



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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July 29, 2005

The Honorable Robert Taft
Governor
Vern Riffe Center for Government and the Arts
77 South High Street, 30th Floor
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear Governor Taft,

Pursuant to the requirement of ORC 149.01, this annual report for FY 2005 of the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board is submitted. I am pleased to highlight the Board's accomplishments.

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 examinations, and the establishment and enforcement of professional and ethical standards of practice.

The Board had a very difficult situation in the fall of 2004 when the executive director was reported by the Investigator General to have broken a number of state laws and rules in the performance of her duties. As a result of the investigation the Board terminated the employment of the executive director on November 19, 2004.

Since July 1, 2005, the Board has: Welcomed one new board member, Dr. Randi Cohen, PhD on the Counselor Professional Standards Committee. The Board hired a new executive director, James R. Rough, on March 5, 2005.

The Board held regular meetings of the Professional Standards Committees on each of the following dates and of the full Board on the second of the dates in the months following; on July 15, 16, 2004, September 16, 17, 2004, November 18, 19, 2004,

January 20, 21, 2005, March 17, 18, 2005 and May 19, 20, 2005. Special Board meetings were held on November 18, 2004 and February 18, 2005.

The Board held 10 hearings, entered into 36 consent agreements to resolve complaints in which the following types of disciplinary action were taken: 10 suspensions of licensure, 10 required to have pre-approved supervision, 14 with required ethics training of mandated continuing education requirements, and 2 restrictions of licensure.

The Investigations Unit opened 232 investigation cases.

The Board licensed or registered 1,978 new professionals:

- 124 Social Work Assistants
- 876 Social Workers
- 310 Independent Social Workers
- 342 Professional Counselors
- 232 Professional Clinical Counselors
- 17 Marriage and Family Therapists
- 77 Independent Marriage and Family Therapists

The Board's testing vendors offered:

- 899 Basic examinations for licensure as a social worker with a pass rate of 74%;
- 11 Advanced examinations for licensure as an independent social worker with a pass rate of 55%; and
- 472 Clinical examinations for licensure as an independent social worker with a pass rate of 55%.
- 648 examinations for Professional Counselor and Professional Clinical Counselor with a pass rate of 60%.
- 12 examinations for Marriage and Family Therapist with a pass rate of 75%.

(These pass rates reflect the total number of candidates who have taken the examination, including results from candidates who may have experienced multiple failures.)

The Board was appropriated \$ 1,044,812 for FY 2005 which as of June 30, 2005, was 100% spent or encumbered. The Board revenues were \$ 934,959.43. The Board has a positive balance in the 4K9 fund of \$1,208,716.09 so the negative balance of spending verses revenues is not of concern. The Office of Budget and Management recommends Boards maintain a half to a full year of expenditure balance, which our Board currently exceeds. The Board plans to address the issue of fee increases during the next biennial budget cycle.

Processed 1,793 applications for continuing professional education program approval and reviewed 1,654 requests for post program approval. The Board currently has 560 active continuing professional education provider organizations of which 260 were renewed in FY 2005 and 75 new providers were approved.

The Board went through a lot of turmoil with the events that lead to the firing of its executive director. The Board has worked to comply with the Inspector General's recommendations. The Board has revised and published new policies and procedures to provide greater oversight of staff activities. The new executive director has thoroughly updated the Board's web site providing greater information and access to needed forms and documents for licensees and the public. The Board has implemented the CAVU licensing system and also implemented a paperless office system. The Board looks forward to a more productive and focused Fiscal Year 2006.

The Board believes that this report provides evidence that the Board has accomplished its mission in FY 2005. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

James R. Rough
Executive Director

CC: President of the Senate Bill Harris,
Speaker of the House Jon Husted
State Library