

CSWMFT News

Winter 2017
Issue 1

Message from the Chairperson -
Matthew Paylo, Ph.D., LPCC-S



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

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I am happy to report that Governor Kasich was kind enough to reappoint Carl Brun, Ph.D., LISW-S, and me to the CSWMFT Board. As I know Carl does, I greatly appreciate the opportunity to serve the public and persons seeking to join the professions regulated by the Board. I encourage you to consider applying to serve on this wonderful board.

This issue of the CSWMFT News is being published on the cusp of spring. Many of us look forward to spring as it's a time for renewal. The Board looks forward to spring because that is when the number of applications begin to increase as new graduates seek to start their careers. As an educator, I know how anxious graduating students can be regarding the licensure application process. The Board makes every effort to help with the questions new applicants may have during the process. Applicants are encouraged to first consult the CSWMFT web site first. We try to include as much help information as possible. You can find the web site at cswmft.ohio.gov.

To help smooth out the application process during the transition to a new licensing system, the CSWMFT Board is encouraging persons who anticipate applying for a license in the spring or early summer to do so before June 1, 2017. Applying now will ensure your application is in the existing licensing system before the transition to the new licensing system. We anticipate limited access to both the current and new system during this time.

In an ongoing effort to make sure licensees have the options available to meet licensing requirements, The Board agreed to explore designating NBCC as a CE provider. Doing so would enable Counselors who take NBCC-approved CE to use such courses for the renewal of their LPC or LPCC.

The CSWMFT Board is committed to its public protection role, but does so recognizing the importance of the professions it regulates to the health and well-being of Ohio communities. We are open to your feedback and suggestions. I would encourage you to attend our meetings, read the newsletter, and review proposed rule changes as they are proposed.

Executive Director's Update—Brian Carnahan

The New Year is off to a busy start. Staff are actively engaged in their normal duties, which can be significant, but are also working hard on implementing the State's new licensing system, called "eLicense". We are working with the project team on a range of changes that will help applicants and licensees more effectively engage the Board, but will also help make us even more efficient.

Part of the transition to the new system involves ensuring we have accurate data in the system. We have been working with the project team to identify missing and incorrect information. Once eLicense is implemented, all licensees will be required to use the system to renew their license. Accessing the system requires a valid e-mail address. If you think we may have an incorrect e-mail address, or no address at all, please e-mail cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov with the correct information. You may be hearing from a Board staff member if other information is missing from our records, for example your date of birth. This along with other information will be required as part of the initial registration process.

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Executive Director's Update - Continued

Continued from page 1:

All of the CSWMFT staff have been actively participating in the eLicense project. Particular thanks is owed to Margaret-Ann Adorjan, Rhonda Franklin, and Andy Miller, all three of whom have sat in on many design and planning sessions, as well as worked hard to revise emails and other documents for the system. Ray Lund taken on additional data clean-up work. Paula Broome has been instrumental in exploring new means of offering the Board's laws and rules exam.

While we are working on transitioning to a new licensing system, we have also been exploring options for how the Board educates applicants and current licensees regarding the laws and rules applicable to the practice of Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Social Work. During its January 2017 meeting, the Board agreed to a staff proposal to transition to an online video that will discuss various ethical issues and responsibilities for licensees. There would be no charge to view the video as part of the application process.

Also during its January 2017 meeting, the Board authorized staff to start the process of adopting the services of CE Broker. The Board will announce how CE Broker will fit into the Continuing Education process as more details are available.

***Next Meeting
of the
CSWMFT
Board:***

Board Member Ryan Pickut attended the Association of State Counseling Boards annual meeting. Ryan participated on a panel about current legislative issues where he shared some insights from the perspective of Counselor and Board Member. Bill Hegarty, CSWMFT Board Deputy Director, recently spoke at the Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards Forum. Bill was invited to discuss the Board's investigatory process. Attendance at these conferences gives Board Members and Board staff an opportunity to learn from counterparts in other states.

***Thursday,
March 16 and
Friday,
March 17***

Stayed tuned for new draft rules. While it was only last July when new rules went into effect, it is time to begin considering possible changes for 2017. When rule changes are proposed, we will send out a notice to licensees, as well as post the rules to the CSWMFT web site.

Be sure to check out the CSWMFT web site often. We regularly update information and maintain a list of helpful links. The Board's web site can be found at [www. http://cswmft.ohio.gov/](http://www.cswmft.ohio.gov/). The web site is the best place to find the answers for many of your questions.





Treating Children: What is Appropriate Informed Consent When Treating Children?

- Tracey Hosom

The Board continues to receive many complaints involving custody matters. However, maintaining best practice standards when treating minors involves more than having full knowledge of the OAC rule 4757-6-01 “Reports prepared for court review including custody, visitation and guardianship concerns.” Whether you are a private practitioner, or part of a large community mental health organization, treating children can raise some ethical considerations that should be reviewed with parents or guardians at the onset of treatment and as a part of appropriate Informed Consent.

A counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist, is required to obtain informed consent. The parent, guardian or court appointed representative who brings a child for treatment should provide consent. OAC 4757-5-2 (B) “responsibilities to clients/consumers of services as to informed consent” the rule states ...“If a client because of age or mental condition is not competent to provide informed consent, the licensee shall obtain consent from the parent, guardian, or court appointed representative. Best professional practice dictates that a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist shall adhere to the court documents. If a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist does not understand the court document, they shall contact the court for clarification before proceeding with treatment.”

What does this mean? This section can be unclear for many of our licensees. If a parent brings a child in for services, it is incumbent upon the licensee to obtain informed consent. Getting the consent requires clarification as to who has the authority to provide consent; not everyone has such authority. There needs to be established legal authority in order for the parent to provide consent. Ask the parent/guardian for a copy of any custody documentation as a part of the client intake. If there is no court documentation then obtain a signed consent from one/both parent(s) attesting to the lack of court documentation and maintain this as part of the client’s record. Be sure to obtain a clear explanation regarding the lack of custody documentation. Likewise, if there are court documents, obtain a copy to maintain as part of the client’s record; remind the parent/guardian to update you with any changes in custody that might affect your ability to render treatment.

It can become complicated, as well as difficult when dealing with high conflict divorce custody cases, but court documentation will usually define who can make decisions. Remember that in cases where it is not clear, seek clarification through the courts. Best practice standards dictate licensees shall adhere to court documents. Therefore, if you do not have a copy of the documents in a child’s records, you are not maintaining best professional practice standards. While both parents may not have to agree to the treatment or its need, you are required to notify the parties. Remember, the Board is available to answer your ethical questions, or refer you to appropriate resources. Tracey can be contacted at Tracey.Hosom@cswb.ohio.gov.





Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Licensees (September 2016—January 2017)

Social Workers:

Charlotte A. Adams (SWA) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Revoked

Kaitlin Faber (LSW) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Revoked

Gabrielle Fassman (LSW) Sexual boundary violation. Suspension/personal counseling

Beverly Frierson (LSW) Felony conviction. Revoked.

Daniel Gazdik (LSW) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Suspension of license

Jacqueline Haas (LISW) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Surrender of license

Kimberly Hurtt (LSW) Misdemeanor in course of practice. Suspension

Trina Johnson (LSW) Standards of care. Suspension and counseling

Della Kesterke (SWA) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Surrender of registration

Mary Jo Mermer-Welly (LSW) Non-sexual boundaries. Reprimand and CEUs.

Carolyn Peters (LSW) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Revoked

Tyrone Reed (LSW) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Revoked

Tara Sauer (LISW) Standard of care. Suspension

Kenneth Tagliarina (LISW) Standard of care. Personal counseling

Amanda Villarreal (LSW) Sexual boundary violation. Suspension and counseling

Counselors:

Kathleen Ashton (LPC) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Surrender of license.

Todd Farmer (LPC) Standard of care. Surrender of license

Ron Fasano (LPCC) Standard of care. Surrender of license

Demetrius Henderson (LPC) Improper Renewal/Audit Failure. Revoked

Thomas McLellan (LPC) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Surrender of license

Ann Petricca (LPCC) Theft at agency. Ethics/supervision/court follow through

Loretta Phillips (LPCC) Felony convictions. Revoked

Kenneth Wolford (LPCC) Audit Failure/Improper Renewal. Suspension

Bernadette Zoppetti (LPCC) Records. Reprimand and CEUs

Audit Update - Paula Broome



In the 2015 CSWMFT spring newsletter I wrote that the Board was looking into CE Broker's pilot program for tracking continuing education. For a variety of reasons, by the summer of 2015 the Board decided not to move forward with the CE Broker's pilot program. With the planned move to a new licensing system, in February 2017 the CSWMFT Board has decided to implement CE Broker. The new e-license system is able to work with CE Broker and this added bonus has lead other regulatory Boards to sign with CE Broker for their continuing education needs. CE Broker offers our licensees a free CE Broker account option and efficient software for office staff to help speed up the audit and continuing education approval.

At present it takes three weeks to process a request for post program approval. It takes 5 weeks for a provider applying for a Board approval number and it can take two months or longer for an audit to be reviewed. CE Broker will help to speed up these processes for Board staff as well as for our over thirty-five thousand licensees.

CE Broker not only tracks continuing education for our licensees it also offers the Board a faster way to approve providers offering continuing education programs and post program approval requests. CE Broker will give us an up to date searchable database for approved programs. Our licensees will be able to sign into the CE Broker site to upload their attendance certificates and look for approved hours. CE Broker offers the best solution for the Board's licensees & continuing education needs.

We are hoping to roll out this new system later this year. This will involve changing a great many procedures – everything from the way our licensees renew to how Board approved providers apply for approval. For example, licensees will sign into the CE Broker site and upload their attendance certificates before they renew their license. Providers will apply (and upload documents) through the CE Broker site for Board approval. The audit will be conducted through the CE Broker site without Board staff having to contact the licensee (unless errors are found). This will be an almost paperless process and a much faster process for all.

For more information on CE Broker please visit their website at: <https://www.cebroke.com/> also visit the Board's website at: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Home.aspx> and click on 'Breaking News' for month to month updates.

Social Work Master's Exam

The Board has implemented a change in its exam policy. This change will not be accompanied by the introduction of a new license type. The LSW and the LISW will remain the two levels of Social Work licenses.

The new master's exam policy states that after January 1, 2018, all MSW graduates who are not already a Licensed Social Worker in Ohio or another jurisdiction will be required to pass the Masters exam to qualify as a Licensed Social Worker. In addition, any MSW graduate whose license has expired and who passed the Bachelors exam more than seven years ago (and is not currently licensed in another jurisdiction) will be required to pass the Masters exam to become re-licensed in Ohio if they did not renew.

Between now and January 1, 2018, MSW graduates who are not LSWs may elect to take the Masters exam if they so choose. The Board will be working to revise its own forms and processes to accommodate the change, as well as working with ASWB to update its systems. Students who are already preparing or studying for the Bachelors exam may still move forward with that test. At this point, the Masters exam is merely optional for those who would like to take it instead of the Bachelors exam. MSW students graduating before January 1, 2018, or those who have already graduated but have not taken an exam, may want to consider the Masters exam. Many other jurisdictions require the Masters exam as a requirement for licensure. Taking it now will reduce any barriers to licensure in other jurisdictions.





Renewal Update—Rhonda Franklin

2017 has already been a year of change and there are more on the horizon. In June 2017 the board will be rolling out a new data base which will allow licensees more access to licensure information. This is an online system . We will no longer process paper renewal applications. Renewal notices will be emailed. Licensees will be able to select their own user id and passwords for online renewal. Address changes may also be entered online.

Renewal notice letters for all licensees due for renewal April 2017 – June 2017 should be in the mail by February 10th. For those of you with June renewal dates please consider renewing a little earlier this year, for example in May or early June as the new system will go live in June. While we expect a smooth roll out, it is always good to plan ahead. Your license is eligible for renewal upon completion of the required continuing education and receipt of your renewal notice letter. If you have changed your mailing address, email address or name please contact the board prior to your renewal date.

Remember, post program approval is required for all trainings that are online or out of state and not pre-approved by the board and for those trainings completed online or out of state. For Social Workers we automatically accept trainings pre-approved by NASW and ASWB no post approval is required. Post program approval forms may be found on the board’s website www.CSWMFT.Ohio.gov under the Renewal link in the middle of the home page.

The number of licensee with the Inactive/ Escrow status is steadily growing. Please remember this status is a two year renewal status. It is not a hold status for licensees who have not completed the required continuing education but plan to renew active upon completion of the required training in a few months.

Just a reminder: the board no longer sends out license renewal cards. For proof of licensure after renewal you will need to complete the online license verification which can be found on the board’s website www.CSWMFT.Ohio.gov under the How Do I Find listing.

