News Link

Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

We Moved, Again!
LeVeque Tower Suite 1075

The Board was asked to move to make room for another state agency. We moved from the 14th floor to the 10th floor. Please make sure your disclosure forms show the correct suite number.
50 West Broad Street, Suite 1075, Columbus, Ohio 43215-5919

Web Site Points of Interest

The Board’s web site has many interesting features.

- Link to a database of all licensees that contains their license status, date of first issuance, expiration date and whether they have been disciplined.
- Meeting minutes for the Board and professional standards committees are available.
- Board meeting dates and locations are listed. All Board and professional standards committee meetings are open to the public.
- Links to commonly used forms: All forms are Adobe PDF forms that allow you type your data and print forms in easy to read formats.
- Laws and Rules in a bookmarked Adobe PDF file that includes Indexes for Laws and Rules.
- 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!

Five Year Rule Review

The Board is required by Ohio Revised Code Chapter 119 to review each existing rule at least once each five years. Many of the Board’s rules are due for review in June 2007. The Board has started this process and hopes to publish proposed changes following the November 17, 2006 Board meeting.

The Board requests all licensees and members of the public who are interested to review and comment on these proposed changes. We expect to file the rules following the March 16, 2007 meeting with a public hearing at the May 18, 2007 Board meeting. You will be able to read the proposed rules on the web site.
Social Worker Exams Require Pre-Approval/ Online Applications Added

Social workers will now have to obtain pre-approval in order to take the licensure examination. This change was made to improve examination security by ensuring only appropriately educated applicants are able to take the licensure examination. In order to simplify this process, the Board has instituted online applications for LSW and is working on adding SWA and LISW online applications. Applicants will apply online and provide a student copy of their transcript via mail, email or facsimile and be approved to take the examination. Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) provides the examinations and has reduced the waiting time for examination from two weeks to one week. The Board’s overall goal is to simplify and streamline the process for social work license applicants. Online applications provide a quick easy way to apply; while also simplifying the processing for Board staff. Applicants may apply to take the exam as early as the last term of their degree program. Applicants are required to provide a final “conferred” degree transcript directly to the Board from their school prior to official licensure.

Fee Changes

The Board voted at the July 21, 2006 meeting to add two new fees as part of the budget process for fiscal years 2008 & 2009. These changes will require statute changes to allow the Board to implement them and should be a part of Ohio’s budget bill that will be introduced in January 2007. These fees are proposed to avoid a general renewal fee increase for all licensees.

Proposed Changes:
• A $30 late fee for renewal after expiration date except S.W.A. who will have a $20 late fee.
• A $25 fee for license verification to another state or entity.
• Fines of up to $1000 per violation of laws and rules from formal discipline.

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 may confuse licensees. When the renewal notices are sent out the license status is changed from “ACTIVE” to “Active-in-Renewal”. The change allows the system to recognize a license as one that is eligible for renewal online. Once the license is renewed, the status changes to “Active-in-Renewal - Paid”. After a wallet license card is printed, the status changes to “ACTIVE”. 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. If the date is passed the license is expired and needs to be renewed immediately, if the licensee is currently practicing. You can call 614-466-0912 for your UserID and Password.

Renewals for January through June 2007

We have mailed the January through June 2007 renewals as of early November 2006. If you have not received a renewal by November 15, and renew in January through June 2007, 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: money orders or notary signatures are not required. You will receive a proof of payment document that you can print on your computer.

If you need to find a CEU 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.
Discipline Action Taken Against Licensees

The following actions were taken against the licensees listed below:

Social workers:
- Lisa Beckman – Audit failure – reprimand
- Kimberly Blajscak – Confidentiality breach – additional continuing education
- Samuel H. Boyd, Jr. – Multiple relationship with a client – 60-day suspension, probation, and college ethics course required.
- David Caldwell – Failure to comply with a Board order. Registration revoked.
- Christy Chadderton – Requested surrendering license in lieu of complying with Board order. License surrendered.
- Judith Creamer – Multiple relationship with a client. License surrendered.
- Carol Hales – Failure to report an alleged ethics violation to the Board as a mandated reporter – one year suspension and graduate level ethics course required.
- Normajean Hammer – Multiple relationship with a current client – 4 year suspension and required ethics course.
- Mary Kastner – Inaccurate records and custody evaluation problem – supervision and additional continuing education required.
- Matthew Manchester – Practice on a lapsed license – 1-week suspension and additional continuing education required.
- Barbara Jo Manges – Misrepresentation of credentials – reprimand and additional continuing education required.
- Mary Migra – Sexual relationship with an ex-client within two years of termination – probation, supervision required, and graduate level ethics course required.
- Cheryl Russell – Inaccurate records – reprimand and additional continuing education required.
- Dena Shapiro – Practicing without a license – additional continuing education
- Joanne Winland – Criminal conviction – additional continuing education and required documentation.

Counselors:
- Bonnie Bernard – Inaccurate records – reprimand, supervision and additional continued education required.
- Daniel Byerly – Practice without a license – additional continuing education required.
- Heidi Carter – Inaccurate records – supervision, additional continuing education, and a reprimand
- Jeremy Ernst – Multiple relationship with a current client – reprimand and additional continued education required.

Social Worker Trainee Status ~ New Rule Approved

The Board recently approved rule changes to add a “Social Worker Trainee” (S.W.T.) status to rule 4757-5-01 Definitions and a new rule 4757-19-05 delineating the requirements for registration as a S.W.T. This change was an outgrowth of a request from several graduate Social Worker programs led by The Ohio State University, University of Cincinnati and University of Toledo for help in getting master’s level students placed in agencies for their field work courses.

The purpose of this change is to allow students registered in field work, practicum or internships to be registered with the Board and able to document that for agencies on the Board’s online license database.

Applicants will apply online for that status and be required to provide documents from the school showing their enrollment in an appropriate course, to become active.

With this change, the Ohio Department of Mental Health (ODMH) is working to determine if the new rule change, coupled with existing Ohio Administrative and Revised Code statutes, allows ODMH to file proposed rule revisions with JCARR to add S.W.T. to the matrices as approved providers with appropriate supervision.

S.W.T. status will be granted for the term enrolled plus four weeks. This will allow transition from one term to the next and, most importantly, consistent care for the clients involved. Once status is granted, for each additional term the student will need to forward enrollment documents to extend the period of time covered. The student is responsible to ensure timely enrollment.

Go to https://license.ohio.gov to check the status of any of the Board’s licensees or registrants.
Meet Jan White, Chair CPSC

Jan was born and raised in Harrisburg, Pa. He is a 1971 graduate of The Ohio State University with a B.A. in Sociology and a 1977 graduate of Xavier University with a M.S. in Corrections. After spending three (3) years in the NFL with the Buffalo Bills organization, Jan retired to pursue a career working with youth. Initially, he worked for the Ohio Department of Youth Services before joining the staff of Greene County Juvenile Court under Judge Robert Hagler. He was employed by the court in January 1976 to perform the duties of a Community Control Officer. In August 1984 he was elevated to the court’s first Administrator of Court Services position. He now works in that capacity under the guidance and philosophy of Judge Robert W. Hutcheson. Jan was licensed by the state of Ohio as a professional counselor in January 1988. He was appointed by Ohio's Governor, Bob Taft, to serve on the Board in January 2004. He is also currently on the professional advisory council for Wright State University and Central State University. He has served as practicum field supervisor for students from The Ohio State University, Wright State University, Central State University, Cedarville University, Antioch University, Wilmington College, Sinclair Community College and Clark State Community College. He is an active member of the Ohio Urban Juvenile Court Administrator's Association. He is presently the Vice President of the Board of Directors for Greene County Y.M.C.A. Additionally, he is a member of the Board of Directors for Greene, Inc. and a member of the Board of Directors for The Ohio State University's Varsity "O" Alumni Association.

Ethics Issues – “Professional Disclosure Statements”

“Professional Disclosure statement to be provided and displayed…..” O.R.C. 4757.12 outlines the requirements for a professional disclosure statement, which is required by law, prior to the performance of services. The purpose is to provide sufficient information to aid the client /consumer of services, or the public, in making informed judgments and choices on matters concerning the provision of counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy services. Licensees that provide home based therapy shall carry their disclosure statements with them to provide to clients/consumers. In addition to name, education, and areas of competency the Board now requires that the license number is listed on the disclosure statement. Each profession has areas of competency that reflect the scope of practice of their discipline*. Refer to the Board’s website for a copy of the Law and Rules. “Can I list (play therapy, teen depression, sex therapy, etc.) on my disclosure statement?” is a common question that arises as licensees review the disclosure statement requirements. If a licensee wants to list various techniques and modalities that are more specific, and perhaps descriptive, of the competencies they have developed, O.A.C. 4757-5-01(B)(1) addresses the question: “Licensees shall be able to present reliable and substantial evidence of competency in the areas in which they practice. Licensees shall not misrepresent directly, indirectly or by implication their professional qualifications such as education, specialized training, experience, or area(s) of competence. Licensees or registrants may not use a doctorate designation in their professional capacity unless it is related to the field of mental health and is from a recognized accredited educational institution.” Simply stated, this means that a licensee shall be able to demonstrate how they developed a competency in the area(s) listed on their disclosure statements. Education, continuing education and experience/supervision are required to gain an expertise. If the Board reviews your disclosure statement through the course of an audit or an investigation, how will you be able to demonstrate a particular competency? If you have attended a one day workshop on smoking cessation, and then list it as a specialty area, it would not be sufficient training or experience. Your professional disclosure statement is an ever evolving document, as you gain experience in one area, and perhaps stop using others, update your disclosure statement to most accurately reflect your professional services. *O.A.C. 4757-15-03 Professional disclosure for counselors. O.A.C. 4757-21-04 Professional disclosure for social workers. O.R.C. 4757.30 includes professional disclosure for marriage and family therapists.