

CSWMFT News

Spring
2015

Issue 2



**COUNSELOR, SOCIAL
WORKER & MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY
THERAPIST BOARD**

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Executive Director's Update—Brian Carnahan

The CSWMFT Board is celebrating the arrival of summer, which brings with it graduates seeking a license to begin their Social Work careers. The number of requests to the Board for licensure is significant. Please be patient with us as we review applications.

The Social Work team works hard to get every qualified applicant licensed as quickly as possible. Rest assured, they want to license you almost as much as you wish to be licensed. When we are faced with such a significant number of applications, staff focus on application review. Therefore, responses to e-mails and phone calls, particularly those seeking an update of the status of application, may be delayed a day or two.

If you have not visited the Board web site lately, please do so. We regularly update the site with helpful information. We recently added a tool for joining one of our four mailing lists. We created lists for Social Workers and Social Work Assistants, Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Programs and Providers. All current licensees were added to the appropriate mailing lists. One does not have to be a licensee to join the e-mail list. Click the links for any of the three professions to find out more.

The abuse of opioids in Ohio is a significant health and safety issue. Local, state, and federal law enforcement and public health officials are working to confront the problem. The Board is playing a role by providing feedback regarding the impact on Social Work practice of the distribution and use of Naloxone, a drug used to counteract the effects of opiates during an overdose. During its March meeting, the SWPSC

heard from staff at the Cleveland VA Medical Center. The SWPSC indicated that a Social Worker who carries and administers Naloxone, provided they have appropriate training, is likely not violating any existing laws and rules regarding Social Work practice. The application of Naloxone would likely be considered part of crisis intervention.

The Social Work Continuing Education Advisory Committee held its first meeting in April. The Committee had a very good discussion regarding the changing needs of Social Workers. We are planning to survey Social Workers regarding CE needs this summer. The survey will help us to identify areas of growth and opportunity for continuing education. Your response to the survey will be much appreciated.

A bill to license music therapists was introduced in early May in the Ohio House. The Board is monitoring the progress of the bill. CSWMFT licensees who currently use music as a part of a treatment plan will still be able to do so if the bill passes in its current form. Only those licensed as a music therapist will be able to use that title.

Please stay tuned for possible rule changes. Drafts of proposed changes, many of which are relatively minor, were shared with Board members in May. Copies of the proposed changes will be available for public comment as the process for changing rules unfolds.

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*Next Meeting of
the CSWMFT
Board:*

July 16-17



Executive Director's Update Continued

At the May CSWMFT Board meeting, the Board examined its role in protecting the public and upholding professional standards as they relate to “conversion therapy” and sexual orientation change efforts. Board members have reviewed literature on the practices and have expressed concerns about the negative impacts on clients, particularly minors. The Board and staff continue to gather information about options concerning the use of conversion therapy by its licensees, as well as monitoring the progress of Senate Bill 74, which would ban the use of conversion therapy on minors. The Board will continue to discuss conversion therapy at its July meeting.

In April, Maureen Cooper, LPCC-S, resigned her appointment to the Board. Maureen has been a valued member of the Counselor Professional Standards Committee since 2010. The Board and staff appreciate her five years of dedicated service.

The Board welcomed two new members in May: John Heaton, MFT and Matthew Paylo, Ph.D., LPCC-S. Board members and staff are looking forward to working with John and Matthew. Information about both can be found in this newsletter as well as on the Board web site.

Owing to the ease of use and the ability for others to quickly share information, the Board will be increasingly relying on social media to communicate. The Board is on Facebook (Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, & Marriage and Family Therapist Board) and Twitter (@OhioCSWMFTBoard).

I welcome your feedback. Please contact me regarding any questions or issues by telephone at 614.752.5161 or by e-mail at brian.carnahan@cswb.ohio.gov.



Wallet Cards No Longer Issued at Renewal

It has been several months since the Board voted to discontinue wallet cards. The cards represented a renewed and active license to many licensees, so it is no surprise that many of you feel as if something is missing. Nonetheless, once your initial license is issued or you renew online, your license is active without the issuance of a wallet card.

The Board voted on Friday, January 16, 2015 to discontinue issuing a wallet card to licensees and registrants upon their renewal. This change was effective immediately and was retroactive to renewals beginning in November 2014. The wallet card was eliminated due to the expense of printing and mailing and, more importantly, the fact that more current information is available directly from our licensure system online. By eliminating an expense, the Board is helping to ensure fee increases in the future can be more limited and reasonable.

The Board's online license verification system is a constantly updated primary source of licensure information. The majority of employers, insurance companies and others requiring license verification use the online verification system because it is updated within seconds of any change in status, and as we award licenses, post renewals and perform other licensing activities. This system is available 24 x 7 and is much more accurate and current than a wallet card printed any time prior, because the wallet card was accurate and reliable only as of the date it was printed.

Licensees and registrants should use the Board's online license verification system (instructions attached) to confirm and validate their licensure/registration status and expiration date. A memo regarding this decision and Instructions for using the online verification system can be found at: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/wallet%20card.pdf>.



The board offers an online Laws & Rules CEU program that will meet your 3 hours of ethics.

Renewal Update—Rhonda Franklin

The new inactive status or escrow license has been in place since March 15, 2015. This status allows licensees who are not practicing to renew their license as “inactive” or “escrowed”. (INACTIVE / ESCR in the State’s eLicense system).

If you are a licensee currently not using your license you may renew into the inactive status. Renewing INACTIVE/ESCR does not require the completion of continuing education and the renewal fees are lower. If you are retired, staying home with your children, living in another state or working in another profession but not ready to give up your licensure this is the status for you. Renewing as Inactive is not appropriate for licensees who expect to be in a non-practicing status for only a short time. For example, if you plan to return to work within a few months of renewing, you should renew in active status.

The INACTIVE/ESCR license is renewable every two years just as your active license renews. The inactive license can be renewed as active within a five year period by simply completing thirty clock hours which must include three hours of ethics and three hours of

supervision if you hold the supervisory designation, and paying the active renewal fee. If you wish to re-activate your license and it has been inactive for more than five years, additional continuing education, a mentorship, or supervised hours may be recommended.

When you receive your renewal notice letter that indicates your license is eligible for renewal, and you would like to renew into the inactive status, call or email me and I will reset your licensure to allow you to renew inactive. If your license is currently in a failed to renew status you may still renew into the inactive status. However, a late fee will be added to the renewal fee just as it is when renewing late and active.

If you have questions regarding the INACTIVE/ESCR status, post program approval, waivers and extensions, or the renewal process please contact me at 614-466-5436 or Rhonda.Franklin@cswb.ohio.gov.



Upcoming Events

CSWMFT Board Meeting — July 16-17

CSWMFT Board Meeting —September 24-25



New Members Join the Board

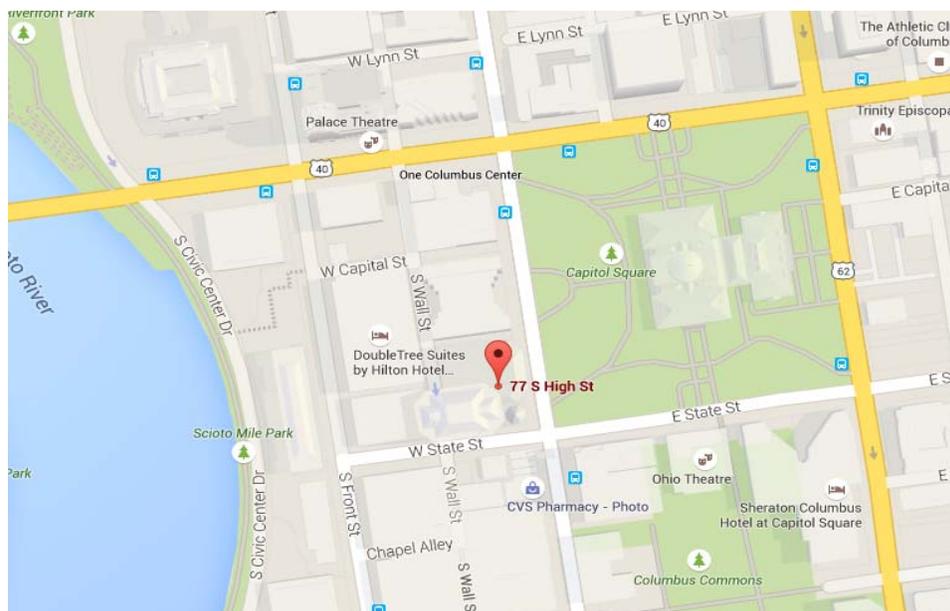
CSWMFT Board Chairman Steve Polovick is pleased to announce that John Heaton, MFT, and Matthew Paylo, Ph.D., LPCC-S, have been appointed by Governor John Kasich to serve on the CSWMFT Board. John will be serving on the Marriage and Family Therapy Professional Standards Committee (MFTPSC). John is the Branch Manager of the Neuropsychiatry Branch for the Aeromedical Consultation Service at the United States Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine, Wright-Patterson AFB, Ohio.

Matthew, who will be serving on the Counselor Professional Standards Committee (CPSC), is an associate professor and the program director of the counseling program at Youngstown State University.

More about both John and Matthew may be found at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/CSWMFTBoard/BoardMembers.aspx>.

On the Move

The Board will be moving in late June to the Riffe State Office Tower (77 South High Street, 24th Floor, Columbus, OH, 43215). The Board should be in its new space by July 1. During the move there will be limited interruptions to service. Nonetheless, for a few days around the end of June and beginning of July, you may find our response times are a little slower as we settle into our new space.





Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Licensees

Social Workers:

Marlene Allen (LSW) Audit failure. Surrender of license.

Elizabeth Babka (LISW) Sexual boundary violation. Suspension.

Zaria Davis-Humphries (LISW) Felony Conviction. Revoked.

Christel Dzendzel (LSW) Non-sexual boundaries. Surrender of license.

James A. Kiriazis (LSW) Audit failure. Surrender of license.

Mary Martin (LSW) Audit failure. Revoked.

Lisa Padgett (LSW) Non-sexual boundaries. Suspension.

Counselors:

Timothy Butler (LPCC) Non-sexual boundaries. Counseling and CEUs.

Denise Conrad (LPC) Audit Failure. Revoked

Laura Eshelman (LPC) Sexual boundary violation. Suspension and evaluation.

John Rehak (LPC) Felony Conviction. Surrender of license.

Lynn Skunta (LPCC) Records issues. QA plan in place.

Diane Zieger (LPCC) Consent Agreement non-compliance. Extension of terms.

Human Trafficking Awareness

Human trafficking is a form of modern day slavery. While many associate human trafficking with the sex industry, and predominantly affecting women, many victims, including women, men, and children, are in forced labor situations where their incomes and lives are not their own. Governor Kasich, the General Assembly, and State Agencies, Boards, and Commissions, are dedicated to assisting victims of human trafficking, and in the process, eliminating it. As a Social Worker, Counselor, or Marriage and Family Therapist, you are in a unique position to identify persons who may be victims of human trafficking. Many of you work where you encounter persons confronting difficult life circumstances. Your increased awareness of the problem and ways to confront it can significantly improve the circumstances of victims.

The State of Ohio Human Trafficking Task Force, along with many other organizations, provides resources for victims of human trafficking, as well as health and safety personnel and the public. More information can be found at <http://www.publicsafety.ohio.gov/ht/index.html> or by clicking the Human Trafficking Task Force icon on the CSWMFT home page at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/>.

As a Counselor, Social Worker, or Marriage and Family Therapist, you are required to earn up to 30 hours of Continuing Education every two years. Consider including a human trafficking awareness training as part of your CE courses. The Board has approved, and continues to approve, a number of programs covering human trafficking. Courses can be found at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Portals/0/CONT%20ED/ProgList3.pdf>.

If you have specific concerns regarding human trafficking issues, please contact the Human Trafficking Task Force at 614-995-7986 Questions regarding continuing education credit and specific licensure concerns can be directed to the CSWMFT Board by phone at 614.466.0912 or by e-mail at cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov.

Please make sure you have completed your continuing education requirements before you renew.

Common Non-compliance includes unapproved courses, no ethics, no supervision, hours not within renewal period, renewed with less than 30 CEUs, etc.

Several licenses have been revoked and other disciplinary actions taken! Don't let it be you!



If you are not sure of the proper ethics in any given situation, talk to your supervisor, a peer licensee or call the Board to discuss the issue. Don't let things get out of hand that might result in a disciplinary situation.



Boundaries: Ethics with Tracey Hosom

Sex with a client is a betrayal of the therapeutic relationship by the therapist. Expectations regarding sexual boundaries are defined in the Ohio Administrative Code, as shown below:

4757-5-04 (A) Counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists shall not engage in sexual activities or sexual contact with current clients, whether such contact is consensual or forced. A client of the agency is considered a client of each counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist employed or contracted at the agency for purposes of ethics under the sexual relationships section of this chapter. The duty of the licensee is based on that particular licensee's knowledge of a client's identify prior to starting a relationship.

Every practitioner is aware that this is an ethical violation; however the Board still receives complaints regarding sexual boundary violations on a regular basis. Probably most of you reading this article are thinking this could never happen to you - and for most of you this will be true - but not one of the licensees I have investigated set out to have a "relationship" with their client. As a professional, it is your responsibility to set clear boundaries and recognize your role as the therapist. Don't put yourself in a position that will blur professional lines.

Sexual boundary violations often happen through small steps that change the nature of the therapist-client relationship. Some examples of behavior that led to sexual boundary violations case include:

- A social worker started meeting her client at parks and fast food restaurants because he needed help readjusting to social situations while treating him with issues around trauma. This led to the social worker attending parties at the client's home;
- A counselor felt unhappy in his marriage, he started responding to texts from his client after she reached out to him in the evening;
- A social worker ran a recovery group. She began to transport her client to his appointments because he didn't have transportation;

All of these examples resulted in violations that led to permanent discipline against the licensees. Remember, no matter the actions of the client or their statements indicating a desire to have a relationship, the responsibility rests with you as the professional, to maintain appropriate boundaries. If you feel that you may be experiencing an attraction to a client, or if a client is making efforts to establish an inappropriate relationship, transfer the client, talk to your supervisor, and seek consultation with peers.

Questions or comments can be sent to Investigator by e-mail at Tracey.Hosom@cswb.ohio.gov.



CE Audit Update —Paula Broome

Problems with your employer tracking your continuing education The Failed Audit Fee

Attendance certificates received from a Board approved program must list the following:

- Participant's name
- Date the program was completed
- Signature of the instructor
- Board approval for your license type
- Title of the program
- Name of the sponsoring agency or organization

The Board allows Board approved sponsors up to 7 business days to send the attendee a certificate.

Altered certificates where the date, amount of hours or board approval has been changed by the sponsor must be initialed by the sponsoring agency's representative. When possible the attendee should be sent a corrected certificate.

Some employers offer continuing education to their employees through an online learning system. These learning systems also offer the employer the ability to track the CE hours of their employees. However, a few problems have risen from the use of these systems including certificates without:

- the Board approval number
- the sponsoring agency's name
- a signature of instructor or agency representative
- the date(s) of attendance

Another issue is when the employee gives their employer copies of their certificates completed through another provider; the employer adds these to the list of hours completed and in doing so another certificate is created in their system. Employees/licenses print their list of certificates and submit them during audit. These types of certificates are not acceptable during an audit because they are missing required information.

In-house, employer required staff training not approved by this Board is not counted during an audit. It is very important that all licensees review their certificates before accepting them. When an approved provider fails to list the required information on your certificate they are in violation of the law.

Failed Audit Fee began March 1, 2015. CSWMFT Board licensees are able to renew 2 to 3 months before their renewal date. Those who renew early need to be sure that all of their CE hours are approved and completed before renewing their license. During the renewal process licensees are asked "Have you completed as of today, 30 CEU hours "... Answering yes without having completed your CEUs is a misdemeanor under Ohio Law. This is an important part of what I look for when reviewing an audit. An error here may end up costing you \$50 to \$100 dollars (failed audit fee 4757-1-05(K)). Please review all of your certificates before renewing your license.

CE Broker: One year pilot program

CE Broker is a private company and the official continuing education tracking system for the Florida Department of Health, the Ohio Board of Speech, the Ohio Chemical Dependency Board and soon the CSWMFT Board. This service will be free to the Board as well as our licensees. The Board hopes to begin the one year pilot program within the next 5 to 6 months. We hope that by using the database CE Broker will create for us the Board and our licensees will be better able to track continuing education hours. For example an LISW-S specializing in 'play therapy needs to be able to prove they have kept up to date with their specialized training, CE Broker will allow both the Board and the licensee to do this with ease. CE Broker will also allow the Board to increase the amount of licensees we audit and will allow our licensees an easier way to keep track of the certificates they receive. The CE Broker site already has a handful of Ohio approved providers listed on their website and these providers will upload the attendance certificate you receive from them (after completion of their program) directly to your CE Broker free account. Being listed as a provider on the CE Broker website is a free service to our approved providers.

This is a voluntary program for licensees. Those who report their hours to CE Broker in compliance with the Board's rule will be exempt from the continuing education audit during their two year renewal period as CE Broker will take the place of an audit by the Board.