



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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July 31, 2009

The Honorable Ted Strickland
Governor's Office
Riffe Center, 30th Floor
77 South High Street
Columbus, OH 43215-6108

Dear Governor Strickland,

Pursuant to the requirement of ORC 149.01, this annual report for FY 2009 of the State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board is being 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.

Since July 1, 2008, the Board has welcomed three new board members: Peggy Volters, IMFT, PCC, on the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee; Dr. Thomas McGloshen, IMFT, PCC on the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee; and John J. Cranley IV, public member, on the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee.

The Board held regular meetings of the Professional Standards Committees (on each of the following first-listed dates) and of the full Board (on the second-listed of the dates for each month): July 17 & 18, 2008, September 18 & 19, 2008, November 20 & 21, 2008, January 15 & 16, 2009, March 19 & 20, 2009 and May 21 & 22, 2009.

The Board held 11 hearings of which three were disciplinary and eight were licensure denials. Eight licenses were revoked through the Goldman process. The Board entered into 41 consent agreements to resolve complaints. The Investigations Unit opened 255 investigation cases, which covered the following complaint areas or alleged issues:

<u>Alleged Issues</u>	<u>Number Made</u>
▪ Boundary Violation (Non-Sexual)	31
▪ Boundary Violation (Sexual)	15
▪ Breach of Confidentiality	22
▪ Competency	48
▪ Complaint did not fall under our authority	8
▪ Custody Dispute Issues	15
▪ Failure to Report	5
▪ Felony Conviction	4
▪ Impaired Practitioner	6
▪ Improper Billing	6
▪ Improper Renewal	27
▪ Misdemeanor in Course of Practice	1
▪ Misrepresentation of Credentials	7
▪ Not clearly determined to date	2
▪ Poor Record Keeping / Falsification of Record	34
▪ Practice outside of Scope	2
▪ Practicing on a Lapsed License	3
▪ Practicing without a License/Forged Licensure	15
▪ Sexual Harassment at Work	3
▪ <u>Soliciting Agency Clients for Private Practice</u>	<u>1</u>
▪ Total	255

The board concluded 299 cases in the fiscal year, 74 of which opened in prior fiscal years.

<u>Found Issues</u>	<u>Number Closed</u>
▪ Boundary Violation (Non-Sexual)	26
▪ Boundary Violation (Sexual)	1
▪ Breach of Confidentiality	12
▪ Competency	27
▪ Custody Dispute Issues	4
▪ Failure to Report	11
▪ Felony Conviction	5
▪ Impaired Practitioner	4
▪ Improper Billing	5
▪ Improper Renewal	32
▪ Misdemeanor in Course of Practice	2
▪ Misrepresentation of Credentials	7
▪ No Violation	111
▪ Poor Record Keeping / Falsification of Record	32
▪ Practice outside of Scope	4
▪ Practicing on a Lapsed License	5
▪ Practicing without a License/Forged Licensure	10
▪ <u>Sexual Harassment at Work</u>	<u>1</u>
▪ Total	299

The board concluded 299 cases in the fiscal year, 74 of which opened in prior fiscal years. CA indicated below means the case closed by a consent agreement.

<u>Issue Results</u>	<u>Number Closed</u>
▪ CSW - CA Ethics Coursework	2
▪ CSW - CA OTHER	3
▪ CSW - CA Probation/Ethics	1
▪ CSW - CA Reprimand	3
▪ CSW - CA Reprimand/Ethics	4
▪ CSW - CA Supervision	4
▪ CSW - CA Supervision/Ethics	13
▪ CSW - CA Surrender	6
▪ CSW - CA Suspension	9
▪ CSW - CA Suspension/Ethics/Supervision	1
▪ CSW - Cannot Substantiate	29
▪ CSW - Close - Complainant withdrew	3
▪ CSW - Close No Jurisdiction	13
▪ CSW - Close No Violation	73
▪ CSW - Close Refer to Prosecutor	5
▪ CSW - Close With Caution	118
▪ CSW - Notice/Revocation	9
▪ CSW - Notice/Suspension	3
▪ Total	299

The Board licensed or registered 5,460 new professional licenses, registrations and designations:

- 126 Social Work Assistants
- 1284 Social Workers
- 49 Social Worker Temporaries
- 199 Social Worker Trainees
- 451 Independent Social Workers
- 1,305 Supervising Independent Social Workers
- 500 Professional Counselors
- 215 Professional Counselor – Clinical Residents
- 467 Counselor Trainees
- 387 Professional Counselor Temporaries
- 9 Supervising Professional Counselors
- 273 Professional Clinical Counselors
- 166 Supervising Professional Clinical Counselors
- 17 Marriage and Family Therapists
- 12 Independent Marriage and Family Therapists

The Board's testing vendors in calendar year 2008 offered:

- 981 Basic examinations for licensure as a social worker with a pass rate of 74.7%;
- 73 Advanced examinations for licensure as an independent social worker with a pass rate of 49.3%; and

- 434 Clinical examinations for licensure as an independent social worker with a pass rate of 58.8%.
- 525 National Counselor Examination (NCE) for Professional Counselor with a pass rate of 93.0%.
- 136 National Clinical Mental Health Counselor Examination (NCMHCE) for Professional Clinical Counselor with a pass rate of 78.7%.
- 33 examinations for Marriage and Family Therapist with a pass rate of 66.7%.

(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 disbursed \$1,125,556.96 for FY 2009. The Board revenues were \$ 1,093,817.69. The Board budget request for fiscal years 2010 and 2011 include new fees for late renewals and license verification to other state boards, which should meet future funding needs without other fee increases for several more biennial budget cycles.

Processed 1,771 applications for continuing professional education program approval and reviewed 1,829 requests for post program approval. The Board currently has 667 active continuing professional education provider organizations of which 289 renewed in FY 2009 and 59 new providers were approved.

The Board was able, through the significant help and assistance of Representative Shawn Webster and Representative Tom Letson, to fix a discrepancy in our statute concerning marriage and family therapists via House Bill 427. That bill corrects the definition of the practice of marriage and family therapy in section 4757.01(H) of the Revised Code to include “diagnose” in congruity with section 4757.30. The Ohio Department of Mental Health passed a rule change that is effective July 1, 2009, which includes marriage and family therapists as approved providers for Medicaid services. The statute change and ODMH rules make the licensed marriage and family therapists valuable contributors to the state and county mental health services.

Other board goals for which significant progress has been made are in the areas of electronic service delivery and our statute’s civil service exemption. The board has filed a proposed ethics rule on electronic service delivery, which includes using telephone, Internet, email and other mediums in licensees’ service delivery. The board has contacted the state agencies that have licensed counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists and has reached a general agreement that the civil service exemption is no longer needed. We anticipate moving forward with a legislative change to implement this change in fiscal year 2010.

The Board continues to refine the eLicensing system. The eLicensing system has allowed us to implement an online renewal process used by over 99.5% of renewing licensees. This process is quicker, easier and more cost effective for licensees and the Board. The Board has online applications for most of its license and registration processes.

Board member attendance at board meetings averages 88% with 71% attendance being the lowest attendance rate. Six board members have perfect attendance.

The Board believes that this report provides evidence that the Board has accomplished its mission in Fiscal Year 2009. Thank you for your interest and support.

Sincerely,

James R. Rough
Executive Director

CC: President of the Senate Bill Harris
Speaker of the House Armond Budish
State Library