

Spring / Summer  
2005

# News Link



## Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board



*All forms on the new web site have been converted to Active PDF files. This means you can download the file and type in your information using Adobe Reader*

### New Web Site Design

The Board has redesigned the web site at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov>. The redesign offers a much more user-friendly design and incorporates a lot more detail.

All of the forms on the web site have been converted to Adobe active PDF files. Active PDFs allow the user to open the file in Adobe Reader and click on check boxes and data lines to type in the information requested. You can then print the form to mail to the Board. You can't save the form in Adobe Reader so be sure to complete the whole form and then print it.

The web site also has a list of CEU Providers and Programs. CEU Providers are approved agencies/companies/colleges

etc. that have been approved by the Board to offer CEU courses without prior approval of the Board. The CEU Programs are individually approved programs and are listed.

We have also added minutes from 2003, 2004 & 2005 for Board meetings and each of the Professional Standards Committees.

The picture above is currently displayed on the web site front page and is a Microsoft public domain picture. We would like some pictures of licensees at work or in groups and will post any picture we receive. Just email the digital picture smaller than 1 MB to the Board.

### CSWMFT Board Procedures in Court Reporting

The board filed an Ohio Administrative Code rule **Reports prepared for court review 4757-6-01**, which went into effect in April 2004. There have been an increasing amount of complaints against licensees with regard to court reporting. The rule defines the counselor, social

worker, or marriage and family therapist's role as that of a professional expert who strives to maintain an objective stance. Please familiarize yourself with the complete rule, which can be found on the board's website under the Ohio Administrative Code.

## Counseling Licensing Examination

Some PC applicants have voiced concerns about the Board's counseling licensing examination. The Board has had discussions recently with the National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) on this issue. NBCC has demonstrated to the Board that the licensing examination is in compliance with our contract.

The licensing examination process starts with the Board's 2001 Job Analysis of Licensed Professional Counselors. In that document the knowledge and skills required of entry-level counselors in Ohio is defined. That definition is the foundation on which NBCC creates the examination.

The purpose of the examination program is to create a valid and reliable assessment instrument that assists the Board in protecting public welfare. The Board upholds this responsibility by licensing only the counselors who have met the established requirements by demonstrating to the Board that they are properly educated and trained to perform the knowledge and skills that comprise the profession.

Ohio's examination has a strong emphasis on clinical issues and reflects the core knowledge and skills needed to be a successful counselor – diagnosis, assessment, planned therapy and treatment.



## New Licensing System

The Board will be implementing a new licensing system around June 1, 2005. The new system should allow the Board to provide greatly improved customer service for applicants and licensees. The new system is currently being used by twenty plus licensing boards in Ohio.

The new system has online renewal capability with payments via credit card. Each licensee will receive a UserID and Password with their renewal that allows entry to the renewal system at <https://license.ohio.gov>. This is a secure web site operated at the Ohio Super Computer

Center in Columbus. With this system you will receive an immediate return email documenting that you have renewed your license. The new system also allows online address updates by licensees through the same system portal.

The new system greatly enhances the Board's capability to respond to questions over the phone or by email without searching for paper files. The Board will be changing many of the current processes as this system enhancement provides streamlined processing and efficiencies.

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*Renew online and  
save postage,  
waiting time and  
have an immediate  
receipt showing you  
have renewed your  
license!  
Available after  
July 1, 2005.*

## Renewals for July through December 2005 Split Mailing

Normally the board would mail all July through December renewals in early May 2005. However due to the new licensing system discussed above July and August renewals will be mailed in early May and the September through December renewals will be mailed in early July. We want to be able

to mail the online renewal UserID and Passwords to as many licensees as possible. Renew online and get your license quicker than ever before! The process saves the Board processing time and allows quicker printing and mailing of renewed licenses.

## Discipline Action Taken Against Licensees

The following actions were taken against the licensees listed below:

### Social workers

William Arnett - Inaccurate records. Formal reprimand and required to take a social work ethics course.

Nina Booker - felony conviction. Formal reprimand and pre-approved supervision.

David Caldwell - boundary issues. SWA suspended for 1 year and 8 hours of CEUs in the area of sexual harassment.

Lucious Harper - Failure to complete client documentation. Formal reprimand, pre-approved supervision and required to take 8-hours of CEUs if professional ethics.

David Harris - Mandatory reporting issue. Formal reprimand, 10-hours of CEUs in professional ethics and a professional consultation.

Karen Hunter - Inaccurate records. Formal reprimand and required to take a social work ethics course.

Sandra Lang - practice without a license. Five hours of CEUs in social work ethics.

Tracey Lewis - practice on a lapsed license. Formal reprimand.

Shanti Lovekin-Turner - ability to practice. Indefinite suspension for a minimum of 18-months.

Rebecca Martin - Inaccurate records. Formal reprimand, indefinite suspension for a minimum of 18-months.

Shirley McCreary - ability to practice.

Indefinite suspension.

Karen McGrath - Practicing outside scope of practice and boundary issue. 2-year probation and required to take a social work ethics course.

Marion Meacham - practice on a lapsed license. 3-month suspension.

Darla Richardson - boundary issue. SWA certification revoked.

George Sheppard - boundary issues. 30 day suspension, 1-year probation, and required to take a social work ethics course.

Tina Smith-Comedy - inaccurate records. Formal reprimand and required to take an additional 3-hours of CEUs in professional ethics.

Michelle Vidale - poor record keeping and failure to maintain appropriate standards of care. Required to take social work ethics and social work theory courses, and 2-year probation.

Donald Zlotnik - boundary issues. 6-month suspension and additional CEUs required in the area of professional ethics

### Counselors

Jeffery Morgan - misrepresentation of credentials. 5-year suspension and 60-clock hours in non-repeatable ethics trainings during the period of suspension.

Darcy Stephens - boundary issues. One-month suspension and pre-approved supervision.



*Please make sure you pay attention to keeping proper records. Too many people are getting in trouble for issues well within their control!*

## Meet Jim Rough, the new Executive Director

The Board hired James R. Rough as the new executive director. Jim started work on March 7, 2005 and is spending a great deal of time learning the laws, rules and policies of the Board. Jim served as the executive director of the State Board of Cosmetology and is intimately familiar with Ohio's budgeting, personnel, licensing system and the other day-to-day factors affecting

licensing boards. Jim is looking forward to meeting many licensees in the performance of his duties and is most willing to come speak to groups about Board issues.

Jim is a retired Naval officer with twenty-two years of service. He is also a native Ohioan and proud graduate of The Ohio State University holding a BS and also earned a MBA from Shippensburg State.



## *News Link*

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

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

## Meet Dr. Rose, our Board Chair

Dr. Rose Quiñones del Valle is a graduate of Kent State University in Counselor Education and Supervision, with a Ph.D, a Masters' Degree in Community Counseling and a Bachelor's Degree in History and Social Work from Youngstown State. She holds licenses as a licensed Professional Clinical Counselor with Supervisor designation and as a Social Worker, certifications as a Nationally Certified Counselor, and Master Addictions Counselor. She is a Counselor Educator at Cleveland State University and Adjunct Professor with Franciscan University of Steubenville. She has worked in the social work and counseling field since 1980 and has several areas of expertise and worked in a number of settings such as alcohol and chemical addictions, mental health, and community corrections field. She has been in private practice since 1987 and works with Associated Psychiatrists, Inc. as a full time Clinical Counselor at 7 Belgrade Ave. in Youngstown.

Dr. Quiñones del Valle has been active as past president of Eastern Ohio Counselors Association, has held various offices with

EOCA..and has served on the Executive Board of the Ohio Counseling Association as By-Laws Chair. Dr. Quiñones del Valle is a past recipient of the Dee Elias Award (Eastern Ohio Counseling Association) and numerous awards for leadership at Cleveland State University in the area of Minority Affairs. In 1999, Dr. Rose was appointed to serve as a member of the Counselor Social Worker Marriage and Family Therapist Board (OCSMFTB) by Governor Taft. She is the present Chair of the Board. She serves as an Investigative Liaison to the Board and is past Chair of the Counselor Professional Standards Committee for two years. She represents the State of Ohio at the national level at the American Association of State Counselor Boards.

Dr. Quiñones del Valle has made numerous presentations at the national, state, and regional levels on "supervision and the law", diversity, ethics, disabilities and "culture and coping". Her unique experience as an investigative liaison has provided her with training and knowledge that can be applied to application of the law and understanding of professional counseling standards.

## Recent Complaint Issues

The number of complaints the Board receives has steadily increased the past two years. While there are always a large number of complaints alleging improper professional boundaries between a licensee and a client, a large percentage of complaints are now in the area of poor record keeping. One area of concern is the complaints that allege that a licensee has left employment and it is discovered that the licensee did not complete their case notes before they left. Obviously the licensee must take primary responsibility for this but the clinical director must also share in the blame for allowing a licensee to get so far behind in their case notes that they were not completed in a timely manner. The Board's position on this is that when a licensee leaves an agency and provides appropriate notice to their employer (thus avoiding client abandonment allegations), they must have completed all the case notes for sessions they conducted. In this way continuity of care can be accomplished and appropriate billings done. The Board has had

cases where the licensee has literally been years behind in case notes. Several years ago the Board changed its rule so the licensee who sees a client on one day and then writes the case note on a different day must make it clear in the case note that the note was written on a different day than session.

Another area of concern with records is the increased number of forgeries the Board is seeing. It appears that licensees who are about to go through either an internal or external audit and realize that their client files are incomplete decide to forge the name of the clients on release forms and on Individual Services Plans (ISPs). We have also seen licensees who forge their supervisor's signature implying that the records have been reviewed when they have not. Forgery is a crime and we encourage the agencies that find forgeries to file criminal charges against the individual. The Board will take separate action with regard to disciplining a licensee.