

State Board of Clinical Social Workers

3218 Pringle Road SE, Suite #240
Salem, OR 97302-6310

website: <http://www.oregon.gov/bcsw>
e-mail: oregon.bcsw@state.or.us

Toll-free: 1-866-355-7050

Phone: 503-378-5735

Fax: 503-373-1427

Change in Disciplinary Reporting

The Board reviewed their policy of publicly reporting disciplinary actions at their annual planning meeting last October. Then at their meeting on November 14, 2006, the Board decided that public disciplinary actions will be listed once in the next Newsletter or Mini-News published by the Board following the date of the public action. In the past disciplinary actions were published in the newsletter and mini-news for up to two years.

Additionally, the Board decided to remove the alphabetical listing of all licensee public actions and the historical roster of public actions from the Board's website. When a person chooses a licensee's name on the website, they will be able to see whether that licensee has ever been publicly disciplined by the Board. If the licensee has, there will be an icon which allows the person to view and print the publicly available document(s) related to that specific licensee's disciplinary action.

While the historical list of all board public actions will no longer be available on the website, it will still be made available to any member of the public, including insurance companies, agencies, or institutions under the public records law. To receive a copy of the historical list a person will simply need to submit a request to the Board.

The Board will continue to publicize public disciplinary actions in the local newspaper where the licensee practices and in the "Statesman-Journal" as required by current statute.

Budget Realities

The Board operates on a biennial budget. The current legislatively approved budget of \$593,075 started on July 1, 2005 and will end on June 30, 2007. We are now in the final five months of the '05-'07 budget.

Unfortunately there were a few rather large, unexpected expenditures in the past 18 months. The reality is that the Board needs to very prudently manage the budget for the next five months. One of the decisions the Board made at a recent meeting is to make this newsletter available on the Board's website. Like we did with this newsletter, we will distribute it by e-mail to those who have requested that service and simply send a postcard to the rest of the licensees inviting them to view the newsletter on the website. The staff will send a hard copy to those who specifically request one. The Board anticipates that this minor change will save approximately \$1,000 per newsletter. Please send an e-mail to Pam.Johansen@state.or.us from whatever e-mail account you wish the Board to use if you have not yet signed up to receive Board information via your e-mail address.

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Meet the Board

The State Board of Clinical Social Workers consists of 7 members appointed by the Governor. Oregon Revised Statute 675.590(4)(a-b) requires that 4 of the members be Licensed Clinical Social Workers and 3 be Public Members. Current Board membership includes:

- Mark Oldham, LCSW, (Chair) works as a mental health professional in the Eugene public school system. He has been licensed since May, 1983 and is in his fifth year of Board service.
- Becky Rasmussen, LCSW, (Vice-Chair) has a private practice in Salem. She was first licensed in May, 1990 and will complete her fourth year of Board service this June.
- Cheryl Price, LCSW, recently retired from working for many years in the Head Start program in Umatilla County. Since retiring, she has opened a private practice in Pendleton. Initially licensed in February, 1990, Ms. Price will complete her third year of Board service this June.
- Toniya Villalobos, LCSW, works as a part-time hospice social worker. She received her Oregon License in November, 2002. Prior to that she worked and was licensed in both California and Tennessee, where she was first licensed in ???
- Simone Brooks, Public Member, works in a staffing agency in Portland. Prior to that, she worked for several years as a consultant for a large environmental firm. Ms. Brooks is in her second year of Board membership.
- Cheryl Dehaan, Public Member, lives in Portland. She recently retired from a career in state government, working most recently in the ??. Ms. Dehaan will complete her first year of Board service this June.

- Mark Troseth, Public Member, is a recent retiree from the state Department of Justice. He brings a wealth of Rule writing and interpretation to the Board. He lives in Salem and is in his first year of Board service.

Birth-Month Renewal Update

The transition to a birth-month renewal process has gone very smoothly! Approximately 93% of licensees and Associates have successfully renewed timely and avoided needing to pay a late fee. There were an increasing number of phone calls to the board office in November and December as people who have birthdays in February through June got increasingly nervous since they had not received their renewal packet in November or December as they had for so many years.

There have been a few computer glitches, primarily concerning how many CE hours a person needs to report. The staff has been in frequent contact with the computer person under contract with the Board to resolve these issues. Please contact either Pam or Sancha at the board office if you have any questions about your CE reporting requirements when you receive your renewal notice.

CE Reminder

Licensees who wish to use some non-credentialed continuing education coursework to satisfy their CE reporting requirements, please read the rest of this short article,...

The Rules changed in December, 2005 concerning using non-credentialed courses to meet your CE requirement. As of that Rule change, the Board will accept a **maximum** of 10 hours of non-credentialed CE in a reporting period. [See OAR 877-020-0005(5)]

If you are planning to report some non-credentialed CE courses in your renewal, that coursework must be approved by the Board's Continuing Education Committee at least 90 days before you renew your License. In order for the Committee to process your request, you need to include the "...date(s) of the event, title of the event (and a brief description of the course), name and credentials of the presenter(s), number of continuing education units requested, and a copy of the Certificate of Completion." [OAR 877-020-0005(5)].

If you have questions about this process, please contact the Board office at 503-378-5735.

Proposed Changes to Board Rules

The Board has identified several subjects for which they need to develop policies through rulemaking. Our goal is to have an initial draft of the policies in hand for discussion at the April or May board meeting. In addition, the Board recognized the need for an advisory committee to participate in the rulemaking process to adopt these rules.

Holders of licenses and certificates, as well as the general public, will have opportunities to comment on the proposed policies during the rulemaking process. Among the subjects to be addressed in this effort are: 1) the requirements for

continuing education during the time a license is inactive; 2) requirements for criminal record checks; 3) standards for child custody evaluations; and 4) requirements related to client files.

1) Requirements for continuing education during the time a license is inactive. Most licensees who go inactive and then re-active the license are inactive for short periods of time, usually less than two years. Under the current rules, up to nearly 80 hours of CE can be essentially waived if a licensee happens to go inactive shortly before a regular CE report is due and then remains inactive for two years (as an example). There is reason to question whether the clients of LCSWs who are essentially excused from 80 CE hours are well served by the current policy. The Board is considering a policy that would eliminate the possibility of a complete hiatus of the CE requirements (as under current policy) and would instead reduce the rate of CE hours required during the time the license is inactive.

2) Requirements for criminal record checks. Recent legislation requires the Board to establish a policy for using an applicants' criminal records, including records obtained through the use of fingerprints, in the licensing process.

3) Standards for child custody evaluations. A significant number of the complaints received by the Board come out of situations in which a child-custody evaluation is done. We are concerned that until the Board adopts specific standards for this type of case, it will continue to be very difficult in some cases to evaluate the licensee's conduct. We are looking at model standards to see if they provide helpful examples for us to use.

4) Requirements related to client files. The two main subjects we believe deserve attention related to client files are a requirement for file content and a requirement for file retention.

Rules Committee