Specialist

Deborah Sarsgard, LCSW-C
Director of Compliance Unit

Barbara Smothers
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Bernnadette Staten-Evans
Administrative Specialist

Anne E. Walker, LCSW-C
Staff Social Worker

Delia Turano Schadt, AAG
Board Counsel

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Vladimir Konstantinov
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Linda Beyer
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We're on the Web!

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