



CSWMFT News

Message from the Chairperson - Erin Michel, MSW, LSW

Winter 2018 Issue 1

Inside This Issue

Message from the Chairperson

2-Ethics Webinars

3-Executive Director's Update

4-Supervision Forms

5-Ethics

6-Working across Jurisdiction lines?

8-Disciplined Licensees

9-Getting to know Board member Anna Bomas

10-Renewal Update



I would like to welcome several new colleagues to the Board. Raymond "Butch" Losey, Ph.D., LPCC-S and Sue Pohler, Esq., both have joined the Counselor Professional Standards Committee. Butch is a professor at Xavier University, but also owns a multi-professional practice in the Cincinnati area where he focuses on couples therapy. Sue is an attorney in private practice in Columbus. She has extensive experience both working for and serving on State boards. Sue was also the Executive Director of the State Board of Tax Appeals. She served on the State Employment Relations Board, where she was Chairwoman, and was a member of the Optical Dispensers Board. Hollie Hinton will be joining the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee. Hollie works in marketing for a major Midwest engineering and architecture firm. She formerly worked in the office of Governor Ted Strickland. I am excited to see such dedicated professionals join the Board.

Congratulations and thanks are extended to Ryan Pickut and Carl Brun. During the American Association of State Counseling Boards annual meeting on January 11, Board Member Ryan Pickut, LPCC-S was elected to the President-Elect office. His term as President-Elect begins in July 2018. In 2019 his term as President will commence. Serving in this role gives Ohio an important voice in shaping regulatory issues affecting counseling.

Board Member Carl Brun, Ph.D., LISW-S, was named to the Association of Social Work Boards/ Council on Social Work Education Licensing and Regulation National Taskforce. He will be on a working group assigned to work on a competency called "Engage in Practice-Informed Research and Research-Informed Practice". Service in this capacity helps ensure education is aligned with regulatory and licensure issues.

In December's Board Update, I shared that license mobility was a main topic of discussion at the 2017 ASWB Delegate Assembly. It's also been a topic at Counselor and MFT national meetings. With more attention being paid to electronic service delivery (aka telehealth) and the ASWB Mobility Task Force recommendations, I would like to share some considerations should states with portability agreements allow licensees to travel with their licenses and practice electronically across state lines. To be clear, the Social Work Professional Standards Committee is not at a decision making point, nor are the other two Professional Standards Committees. The intention here is to communicate what issues the Board is being called to consider.

Continued on page 2



CSWMFT News

Message from the Chairperson - Continued

With respect to Social Work, license mobility brings up three important questions 1) Which licenses are the best fit for protecting Ohioans from harm? 2) How is macro social work practice represented in the licensing levels? 3) How flexible should regulations and inter-state agreements be for license mobility?

License levels are different in each state because licensing is regulated on the state level rather than the federal level. In fact, few states have the exact same licenses and requirements. The ASWB Mobility Task Force has set forth a vision "[to harmonize licensure eligibility criteria](#)" and recommends creating the following licenses: LBSW, LMSW, and LCSW. (See page 4 of the "[Mobility is a Moving Target](#)" article.) Currently, every state has its own license types based on education and experience levels. Many states have only clinical independent licenses, while Ohio issues independent licenses for both clinical and macro practice.

When it comes to electronic service delivery and license mobility, there are all kinds of trade-offs with either maintaining the current regulations as-is and with making changes. The Board as whole, as well as each Professional Standards Committee, will be discussing and exploring what this means for Ohio. We appreciate and welcome your input. You may contact Brian Carnahan at Brian.Carnahan@cswb.ohio.gov and request your input to be shared with the Board.

Ethics Webinars - Andy Miller

In years past, the Board has offered in-person ethics trainings to agencies across the state of Ohio. Unfortunately, with travel costs rising, we're no longer able to send speakers in person, but that doesn't mean we can't still provide information. As of this year, the Board has started offering webinars for agencies who are looking to offer ethics presentations to their employees.

The great thing about webinars is their versatility. We can provide presentations to large groups gathered together in a conference room, or to individual employees watching across the office on their personal devices. We can even speak to multiple agencies at the same time. The agency simply handles sign-in and attendance for their employees, as well as offering continuing education to them as needed.

If your agency is interested in hosting an ethics webinar, please contact Andy Miller at andy.miller@cswb.ohio.gov, and I'll be happy to set something up for you. Currently, we're not offering regular ethics webinars for individuals, only for agencies, but keep an eye on this newsletter for any future developments as we continue to expand the outreach efforts of the Board.



Executive Director's Update - Brian Carnahan

The CSWMFT Board met in January. During its meeting the Board reviewed rules subject to five year rule review requirements. Draft changes will be made available on the Board website. One topic of conversation was supervision. Expect the Board to review supervision requirements over the next year or so. The Board is interested in exploring basic requirements, but also how supervision is delivered, and the quality of supervision. All three professions will be exploring the topic. Supervision research conducted by OSU and NASW Ohio Chapter will provide interesting insights the Board can use.

Possible changes to Rule 4757-5-13, which covers electronic service delivery, were discussed in January. Based on research and recommendations from Board staff member Andy Miller, the Board will likely recommend more robust rules for using online and other technologies. The Board wants to balance ease of accessibility and communication with the protection of the public. The rule changes should help clarify for licensees how they can engage in electronic service delivery and conform to Ohio Revised Code Chapter 4757.

Board members also discussed topics for a strategic plan. As mentioned, supervision will be one topic, as will onboarding new Board Members, and the role of the Board in public protection. Stay tuned for more details.

Next Meeting of the CSWMFT Board:

Tracey Hosom and I were pleased to learn that our article titled "Observations from a licensing board" was one of Counseling Today's top 20 most read online articles for 2017. We slid into the rankings at number 19! I appreciate the Board's willingness to support the staff in sharing our ideas with national audiences.

March 15 and 16, 2018

Between November and January, Board staff issued nearly 1,200 licenses and registrations. The application process can be a bit stressful. We recommend checking out the Board web site when applying for a license. While the Board relies on eLicense for application submission, many of the licensure requirements are best reviewed by checking out the appropriate license type page on the CSWMFT Board web site.

In late January, a number of rule changes were approved by the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review. The Board did elect to change how it approves certain continuing education providers. National and State professional associations will have the opportunity to apply for provider status. As longstanding reviewers of continuing education programs, NASW National and the Ohio Chapter will be among the approved organizations. This change in rules will help expand CE access. The revised rules will be posted to the Board website once effective on March 5, 2018.

Continued on page 4





Executive Director's Update - Continued

Continued from page 3

In December, the Board invited licensees to create CE Broker accounts. Each week the number of licensees with registered accounts grows. Hundreds of programs are now listed with CE Broker. We continue to work closely with the CE Broker team to ensure the high quality experience possible. Answers to many questions you may have about CE Broker are accessible at: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/CE-Broker/CE-Broker-FAQs>.

As part of planned eLicense enhancements, the Board removed a required upload of supervision certificates for those licensees with a Supervisor Designation. The CE certificates for Supervisors can now be uploaded via CE Broker.

Please be sure to update your e-mail address in eLicense. E-mail will be the primary means of communication. Additionally, please sign up for e-mail updates from the Board. You can join our e-mail list at <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/SocialWorkers.aspx>. Also, like us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter.

Please contact me with any questions or concerns you may have. 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) meetings, the Administration and Planning meeting on Thursday morning, or the full Board meeting. Check out the CSWMFT website for dates and times.

Online Supervision Forms

The online supervision forms for reporting supervision for persons seeking an independent license have been in place for a couple of months. We have made a few changes. Supervisors and supervisees should now receive copies of the submitted evaluations.

We have noticed a couple of minor issues. One, supervisors are occasionally omitting the number of hours worked. Remember that, at a minimum, evaluations require a time period, hours worked, and hours of supervision (group or individual), as well as a recommendation (yes/no) to be accepted. Second, we have found that some supervisees have accidentally submitted evaluations. Evaluations must be completed by the supervisor to be accepted. The online form is not a request to the supervisor.

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

77 South High Street,
24th Fl
Columbus, Ohio 43215-
6171

PHONE:

614-466-0912

FAX:

614-728-7790

E-MAIL:

cswmft.info@cswb.ohio.gov

WEB SITE:

<http://cswmft.ohio.gov>



Ethics: Is this something that requires a Mandatory Report? - Tracey Hosom

The Board frequently receives calls concerning mandatory reporting of child abuse. This is a professional requirement that can be challenging. For those of us who are not attorneys, the language in the ORC can be confusing. In plain language, I tell licensees that in cases where they are not sure if they should report or not, they should contact children's services, describe the situation, and ask if it is something they need to report. Document your concerns, seek consultation, and when necessary seek legal advice.

The Board's rule on mandatory reporting is:

4757-5-10 Standards of ethical practice and professional conduct: reporting unethical actions.

(B) Counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists are required to comply with all mandatory reporting requirements set forth in the Revised Code to include, but not limited to:

(2) Section 2151.421 of the Revised Code - Duty to report child abuse or neglect;

The referenced ORC (State Law) can also be found in the Law and Rules Governing Counselors, Social Workers, & Marriage and Family Therapists:

<http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Portals/0/pdf/CSWMFT%20Board%20Laws%20and%20Rules%204757.pdf>

Another situation that also causes confusion is when an adult discloses that they were a victim of sexual abuse when they were a child. Licensees are not required to report such disclosed abuse once the client/consumer-of-services is an adult. However, the licensee can discuss with the client if the client

wants to report the abuse to Children's Protective Services; the licensee may offer to support them during the reporting process.

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

Did you know you can use courses in cultural competency/sensitivity to meet your continuing education requirement? Check out a list of some providers of training focusing on gender and race disparities at: <http://cswmft.ohio.gov/Home/Race-Gender-CE>.





Working across jurisdiction lines? Some things to think about before stepping over the lines—Brian Carnahan and Tracey Hosom

A version of this article appeared in the NASW Ohio Chapter March-April 2018 Ohio Update.

With the growth of teletherapy, there are opportunities for licensees to work in other jurisdictions through companies that support teletherapy. Many therapists are starting their own practices using teletherapy as well. There are circumstances where clients may find teletherapy beneficial for short term assistance during a move from one jurisdiction to another, for example; a student moving to another state to attend college. At other times it is a situation where the client cannot leave their home for mobility reasons or because their mental and emotional status does not allow it.

Working online can seem somewhat unreal. The online world may make one feel as if the day to day rules do not apply, as if the virtual world presents a protective distance. What are some important factors to consider when considering employment opportunities through teletherapy or when approached by a client to continue providing services when they will not be located in the same jurisdiction?

The first step is to check the laws and rules in the jurisdiction in which you are licensed, as well as in the jurisdiction where you intend to work virtually. In Ohio, the laws and rules apply to practice in Ohio, but not out of state. If a client is located in another state, you fall under that state's laws. The jurisdiction in which you wish to work has laws and rules requiring licensure to practice in that

jurisdiction. The laws and rules may be silent on distance or teletherapy, thus the challenge. However, it is important to consider what an ethical practitioner would do in such circumstances.

Check codes of ethics and consult other resources available from professional practice associations such as the ACA, AAMFT, or NASW. Various associations, including those representing licensure boards, such as ASWB, AMFTB, and AASCB, have been exploring the impact of technology on providing services, including the impact on working across jurisdictions. Given the attention focused on “mobility” or “portability” across the mental health-related professions, there is discussion occurring, but not much firm direction, compounding the problem for concerned therapists.

As always, seek supervision regarding these issues. Talking through your questions with a more experienced colleague or mentor will help frame the issues. Also consider consulting legal counsel. This is good advice any time a practice law or rule is a concern. State licensing boards can offer only so much assistance. Only you can determine what is best given your circumstances.

Some questions to consider:

- Would what you are doing be viewed as a violation if done in your state of residence? Ethical practice considerations apply regardless of the treatment setting.

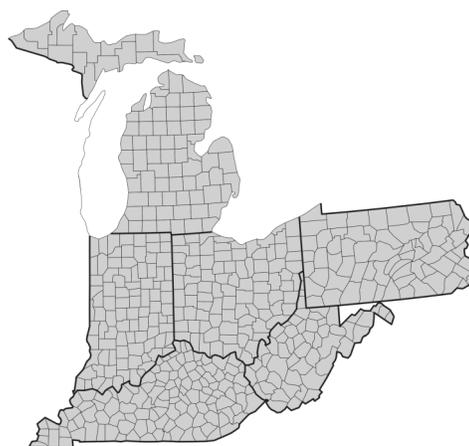


Working across jurisdiction lines? Some things to think about before stepping over the lines.

Continued from Page 4

- Is there guidance from the licensing board in the state where you might wish to work? Many licensing boards are confronting these questions. While definitive guidance may not be available in some jurisdictions, board staff may be able to help walk through questions and relate what the board has done most recently.
- Will you be working for a company that specializes in teletherapy? If so, what resources does the company provide to help ensure you are practicing ethically and legally?
- One of the most important questions: what is in the best interests of the client? Is this client an existing or new client? If you are considering engaging in teletherapy with new clients, is this format best for them? What if an existing client is moving out of state? Is continuing through teletherapy the best way to offer assistance?
- Are you prepared to offer services via phone or using a text-based tool such as email or a messaging app? Using these tools is different than a face to face session. Prepare yourself through training and reflection.
- With respect to technology, are you using secure applications to communicate with the client? Do you understand not only how to use the technology resources, but explain them to clients? Are you familiar with all applicable laws and rules regarding technology use and client privacy?

This is a time to explore your interests as a professional and the needs of your clients. Confirm that your liability insurance will cover you if you are practicing outside of the jurisdiction where you are licensed. While many mental health professional associations are working hard to create legal opportunities to work across jurisdiction lines, that environment of portability is not fully upon us yet. Some states will offer a temporary or conditional license or permission to work in that jurisdiction. The Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board has proposed a rule to allow out of jurisdiction professionals to provide services based on demonstrated client need. Remember to contact the jurisdiction in which you plan to offer treatment services through teletherapy before beginning to do so. Until mobility/portability issues are resolved, the prudent professional should act with caution and due diligence.





Disciplinary Actions Taken Against Licensees (Since September 2017)

Social Workers:

Clarence Allen (LSW) Misdemeanor in the course of practice. Reprimand and counseling

Nakulan Balasubramaniam (LSW) Improper Termination. Surrender of License.

Adelaida Brown-Torres (LSW) Failure to cooperate in an investigation. Revocation.

Caitlin Cregan (LSW) Sexual Boundaries. Surrender of License

Gabrielle Fassman (LSW) Failure to comply with Board agreement. Revocation

Amy M. Gordon (LSW) Audit Failure. Revocation.

Karen Howard (LSW). Failure to comply with Board order. Revocation of license.

Callie Kelley (LSW) Boundaries. Reprimand and additional training

Kim Mellon (LISW) Failure to comply with consent agreement. Surrender of license.

Ann Mezibov (LSW) Audit Failure. Surrender of License

Veronica Middleton (LSW) Boundaries. Licensure suspension

Sandra Nickell-Wolbert (LSW) Audit Failure. Surrender of license.

Lucas Smith (LSW) Audit Failure. Revocation.

Gary Stanforth (LISW) Boundaries. Additional training

Counselors:

Joi Adell (LPC) Boundary issues. Suspension and personal counseling

Peter Giotta (LPC) Boundary issues. Suspension, personal counseling and ethics.

Patricia Johnson-Cornelious (LPC) Standards of care. Surrender of license.

Beth Kemper (LPC) Falsification of Records. Revocation

Charlene Newport (LPC) Sexual boundaries. Suspension

Carl Rak (LPCC-S) Sexual boundary issue. Suspension as of 12/31/17

Caitlin Rizor (LPC) Boundaries. Reprimand and additional training.

Brooke Suarez (LPCC) Confidentiality. Reprimand and ethics training

Jeffrey J. Williams (LPCC) Previous Board agreement. Surrender of licensure

Upcoming Events

March 15 and 16... ..CSWMFT Board Meeting

May 17 and 18.... ..CSWMFT Board Meeting



Getting to know Board member Anna Bomas, MSW, LSW —Tracey Hosom

Working at the Board gives me an opportunity to get to know some of the interesting and diverse practitioners in our state. Board members come to us from all aspects of the field, educators, private practice, hospitals, and community mental health settings, just to name a few. Anna Bomas, LSW, was appointed to the Board in October 2015. She serves on the social worker professional standards committee.

Ms. Bomas earned a B.S. in Criminology at Florida State University and began her career in law enforcement. She found that as a law enforcement officer, she performed a lot of social work, counseling, and referring, although it was not recognized as such at the time. From there she moved into security/criminal investigations, and undercover/covert operations.

Even before her law enforcement career Ms. Bomas cites her first foray into social work was at her father's bar & grill in Marion Ohio. She and her siblings all worked for their dad from a young age. She credits learning interviewing skills, and a realization that her life wasn't the only world experience, that life was hard for many people.

Ms. Bomas returned to school in her thirties and earned her Master's Degree in Social Work Administration from the Ohio State University. After taking a break to care for her Greek grandmother she returned to work and accepted a position with the Children's Services Board as a senior investigator of high-risk abuse cases. From there she moved into the Executive Director position for the Marion County Family and Children First Council. When government funding for that program was reduced, Ms. Bomas accepted a position with a healthcare agency as the

Corporate Director of Social Services, Adult Daycare, Marketing and Admissions.

Citing a personal life event Ms. Bomas realized that she no longer wanted the 80-hour work weeks. She accepted a position as a social worker at a local hospital which was later purchased by OhioHealth. She describes having happily been there ever since. She works with the geriatric population and says she loves being able to help the population who worked so hard to build the economic foundation of this country. She feels grateful to be able to share her knowledge of resources and her counseling services. Ms. Bomas was recently awarded the PRISM award for compassion in her business unit by OhioHealth. By blending her administrative and clinical skills and by sitting on several private and community boards, she has been one of a handful of people responsible for a successful senior tax levy in her county.

Top items on her 'bucket list' would be to command the first senior citizen mission to the moon, and to retire to a Greek Island, blogging in a mountain top home by an open window enjoying the breeze.

Ms. Bomas' advice to new social workers, counselors, and marriage and family therapists is to "Develop your own critical thinking... and network, network, network!"

Thank you for your service to the Board Anna!



Renewal Update—Rhonda Franklin

2018 began with a Bang!!! The board joined forces with CE Broker to help you keep track of your continuing education. Many of you have already signed up with this service, for those of you yet to sign up this service allows you to enter the continuing education you complete it throughout your renewal cycle, it keeps a running record for you. Many licensees have used the post program approval process to submit continuing education to the Board that was not pre-approved by the board. This process is now being handled through CE Broker also. Here are a few tips to help you get through the changes.

Click on the link for CE Broker link on the boards website under the "How do I find" listing on the Board's home page. Next set up a free account through CE Broker.com. You are not required to purchase an account, so if you are asked for credit card information you may have selected the link for a seven day trial. It is up to you as a licensee if you wish to purchase additional services from CE Broker.

When reporting continuing education in CE Broker, go to Report Continuing Education. Enter your continuing education in the section specifically marked for the type of continuing education you are reporting, for example:

Report Continuing Education

- **Report CE/CME**

Pre-Approved Continuing Education (certificates and board approval notices submitted here)

This section is for certificates for pre-approved programs, i.e. training completed that has a Board approval number on the certificate of attendance or a notice of action from the board. Click on the link titled "**Pre-Approved Continuing Education**", Follow the prompts to upload certificates. Remember board approval numbers are similar to these numbers (RCSX000000 or MSCT000000).

Continued on Page 11





Renewal Update—Continued

Continued on from page 11

Continuing education program not previously approved by the Board (post program approval process)

To submit continuing education programs that do not have board approval or approval by any other acceptable sponsor go to the section titled " **Continuing Education program not previously approved by the Board.**" When you click on this link a fill in the blank form will appear. This is the new post program approval request process. Complete the information and upload your certificate of completion and a brief description of the training. This information will be forwarded to me for review. Once your submission is reviewed you will receive a response in your CE Broker file.

There are several other sections in CE Broker for reporting continuing education they are clearly marked. Be sure to read through the links before submitting continuing education

eLicense system eLicense.Ohio.gov

The new eLicense system is a fully automated system. Renewal notice /registration emails are automatically sent out 90, 45 and 15 days prior to your renewal date. You cannot renew more than 90 days prior to your renewal date. If you do not receive an email within 90 days of your renewal date contact the board. Most likely we do not have your current email address on file. Also, be sure to check your junk/ spam folder. All renewal information is now sent via email, paper notices and renewal applications are no longer available.

