

CSWMFT News

Winter
2016
Issue 1

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



**COUNSELOR, SOCIAL
WORKER & MAR-
RIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPIST BOARD**

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Every week I hear of Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists truly making a positive difference because of their work. Last week, I spoke with a mother who shared that her son was seeing an LPC at his school during his study hall to discuss coping skills for his academic stress. This week, I met with an IMFT-S agency supervisor transitioning an in-home treatment program to assign one mental health professional to the entire family rather than each family member having their own provider. This new plan of having the family work together on common goals even as they work on their own individual goals is leading to a significant increase in family cohesion along with a decrease in the clinical symptoms throughout the family. Just the other day, I accompanied my parents to a doctor's appointment. After we met with the physician, an LISW-S came in to make sure that we were aware of all of the community resources available to us as we manage our current situation. All of these professionals were being paid for their time, but I know that monetary reimbursement has nothing to do with the level of commitment and care that our licensees provide. Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage & Family Therapists are professionals who care deeply.

Recognizing this commitment, I am not surprised when I hear of the ways CSWMFT licensees work during their free time volunteering to bring their services to those who cannot afford them, for example by providing services in a shelter or "on the land", volunteering at weekend clinics, assisting during a community tragedy, supervising young professionals, editing an electronic medical record to work with family based treatment, or training volunteers on a suicide help line. The opportunities for professionals licensed by this Board to contribute to their communities are endless. Our colleagues across the professions of Counseling, Social Work, and Marriage and Family Therapy care about those struggling with the stresses of life including mental illness and forms of systemic injustice such as homelessness, unemployment or underemployment, racism, and sexism, among others.

My guess is most of you spend extra time, go the extra mile, and go above and beyond the call of duty to serve the people of Ohio. You are making a difference. As a Board member, it is my delight to cheer you on, thank you, and celebrate the amazing work that you do all over the state. I appreciate your willingness to give up your weekends and weeknights simply because you care.

*Next Meeting of the
CSWMFT Board:*

*Thursday March 17
and Friday
March 18*



Policy Change—Social Work Clinical and Advance Generalist Exam Policy Change

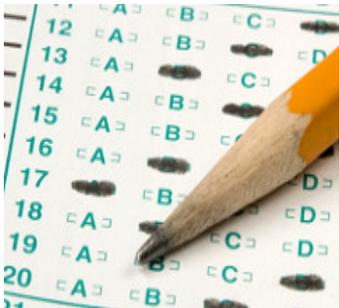


The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, & Marriage and Family Therapist (CSWMFT) Board's current policy allows Social Work graduate students to take the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Clinical or Advance Generalist exam before completing two years of supervised experience post graduate degree. Nationally, Ohio is only one of two states that allow Social Workers to take the ASWB Clinical and Advanced Generalist exam before completing two years of supervised practice. The current practice in Ohio is not in line with the exam policy and test preparation standards adopted by ASWB, which assume at least two years of supervised Social Work practice. The ASWB Social Work exams are the best Social Work licensing exams available to the CSWMFT Board at this time.

After discussions with stakeholders, including Ohio Social Work faculty, and after consulting with ASWB, which recently re-confirmed its exam policy, effective June 30, 2016, CSWMFT will no longer approve Social Workers to sit for the ASWB Clinical or Advance Generalist exam before completing two years of supervised practice as a Licensed Social Worker.

Persons currently in the last term of a master's degree program in Social Work, or those persons who completed a Master's degree but have not yet completed two years of supervised practice, may, by June 30, 2016, apply to sit for either the Clinical or the Advanced Generalist exam, using the application materials currently available on the CSWMFT Board web site. Eligibility letters expire after 6 months. No extensions of exam approvals will be granted.

After June 30, 2016, in addition to the completion of a brief application requesting approval to take the exam, Social Workers will have to demonstrate, using the Professional Employment Reference, they have completed two years of supervised practice as a Licensed Social Worker before being approved to take either exam. All individuals initially applying for as an LSW will take and pass the Bachelor's level exam. Those with questions can find a Frequently Asked Questions document on the Board web site.



Executive Director's Update—Brian Carnahan

During the January 2016 meeting, a significant policy change was discussed. The Social Work Professional Standards Committee, after discussions with Social Work educators, stakeholders, and the Association of Social Work Boards, has decided to change its exam policy for persons seeking an LISW. See the article above for more details.

During its meetings on November 19 and November 20, the CSWMFT Board considered a number of issues. The Board reviewed and approved draft rules. These rules were shared with licensees and stakeholders in August and again in early December. The rules can be found online at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/CSWMFT%20Draft%20Rules%20Dec%202015.pdf>.

Many of the rule changes cover minor issues, but others involve bigger changes. For example, the rules formally remove the Clinical Resident designation from the Counselor rules. While not a change that impacts Social Workers, it does demonstrate the Board's willingness to make changes that streamline the licensing process. Another change of note is an alignment of ethics for both the education of licensees and how they practice. Gender expression and sexual orientation was included in one part of Rule 4757-5-02, but not another. It is now included in both the education and practice requirements. The approved draft ensures both subsections are consistent. Revised drafts of the rules will be posted to the web site soon. Comments will be welcome then as well as during the official filing process that will follow soon.



Executive Director's Update Continued

Also, during the Board's meeting on November 20, the Board heard a presentation from Kim Welter of Equality Ohio. Ms. Welter presented information regarding conversion therapy/sexual orientation change efforts. The Board appreciates hearing additional information on these issues as it monitors the progress of legislation in the General Assembly. As noted during its July meeting, the Board has the authority to investigate client harm. Therefore, persons who believe they have been harmed by a CSWMFT licensee may submit a complaint, which will be reviewed and processed according to the Board's laws and rules.

I have mentioned in past newsletter articles, the State is working on a new online licensing system. CSWMFT is excited about the opportunities the new system will present. As the project unfolds, CSWMFT is working with Office of Information Technology partners to put all of its license applications online in the current system. Social Work applications are all online. Soon, the Counselor and MFT licenses will be available for completion online. The online applications will help us process license applications faster.

The Board has finalized a reciprocity agreement with the Kentucky Board of Licensed Professional Counselors. The agreement will help persons licensed in Kentucky or Ohio gain a license in the other state. Those interested can contact the Board for more information on applying for a reciprocal license in Ohio.

The Board is taking additional steps into the 21st Century! We have posted our first videos to the web site. These videos provide instruction on license verification, criminal background checks, social work training supervision, and the continuing education audit. We are seeking additional topics, so feel free to contact me with suggestions.

Last January, we announced that effective in November 2014, we stopped issuing wallet cards. We have mentioned this change in e-mails to licensees and in our newsletters. Occasionally a licensee will be concerned that they have not renewed their license because they have not received a wallet card. If you hear a colleague wondering about their wallet card, please help us by reminding them that the cards were discontinued. Changes such as this help us keep costs down and create efficiencies that help keep licensing fees reasonable. I welcome the opportunity to speak with licensees or applicants.

Please feel free to contact me with any concerns or accolades 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 PSC meet on the third Thursday of the month in which the Board meeting takes place. Meetings are on the 24th floor of the Riffe State Office Tower. The Board meets at 1:00 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.





Ohio's Problem Gambling Helpline Needs You!

Stacey Frohnapfel-Hasson, MPA
Chief, Bureau of Problem Gambling
Office of Prevention & Wellness
Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Are you a Social Worker, Marriage and Family Therapist, or Professional Clinical Counselor with at least 30 hours of Problem Gambling specific training?

With the expansion of gambling opportunities in Ohio, it is expected that occurrences of problem gambling will start to grow. At this time, however, the state has notable gaps in reported service availability. For the past five years the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services (OhioMHAS) and its partners in Ohio for Responsible Gambling (ORG) have offered Stage I, II and Advanced trainings in treatment of Gambling Disorder via Recovery Resources. Clinicians may have also earned gambling-specific continuing education at the annual March Problem Gambling conferences and other workforce development events.

Have you, as a clinician, taken the step of making sure that your agency or practice is listed on the Ohio Problem Gambling Helpline website? If you are a private practitioner, are you listed with the Helpline resources? If the website team has not been given an agency's or individual's contact information, callers from that area will be referred to other agencies – potentially outside their areas. OhioMHAS and ORG want all Ohioans to have access to care in their home communities.

Take a few minutes now to make sure your organization is listed. Look for your listing here: <http://bit.ly/1QergVX>. If you or your agency is not listed, send your contact information to Scott Anderson at scott.anderson@mha.ohio.gov or call 614-466-8562. Someone from the Helpline will be in touch to make sure your new listing is accurate. Remember that you are seeing people with gambling problems every day. They hide behind depression, substance abuse, and other behavioral and physical health symptoms. We urge you to be a part of Ohio's care continuum.



Renewal Update—Rhonda Franklin



License Renewal Notice Letters will go in the mail this month for all licensees with renewal dates April through June of 2016. Renewal is not required until your renewal date, however your license is eligible for renewal upon receipt of this notice. Please remember: continuing education must be completed prior to submitting your renewal.

When renewing your license online please remember to enter your current email address. A receipt will be sent to this address once your renewal is processed.

The inactive status allows you to place your license in escrow if you are not practicing. To renew inactive does not require the completion of continuing education and the two year inactive renewal fee is less. Contact the board office when you are eligible for renewal if you wish to renew inactive. We currently have over 500 inactive licenses.

If you want to return from inactive status and become active again, you can request in writing to the Board to return to active status. When doing so, you must be able to demonstrate that in the preceding two years you completed thirty hours of Continuing Education, with six of those thirty hours covering ethics. These thirty hours cannot be used to meet the Continuing Education requirements for the next renewal. If you are re-activating as a supervisor you must also complete 3 hours of supervision training.

The post program approval form is a simple way to have out of state and distance learning continuing education approved for CEU's. This form can also be used to submit published articles or books you've authored, or for courses or workshops you taught. To find the form, go to www.cswmft.ohio.gov and click on the Renewal link.

As we no longer send out wallet cards for license renewal, proof of licensure can be downloaded or printed from the online license verification link on the board's website under the "How do I find listing".



CSWMFT Welcomes New Board Members

In 2015, the Board experienced some change. Three members - Maureen Cooper, Steve Polovick, and Mary Venrick - left the Board. Additional members joined the Board, including Anna Bomas, Matthew Paylo, Ryan Pickut, and the newest member, Sara Blakeslee-Salkil.

Anna, an LSW, joined the Social Work Professional Standards Committee. She works for OhioHealth in the Marion area. Matthew Paylo, LPCC-S joined the Counselor Professional Standards Committee. He is a faculty member at Youngstown State. Ryan Pickut, LPCC-S, is clinical director at A Renewed Mind Services, a community mental health agency. Shortly before the end of the year, Sara Blakeslee-Salkil, IMFT-S, was named to the Marriage and Family Therapist PSC. Sara is on the faculty of Abilene Christian University.

The Board and staff are excited to have Anna, Sara, Matt, and Ryan join the CSWMFT Board team.



Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Licensees

Social Workers:

- Richard Bowlen (LSW) Improper Renewal/Audit Failure. Revoked
- Thomas Burkhardt (LISW-S) Revocation vacated. Suspension of license
- Ryan Cerrone (LSW) Non-Sexual boundaries. Reprimand and additional ethics.
- Linda Coleman (LISW) Felony Conviction. Revoked
- Velma Hottle (LSW) Improper Renewal/Audit Failure Surrender of license
- James Opelt (LSW) Improper Renewal/Audit Failure. Revoked
- Quinta Peoples (LSW) Improper Renewal/Audit Failure. Revoked
- Danielle Shuler (LSW) Improper renewal/audit failure. Reprimand and suspension

We've Moved!

The Board moved in June 2015 to the Riffe State Office Tower (77 South High Street, 24th Floor, Columbus, OH, 43215).



Upcoming Events

- **CSWMFT Board Meeting — March 17 and 18**
- **2016 Ohio Problem Gambling Conference - March 3-4**
- **NASW Ohio Science of Social Work Conference - March 5**

Medicaid Enrollment for Independent Practitioners

The effective date for OAC rule 5160-8-05 was February 1, 2016. The rule, “Mental Health Services” to establish independent practice social workers, counselors and marriage and family therapists as direct providers in the Ohio Medicaid fee-for-service program, is currently being processed for “final file” for this effective date.

On or after February 1, 2016, the following provider types may enroll as providers in the Ohio Medicaid fee-for-service (FFS) program:

- Licensed Professional Clinical Counselors;
- Licensed Independent Social Workers; and
- Independent Marriage and Family Therapists

All other program changes, including changes in reimbursement and covered services, will also become effective February 1, 2016.

Providers with questions about the enrollment process may call 1-800-686-1516.

Medicaid encourages interested providers to monitor the ODM Guidance page for the formal publication of the implementing transmittal letter.

Providers with questions regarding this program policy change can email us at: NONINSTITUTIONAL_POLICY@medicaid.ohio.gov.



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.

Ethics—Margaret-Ann Adorjan and Tracey Hosom

Should you search for your client on the internet? The Internet gives us access to an enormous amount of information. Some of this information is beneficial, some not so valuable. Increasingly, many of us live our lives online. We post updates on Facebook, Tweet about an issue, or post a picture to Instagram. As a licensee, can you use the information disclosed on the Internet in working with a client?

Recently the Board had a discussion regarding expanding section OAC 4757-5-02 (B) (5), which reads: “Counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists who provide services via electronic means shall inform the clients and recipients of the limitations and risks associated with such services.” The Board considered a change that would include language surrounding informed consent for the client concerning the licensee’s use of search engines and social media to gather information regarding clients. At present, a change in the rules will not be adopted. The Board and staff will be taking time to review the impacts of a rule upon the practice of Social Work, Counseling, and Marriage and Family Therapy.

In the absence of a specific rule, how should licensees address the use of the Internet or social media? A licensee may want to ask himself or herself a few questions when considering researching a client:

- Will I disclose to the client the fact that I have used the Internet to gather information? If telling the client is uncomfortable, it may suggest the activity is not appropriate.
- Why am I searching for information about a client? Is it being done as part of a policy regarding safety and security, or am I just curious? If it is simply curiosity, the therapist may want to consider their motivations regarding a client or clients in general.
- What will I do with the information I obtain? Will I ask the client in a session about information gained through a search?
- What is the therapeutic value of searching for information about a client? While some might argue that it gives the clinician a fuller picture of the client’s life, others find this obtrusive, and unrelated to the issues that may have caused the client to seek out treatment. Remember- the therapeutic relationship is client driven.

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.

