

CSWMFT News

Spring
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Issue 2

Message from the Chairperson - Margaret "Charlie" Knerr, IMFT-S

Recently, I had the honor of presenting Bill Hegarty, Deputy Director, along with Investigators Tammy Tingle and Tracey Hosom, the 2016 Service Award from the Ohio Association for Marriage and Family Therapy.

Here are some of the remarks from that award ceremony:



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**Next Meeting of the
CSWMFT Board:**

**Thursday July 21 and
Friday
July 22**

The Profession of Marriage and Family Therapy has advanced in several ways over the past 10 years. We have grown in number of MFTs and IMFTs. We now have a Supervisory designation and we register Student Trainees completing practicums and internships.

As we add more MFTs, practicing in a greater variety of settings, all over the state, understandably this has begun to add work to the Investigations Department of the Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapy Board. Some complaints come from clients, or collaborating professionals, but many complaints come from counselors, social workers, and MFT's licensed by the board. By law, According to 4757-5-10, we all have the responsibility to report those licensed and even student trainees registered by the board if they are potentially practicing in an unethical or incompetent way or if they may be impaired.

As licensees, it would be easy to look at members of the Investigations Department of the CSWMFT Board as our enemy. But nothing could be further from the truth! Keeping professionals practicing ethically is not only in the best interest of the public, but in fact it is in the best interest of every Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage & Family Therapist in Ohio.

The investigations department protects the same public that we, as licensees, care about and serve. The investigations department not only recommend appropriate disciplinary courses for those who are practicing unethically, but they also educate licensees on our potential growth edges and blind spots. As for appropriate disciplinary options, they often recommend continuing education or more supervision. Every day, they answer questions of licensees when we call. If they can't answer our questions, they tell us who we should call. They ease our anxieties when we are reporting because it is the "right thing to do." They listen to our input. They treat our licensed professionals and registered students with respect even if they are without a doubt practicing in an unethical, incompetent, or impaired way.

Bill Hegarty, Tracey Hosom, Tammy Tingle were nominated by several people for this award. Here are some quotes, "I understand you have a job to do, but during your visits, phone calls, and emails, I never sensed you were out to get me." "You have a difficult job and you do it very well." "You are very knowledgeable about ethics!" "Thanks for answering my same question for the 5th time...yes, I need to report them!"

And so, in thanks for their outstanding service in protecting the public and thereby protecting the practice of Counseling, Social Work, & Marriage and Family Therapy, the OAMFT Honored

Bill Hegarty, Tracey Hosom, and Tammy Tingle with the 2016 Service Award."

As chairperson of the CSWMFT Board, I was thrilled to present this award and I agree wholeheartedly with the selection of Bill, Tammy, and Tracey for the 2016 OAMFT Service Award! Please join me in congratulating them for a job well done!



Executive Director's Update—Brian Carnahan

With the arrival of spring and summer comes not only new blooms and sunshine, but also applications. The Board is anticipating an even bigger volume of requests than usual owing to the change in Social Work ASWB Clinical exam testing policy. Please be patient with us as we work diligently to fulfill all of the requests we receive.

The Social Work Professional Standards Committee was made aware of the Association of Social Work Board's plan to require Boards using its exams to more closely follow its exam policies. This will likely mean that persons completing an MSW who are not already licensed as an LSW will be required to take the Master's level exam. When CSWMFT has more information on the likely change, we will share a timeline for implementing the change.

Rule changes approved by the Board during its meetings on November 19 and November 20 have made their way through the approval process. The rules will be effective on July 1, 2016. A draft copy of the rule changes can be found online at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/CSWMFT%20Draft%20Rules%20Dec%202015.pdf>.

We are happy to announce that all of the applications for CSWMFT Board licenses are now online. For several years, Social Work applications have been online. Now the Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy licenses are available online.

Many of you - over 3600 in fact - responded last year to the continuing education survey the Board sent to Social Workers. Two bright and hardworking OSU MSW students, Dana White and Sally Dunlap, are reviewing the comments we received. The survey results are giving us a better understanding of the continuing education Social Workers want and need, as well as insights into some of the challenges you face when trying to get the professional development opportunities you seek. We hope to share more information in the coming weeks.

While the world relies on the Internet to share information, sometimes a topic requires good, old fashioned paper. A brochure on the application process was recently published by the Board. It provides the basic information on applying for a license. Copies of the brochure are being mailed to college and university programs, NASW, and other organizations that conduct outreach to the professionals licensed by CSWMFT Board. If you are having an event and wish to provide information to potential licensure applicants, please contact me for copies of the brochure.

Be sure to sign up for e-mails from the Board. We do our best to limit the number of e-mails we send. You can join our e-mail list at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/SocialWorkers.aspx>.

Please feel free to contact me with any feedback I can share with members of the CSWMFT Board team. I can be reached by e-mail at brian.carnahan@cswb.ohio.gov or phone at 614.752.5161. Licensees and other interested parties are also welcome to attend any of the Professional Standards Committee (PSC) meeting or the full Board meeting. Check out the CSWMFT web site for dates and times. Generally the PSCs meet on the third Thursday of the month in which the Board meeting takes place, as well as the following Friday morning. Committee meetings are on the 24th floor of the Riffe State Office Tower. The Board meets at 1:00 PM on the Friday following the third Thursday. The Board meets in the public meeting space on the 31st floor of the Riffe State Office Tower.



Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Billed by Community Mental Health Agencies and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies - Mary Haller, Sysilie Hill and Nichole Small, Ohio Department of Medicaid

Under the leadership of the Governor's Office of Health Transformation, the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) and the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) are collaborating to implement significant reform in the way that Ohio Medicaid purchases mental health and substance use disorder treatment services for Ohioans. The desired outcomes and vision for these changes are to:

- Integrate behavioral health and physical health services
- Develop new services for individuals with high intensity service and support needs
- Make needed services and supports available for Ohioans within sustainable budget resources
- Implement value-based payment methodology and use evidence based practices
- Coordinate benefits across health care payers
- Improve health outcomes through better care coordination
- Align all Medicaid behavioral health services with national coding standards
- Revise current service coding structure: discontinue outdated codes and provide a wider array of appropriate service codes
- Assure services are rendered by properly credentialed practitioners
- Bring Ohio Behavioral Health organizations in parallel with other Medicaid health care providers

The Behavioral Health Redesign is focused on provider organizations certified by the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services and enrolled in Medicaid as community mental health centers (MITS provider type 84) and/or Alcohol and Other Drug Treatment Programs (MITS provider type 95).

Behavioral health practitioners and the organizations that employ them play a vital role in assuring that Medicaid enrollees have access to medically necessary mental health and/or substance use disorder services. When establishing policy governing Medicaid services rendered by certain practitioners, ODM and OhioMHAS have closely followed the guidance and scopes of practice set forth by Ohio's professional licensing boards including the Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage and Family Therapist Board.

Based on this, Ohio Medicaid policy will continue to recognize the professional contributions of registered trainees who are practicing under the direct supervision of independently licensed clinicians and pursuing independent licensure in counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy. Medicaid claims for services rendered by trainees should be submitted using the national provider identifier (NPI) of the independent practitioner directly supervising their work. The Medicaid rate and the full responsibility for billed services falls to the supervising independent practitioner.



Medicaid Behavioral Health Services Billed by Community Mental Health Agencies and Substance Use Disorder Treatment Agencies

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Under the Behavioral Health Redesign, all practitioners currently recognized and licensed by the Counseling, Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist Board will remain eligible for payment of services rendered. This includes:

Practitioners	
LISW	Licensed Independent Social Worker*
LIMFT	Licensed Independent Marriage and Family Therapist*
LPCC/LPCC-S	Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor/Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor-Training Supervision Designation*
LPC	Licensed Professional Counselor
LSW	Licensed Social Worker
LMFT	Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
SW-T	Social Work Trainee
MFT-T	Marriage and Family Therapist Trainee
C-T	Counselor Trainee
SW-A	Social Work Assistant

One of the more significant changes in the Behavioral Health Redesign will be the way in which Medicaid services must be billed. For dates of service January 1, 2017 and beyond, each claim must contain either the NPI of the rendering practitioner in the “rendering field” or a modifier to indicate who rendered each service. Dependently Licensed (LSW, LPC, and MFT) and unlicensed practitioners, including board certified trainees and assistants, will use a modifier to indicate who rendered the service. Specific billing guidance will be issued as it becomes available.

*Licensed, independent practitioners (LISW, IMFT, and LPCC) are required to obtain an NPI and enroll in Ohio Medicaid to bill for services. These practitioners are encouraged to enroll as soon as possible to ensure proper claim processing for dates of service January 1, 2017 and beyond.

To determine if you are required to obtain an NPI and enroll in Ohio Medicaid as a rendering practitioner, and for step-by-step instructions please see: <http://mha.ohio.gov/Portals/0/assets/Planning/MACSISSorMITS/mits-bits-rendering-providers-part-2-4-19-16.pdf>.

For additional information on the Behavioral Health Redesign and to sign up for the BH Redesign newsletter, please visit <http://bh.medicaid.ohio.gov/>.

Renewal Update—Rhonda Franklin

Please Note: License renewal cards (i.e. “Wallet Card”) are no longer issued. The Board voted to discontinue issuing the cards in January 2015.

When you renew your license you will not receive a renewal card. For proof of licensure, you must use the online license verification web site, which is accessible from the CSWMFT Board web site – www.cswmft.ohio.gov.

Renewal notice letters were mailed in May to over 6,000 licensees due for renewal July through September of 2016. We received a large amount of return mail due to incorrect addresses. Many of you use your work address. Remember to contact the board when you change employment. Please remember it is your responsibility to keep a current address with the Board at all times.

Renewal notice letters for all licensees due for renewal October through December of 2016 will go in the mail by August 10th. These letters contain your user id and password for online renewal, please do not lose this letter. Your license will be eligible for renewal upon receipt of this notice, however your renewal is not required until the date shown on the letter. You should not renew your license until you have completed the required continuing education. If you have changed your address within the last two years please submit an address change prior to August.

Licensees with the Supervisory designation are required to complete three hours of continuing education in supervision for each renewal. If you choose to renew without the designation and want to reinstate the designation at a later date you will need to reapply. The requirement is six hours of supervision continuing education for reinstatement.

Many licensees have taken advantage of the inactive/ escrow status. This is a non-practice status. It’s a way to put your license on hold for a two year period. To reinstate an inactive license within five years of renewing inactive: you must complete 30 clock hours of continuing education, six of which must cover ethics,. Six hours of supervision training is also required when reactivating.



Celebrate: 1986-2016!

Did you know that July 2016 will mark the 30th anniversary of the issuance of the first licenses by the CSWMFT Board? Approximately 300 professionals—out of a current 38,000 - who were originally licensed in 1986 are still actively licensed.





Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Licensees

Social Workers:

- Megan Graham Hammond (LSW) - Falsification of records. Reprimand
- Gavin Herzog (LSW) - Record Keeping. Reprimand
- Elizabeth E. Jones (LISW) - Improper Renewal/audit failure. Revoked
- Shari Lymon (SWA) - Improper Renewal/audit failure. Revoked
- Quinta Peoples (LSW) - Revocation of license vacated; Reprimand
- Peter Whitt (LSW) - Improper Renewal/audit failure. Suspended

Counselors

- Melissa Coan (LPC) - Restriction on license. Counseling and mandated supervision.
- Cynthia Daugherty - (LPCC) Custody issues. Reprimand and CEUs
- Lisa Gojanovic - (LPCC) Improper termination. Surrender of license.
- Laura B. Thompson (LPCC) - Sexual relationship with former client within 5 years of termination. 3 year suspension and personal counseling
- Evelyn Schira (LPCC) - Improper Renewal/Audit Failure. Suspension



Changes to the CE Audit Process

We hope our new process will help to make audit responses a little easier. The audit form will be replaced with a cover sheet. Licensees will no longer need to list their attendance certificates on the audit form; they only need to attach them. I will no longer send out emails confirming receipt of your audit but I will continue to send an email when your audit is closed. I try to close audits within 60 days. And you can now fax your audit! Email and US mail are still acceptable.

The **Audit Cover Sheet** needs to be included with your attendance certificate, if you fax, email or mail your audit to the Board. The form will ask:

- how many certificates are attached?
- for your contact information; and
- “Are you practicing in the State of Ohio?”

Attendance Certificates must be readable and list the following items:

- your name
- Board approval number
- date of attendance
- hours earned
- name of the sponsoring agency
- signature of the instructor or official representative of the sponsoring organization





**ASWB's Path to Licensure—Janice Fitts,
LCSW, LIMHP,
Association of Social Work Board, Education
and Training
Senior Manager**

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB), the nonprofit organization of social work regulatory bodies in the U.S. and Canada, is collaborating with schools of social work to help faculty and students connect learning and practice by understanding the role of regulation and licensure. Each collaboration is a customized partnership between the school, ASWB, the state licensing board, and practitioners in field placements. The goal is to unify social work educators, regulators, and practitioners in helping social work students successfully transition to professional practice.

Path to Licensure helps students understand:

- Licensure as a career-long journey
- The 3 E's of getting licensed = Education, Experience, and Exam
- The process of applying for a license with the board
- How to register and prepare for the social work licensing exam
- How to maintain a license
- The 3 Pillars of being a social worker = Education, Regulation, and Practice

Nearly 100 schools of social work across the U.S. are participating in the Path to Licensure program. Using Path to Licensure educational activities, faculty can begin the dialogue about the importance of regulation, licensure, and professional, prudent practice early in the students' educational career and extend this learning as students progress through their field placements in preparation for getting licensed.

Social Work programs in Ohio wishing to participate in Path to Licensure can contact Jan at jfitts@aswb.org.





The Importance of Informed Consent - Tracey Hosom

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.

In all practice settings, including private practice, home health care, community mental health, and others, licensees question how to handle questions that arise in the course of treatment. Some example of tough questions include: Can I bill for court appearances? What are my obligations to my client if my client's attorney has subpoenaed me? Or, my client included her children in sessions. Now the children's dad has requested the records, what do I do?

These types of questions and situations can be daunting to the practitioner who has not confronted them before. Remember, these types of questions are addressed in the OAC 4757-5-09 Record Keeping, and OAC 4757-6-01 Reports prepared for court review. All of these situations can be addressed with your clients at the beginning of the therapeutic relationship through a comprehensive Informed Consent document.

4757-5-02 (B) (1) Counselors, social workers, or marriage and family therapists shall inform clients/consumers of services the extent and nature of services available to them, as well as the limits, rights, opportunities and obligations associated with the services to be provided which might effect the clients/consumers of services decisions to enter into or continue the relationship.

In addition to the basic explanation of the limits of confidentiality and clients rights, consider including information about all of the services you may be asked to do in your practice. If you have a fee for court appearances, outline this in the informed consent. If you are treating minors, describe the limits of testimony, such as an explanation that you will only be able to provide testimony on treatment facts, but not make recommendations if subpoenaed. If you are seeing multiple family members but the identified client is one of the parents, explain the limits of confidentiality to that parent with regard to the potential request for records of the minor children by the other parent. Consider including your legal counsel when developing your consent documents. Developing and using a comprehensive informed consent document will benefit your clients and protect you.

Questions you would like to see addressed under the "Ethics Issues" column can be sent to: Tracey.Hosom@cswb.ohio.gov

Starting that New Job

Congratulations on your new job! We are always happy to hear that applicants or licensees have been offered a job. Occasionally, someone will be offered a job pending licensure. While we work as quickly as we can, we cannot always guarantee a date by which we will issue a license. If your license has not yet been issued, please do not set a start date.

Upcoming Events

- CSWMFT Board Meeting - July 21 and 22
- 2016 NASW Ohio Annual Conference - November 17-18, 2016

