

Spring / Summer
2006

News Link



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board



All forms on the web site have been converted to Active PDF files. This means you can download the file and type in your information using Adobe Reader software! You then need to print the document as it cannot be saved without the full Adobe suite of software.

Web Site Points of Interest

The board's web site has many interesting features that will allow you to know the status of licenses, potential changes under consideration and other usable facts.

There is a link to a database of all licensees that contains their license status, date of first issuance, expiration date and whether they have been disciplined. If they have been disciplined copies of the public documents are available as well.

The meeting minutes for the board and professional standards committees are also available and provide a good guide to what issues are being discussed and actions taken.

The board meeting dates and locations are also listed. All board and professional

standards committee meetings are open to the public.

There are links to all commonly used forms needed by licensees. All forms are Adobe PDF forms that allow you type your data and print forms in easy to read formats.

There are links to laws and rules with a bookmarked Adobe PDF file that includes an Index for Laws and a separate Index for Rules.

There are separate information areas for each licensing group with detailed requirements. We also have a consumer's page with information on the board and its responsibility.

Please visit often!

Disclosure Statement Changes & Ethics Rules

The board modified the rules for disclosure statements for all licensees. As of January 1, 2006 all disclosure statements must include the license number of the licensee. Additionally the board moved which means all disclosure statements must be updated with the new board address in order to comply with the

rule.

The ethic's rule 4757-5-01 also has significant changes that need to be read and understood. Sections (B) Responsibility to Clients/Consumers of Service; (C) Multiple Relationships; (D) Sexual Relationships; and, (I) Record Keeping require particular attention.



Counselor Licensing Examination Changes

The Counselor Professional Standards Committee (CPSC) voted on January 20, 2006 to modify the examination process. Effective March 1, 2006 individuals applying for the LPC license will be required to take the NCE licensure examination through NBCC.

Effective March 1, 2006 any individual applying for the LPCC will be required to take the NCMHCE. Only licensed LPCs will be eligible to take the NCMHCE and will need to apply for approval; they are eligible to apply upon receiving licensure as a LPC.

All LPCs licensed through passage of the single tier Ohio PCLE examinations will be grandparented from this requirement. Anyone who failed the PCLE will be required to pass the NCE to be eligible for licensure.

Those required to complete a remediation plan will still need to do so unless they passed the general knowledge section of the most recent PCLE taken. If you are on a remediation plan and wish to modify your plan submit your written request for approval.

Post CEU Program Approvals-in-State

The board voted at the November 18, 2005 meeting to no longer allow in-state-post approvals for CEU courses as that practice is not allowed by current rules. The board is reviewing rule changes to more specifically address this issue and make the rules easier to understand and follow.

Additionally, the board is reviewing language to clarify appropriate college level courses for CEUs and review of the requirement for thirty separate hours of CEUs for each license held. Please check the web site in the future for any proposed rule changes.

New Licensing System and License Statuses

The Board implemented a new licensing system in June 2005. A number of changes resulted from that implementation that has confused licensees.

When the renewals are sent out for the next six month group due for renewal the license status is changed from "ACTIVE" to "Active-in-Renewal". That change allows the system to recognize that license as one that is eligible for renewal online. Once the license is renewed the status changes to "Active-in-Renewal - Paid". Once a wallet license card

is printed, the status changes to "ACTIVE" again. When going online to the License Lookup feature at <https://license.ohio.gov> an "Active-in-Renewal" status may be active or expired and can only be differentiated by clicking on the status and seeing the expiration date, which if passed means the license is in an expired status and needs to be renewed immediately if the licensee is practicing. You can call the board for your UserID and Password.

Renewals for July through December 2006

We have mailed the July through December 2006 renewals as of early May 2006. If you have not received a renewal by June 15 and renew in July to December 2006 please contact the board immediately. The phone number for renewal questions is 614-466-5436. The renewal notices have the UserID and password for online renewals. Renewing online saves time and money – no money

order needed nor a notary signature. You also receive a proof of payment document that you can print on your computer. If you need to find a continuing education program in your area, go to the board web site and look at the CEU Program and Provider lists to find options in your city or county.

*Renew online
and save postage,
waiting time and
have an immediate
receipt showing you
have renewed your
license!
Following is one of
the many
comments the
board has received:*

*"This new renewal
system rocks!!!
So much easier than
the paper renewal!
Thanks a lot!"*

Discipline Action Taken Against Licensees

The following actions were taken against the licensees listed below:

Social workers:

James Baker – Criminal conviction. License Revoked.

Sheila Buell – Practice outside scope of practice. License Revoked.

Normajean Hammer – Non-sexual boundary violation. 3-month suspension and mandated ethics course

David Kelner – Failure to abide by Board Consent Agreement. Reprimanded.

Michelle Knapp – Breach of client confidentiality. Mandated supervision and additional CEUs

Lisa Little – Falsification of records.

Required ethics course - 18 month probation.

Marilyn McGowan – Falsification of records. 2-week suspension and additional CEUs

Kendra Mitchell – Non-sexual boundary violation. 18 month suspension

Jill Spearman – Practice on suspended license. 2 year probation and mandated supervision.

Bobbi Spilker – Failure to abide by Board order. License Revoked.

Samuel Williams – Sexual harassment. Two month suspension and additional CEUs

Counselors:

Julie Sadler – Sexual boundary violation. 4-year suspension.



Child Custody Issue

The Board has seen a marked increase in the number of complaints involving child custody evaluations. The largest number of these complaints has been registered against professional clinical counselors. In April 2004, Ohio Administrative Code Section 4757-6-01 was put into place to try to stem the problem but it does not seem to have been successful. The Board is asking the counselor education programs to consider addressing this issue in the classroom setting.

The issue is one of defining which role a therapist is providing: the role of the child therapist versus a custody evaluator. This needs to be understood by all licensed mental health professionals.

We would encourage all licensed individuals under this Board's jurisdiction to review OAC 4757-6-01. A therapist who is the primary therapist to a child should not be making a custody evaluation or recommendation unless ordered to do so by the court. Too often the therapist is asked (or manipulated) to make a custody recommendation by the custodial parent. The purpose of the request is usually in order for that parent to gain support in court for purposes of custody/visitation/child support. While we would encourage licensees to read

the entire rule, OAC 4757-6-01(F) states "Although the court may require the counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist to testify as a fact witness regarding factual information he or she became aware of in a professional relationship with a client, that counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist should generally decline the role of expert witness who gives a professional opinion regarding custody and visitation issues unless ordered by the court to do so."

Often the therapist makes statements with regard to the non-custodial parent even if they have never met this parent and this parent has not been present for the counseling sessions. In fact OAC 4757-5-01(B)(2)(f) specifically states "a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist shall not make any recommendations to courts, attorneys or other professionals regarding non-clients". The role of the child's primary therapist is to provide support and therapy; this does not include interjecting into a legal proceeding with an opinion unless required to do so by the court. The Board will take disciplinary action against those licensees who have failed to maintain appropriate standards of care in this area.

Please make sure you pay attention to keeping proper records. Too many people are getting in trouble for issues easily avoided!



News Link

COUNSELOR, SOCIAL WORKER & MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST BOARD

50 W. Broad St., Ste. 1425
Columbus, Ohio 43215-5919

PHONE:
614-466-0912

FAX:
614-728-7790

E-MAIL:
cswmft.info@cswb.state.oh.us

WEB SITE:
<http://cswmft.ohio.gov>

*The Board regulates
the practice of
counseling, social work
and marriage and
family therapy for the
State of Ohio.*

Meet Glenn Abraham, SWPSC Chair

Glenn Abraham is the chair of the social work professional standards committee and the board member with the most years of board experience. Glenn was first appointed to the board in July 1991 to fill a partial term for a departing board member serving until October 1993. He was reappointed in October 1994, 1995 and 1998 serving continuously through October 2001 and then reappointed in October 2002 and 2005. Glenn was first licensed as a LISW in June 1986.

Glenn has worked for Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction (DR&C) since March 1977 reaching the position of Deputy Warden at Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center, Dayton, Ohio and currently serving as Social Work Supervisor in the Recovery Services Department at Dayton Correctional Institution, Dayton, Ohio.

Glenn's duties include:

- Planning, implementation, and evaluation of alcohol and other drug intervention programs.
- Supervision of professional staff members assigned to the Recovery Services Department.

- Provision of individual and group counseling services to members of the client population.
- Clinical supervision of Recovery Services Department staff at the Montgomery Education and Pre-Release Center.

Glenn lives a very busy life having been an adjunct professor at four different universities including January, 1984 to Present Adjunct Assistant Professor of Social Work Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio; January, 2002 to Present Adjunct Instructor of Social Work Sinclair Community College, Dayton, Ohio; August, 1992 to August, 2000 Adjunct Instructor of Criminal Justice University of Dayton, Dayton, Ohio; and June, 1988 to July, 1998 Adjunct Instructor of Social Work Miami University, Middletown Campus, Middletown, Ohio.

Glenn holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in social work from Wright State University and a Masters in Social Work from University of Kentucky. Glenn is planning to retire from the Ohio DR&C later this year and enrolling at University of Kentucky as a doctoral student in social work.

Ethics Issues – “Am I practicing without a license?”

Caution: Check the duties on your job description! If you think your job duties may encompass practicing social work it is your responsibility to address the duties with your agency, and stop performing all social work activities.

The Ohio Administrative Code section 4757-21-02 Scope of practice for a social worker lists the duties of a social worker. Section D lists a range of Psychosocial assessment duties: Intervention planning, psychosocial intervention, counseling, social psychotherapy under supervision, evaluation. The definition of social work is defined in the Revised Code at 4757.01 division (c). Increasingly, the board has seen applications for licensure, in which the applicants are performing social work duties under the guise of “case management”. In Ohio, case management is not an activity that requires licensure. For example, case management may include: community outreach, social services, community support, and advocacy. However, some job descriptions list the position under the title “Case Manager.”

Upon checking the job descriptions, they frequently list social work duties that **do** require licensure. This can be as confusing for employers as it is for social work licensure applicants. Do not assume that the job title means the duties do not require a license. It is a violation of the ORC and OAC to practice social work without a license. Applicants may face denial of their social work license, or disciplinary action.

“What if I am working under supervision?”

It is not appropriate to practice without a license, even if it is under supervision. In addition, supervisors that knowingly provide supervision for unlicensed social workers, counselors, or marriage and family therapists, may jeopardize their own license. Since it is a violation to practice without a license in Ohio, failure to report someone who violates the statute and ethical standards, could result in disciplinary action against a supervisor. Should you have questions email Tracey at tracey.hosom@cswb.state.oh.us.