



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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July 26, 2016

The Honorable John Kasich
Governor of Ohio
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6177

Dear Governor Kasich:

Pursuant to section 149.01 of the Ohio Revised Code, this annual report for Fiscal Year 2016 is submitted by the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

The mission of the Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board is to protect the citizens of the state of Ohio through the effective and efficient regulation of the practices of counseling, social work and marriage and family therapy as identified in Ohio Revised Code and Ohio Administrative Code Chapters 4757. This mission is accomplished by the review of applicants' credentials, the administration of licensure exams, approving continuing education programs, and the establishment and enforcement of professional and ethical standards.

During fiscal year 2016, two new members joined the Board: Ryan Pickut (Counseling) and Sara Salkil (Marriage and Family Therapy) Two Board members left the Board at the expiration of their term: Steven Polovick (Social Work) and Mary Venrick (Counseling). One employee retired. The resulting vacancy was filled by a current employee. The subsequent vacancy was filled externally.

The Board held regular meetings of the Professional Standards Committees (first-listed dates) and of the full Board (second-listed of the dates): July 16 & 17, 2015, September 17 & 18, 2015, November 21 & 22, 2015, January 21 and 22, 2016, March 17 & 18, 2016 and May 20 & 21, 2016. Board member attendance averaged 90%. Board meeting dates are posted to the Board web site and publicized through Gongwer News Service. Meetings were attended by members of the public and other interested parties.

The Board receives all of its funding through license application and renewal fees. CSWMFT does not receive any general revenue funds. Current fees modestly exceed costs. The Board has not increased licensing fees since the inception of the Board in the mid-1980s. Steps have been consistently taken to ensure fees remain affordable. The Board will work diligently to ensure future fee increases are reasonable and necessary.

Staff completed continuing education audits of 2,278 licenses. Generally, 10% of renewing licensees are subject to a random audit. Of the audits conducted, 339 were considered failed the audits, requiring corrective action by the licensee, of which 195 resulted in caution letters to the licensee, while another

144 licensees were required to pay an audit failure fee. Forty-nine audits, down from 60 in FY 2015, were referred to the investigation team for follow up.

The Board processed 1,502 applications for continuing professional education program approval and reviewed 2,178 requests for post program approval. The Board currently has 584 active continuing professional education provider individuals or organizations of which 246 renewed in FY 2016 (two year approvals) and 32 new providers were approved for one year.

For fiscal year 2016, the Board opened 281 new investigative cases. Approximately 20 cases were carried over from fiscal year 2014.

Issues Received During 07/01/2015 - 06/30/2016

<u>Case Statuses</u>		<u>Found Issues</u>	
CLOSED (Avg days: 219)	234	UNKNOWN	47
OPENED (Avg days: 103)	43	A-1 Boundary Violation (Non-Sexual)	13
Total	277	A-10 Practice outside of Scope	1
		A-13 Impaired Practitioner	6
		A-15 Improper Billing	2
		A-16 Failure to Report	1
		A-17 Competency	23
		A-18 Improper Renewal	32
		A-2 Boundary Violation (Sexual)	1
		A-3 Practicing without a License/Forged Licensure	5
		A-4 Practicing on a Lapsed License	5
		A-5 Breach of Confidentiality	5
		A-6 Custody Dispute Issues	4
		A-7 Poor Record Keeping / Falsification of Record	16
		A-8 Misrepresentation of Credentials	3
		A-9 Felony Conviction	1
		A-99 None	112
		Total	277
<u>Respondent Types</u>		<u>Issue Results</u>	
Licensed	263	CSW - Close - Complainant withdrew	2
Unlicensed	14	CSW - CA Reprimand/Ethics	2
No Respondent	0	CSW - CA Reprimand	2
Total	277	CSW - Close No Violation	42
		CSW - Close With Caution	94
		CSW - Notice/Revocation	9
		CSW - Close No Jurisdiction	12
		CSW - CA Surrender	3
		CSW - Close Refer to Prosecutor	1
		UNKNOWN	4
		CSW - Cannot Substantiate	56
		CSW - Close - Referred to other agency	1
		CSW - CA OTHER	1
		CSW - CA Suspension	5
		Total	234
<u>Method Received</u>			
UNKNOWN	4		
EMail	28		
Employer	10		
FAX	57		
Hand delivered	3		
Mail	128		
Phone	1		
Referral	4		
Self-Report	2		
SPE - Other Agency	1		
Staff	39		
Total	277		
<u>Alleged Issues</u>			
UNKNOWN	2		
A-1 Boundary Violation (Non-Sexual)	21		
A-10 Practice outside of Scope	9		
A-12 Sexual Harassment at Work	1		
A-13 Impaired Practitioner	17		
A-15 Improper Billing	6		
A-16 Failure to Report	5		
A-17 Competency	83		
A-18 Improper Renewal	38		
A-2 Boundary Violation (Sexual)	17		
A-3 Practicing without a License/Forged Licensure	17		
A-4 Practicing on a Lapsed License	3		
A-5 Breach of Confidentiality	17		
A-6 Custody Dispute Issues	16		
A-7 Poor Record Keeping / Falsification of Record	16		
A-8 Misrepresentation of Credentials	3		
A-9 Felony Conviction	2		
A-99 None	4		
Total	277		

In comparison with the prior Fiscal Year, discipline related actions increased across all categories by nearly 30%. CSW entered into 45 Consent Agreements. 29 of the consent agreements were for discipline and 16 were for counseling endorsement licensing. Of the 29 disciplinary consent agreements, 6 resulted in the surrender of their license and 11 resulted in suspensions.

The Board revoked 22 licenses, 21 of which were revoked through the Goldman process. 19 of the revoked licenses were for audit failures.

The Board issued 3,518 new professional licenses (this figure excludes trainees and other registrant).

Licensed Professional Counselor	760
Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor	598
Social Worker Assistant	59
Licensed Social Worker	1251
Licensed Independent Social Worker	780
Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist	43
Licensed Independent Marriage and Family Therapist	27

The Board made progress on a number of goals and projects during FY 2016, to include:

- Established online applications for all license types, helping to reduce processing time by eliminating data entry required with paper applications. This change will help the Board prepare for implementing the new licensing system in 2017;
- Revised 19 rules, including a revision that reduced bureaucracy by eliminating the Clinical Resident status, a redundancy that increased reporting to the Board;
- Produced several videos and podcasts, including a detailed video covering the background check process, in an effort to help the public and licensees access Board resources;
- Exceeded the MBE expenditure goal (61.2%); met the EDGE goal (8%);
- Regularly issued a quarterly newsletter and enhanced outreach via social media;
- Implemented a change in the Social Work exam policy to align the Board with the national organization that administers the exam. The change resulted in a significant increase in exam requests prior to the June 30, 2016 deadline for application under the previous policy;
- Revised the Board Policy Manual;
- Conducted ethics trainings throughout the State, reaching hundreds of licensees;
- Published articles in state and national newsletters;
- Participated on the boards of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards and the Association of Social Work Boards;
- Conducted site visits at 8 college and university programs and spoke to an association of Counselor educators.

As demonstrated in this report, the CSWMFT Board fulfilled its mission in Fiscal Year 2016.

Sincerely,



Brian Carnahan
Executive Director

CC: President of the Senate Keith Faber
Speaker of the House Cliff Rosenberger
State Library of Ohio