

State Board of Clinical Social Workers

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Board Changes Disciplinary Publication Policy

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 Board Newsletter or Mini-News following the date of the public action. There are no public actions reported in this newsletter since the Board has not publicly disciplined any licensees since the last newsletter. Disciplinary actions were published in the newsletter and mini-news for up to two years in the past.

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. Disciplinary information will also be shared with NASW/OR Chapter and the ASWB national reporting data bank.

STRETCHING

The Board's Budget

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

During this biennium the Board has continued its practice of frugal fiscal management. Unfortunately there were a few rather large, unexpected expenditures in the past 20 months that necessitates the Board seek additional savings across the next four 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. If you have not yet signed up to receive Board information via your e-mail address please send an e-mail to Pam.Johansen@state.or.us from whatever e-mail account you wish the Board to use.

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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 members are:

- 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 oncology social worker. Prior to receiving her Oregon License she was licensed in both California and Tennessee, where she was first licensed in 1992. She is in her second year of Board membership.

- 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.
- Sara Dehaan, Public Member, lives in Portland. She recently retired from a career in state government, working most recently in the Department of Justice Gaming Section. 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 Human Services. 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.



The transition to a birth-month renewal process has gone very smoothly! Approximately 93% of licensees and Associates have successfully renewed timely and avoided the need 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

Licenses 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 rules. Our goal is to have an initial draft of the proposed rule ready for discussion at the April or May board meeting. In addition, the Board recognized the need for an advisory committee to participate in the process to adopt these rules.

Holders of licenses and certificates, as well as the general public, will have opportunities to comment on the proposed changes 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. 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).

The Board is considering a rule change that would eliminate the possibility of a complete hiatus of the CE requirements (as under current rule) 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 rule 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 in writing a rule for this specific area of social work practice.

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

Rules Committee



The Board Wants **YOU!**

The Board needs to appoint several people to a Rules Advisory Committee. The purpose of the Committee will be to work with the Board's Rules Committee in the upcoming rule change process. The Committee will provide public feedback to assist the Board in drafting Rules. The Committee will also make a recommendation to the Board on the fiscal impact of the proposed Rules.

The Board seeks to have a good cross-section of our various stake holders on the Committee: LCSWs, CSWAs, MSW students, some members of the public who (maybe) have used the services of mental health professionals, human resource people in large agencies who have a mental health staff, are some of the clientele the Board wants to have represented on the Committee.

Previous work with writing Rules is a plus, but certainly not necessary. What is necessary is the ability to review draft rule changes to determine whether the change is needed and if it accomplishes what the Board intends. Additionally, Committee members need the ability to work collaboratively with others who might have different perspectives to find common ground.

The Board anticipates that much of the work of the Committee can occur through e-mail. There will probably be a need for an initial in-person meeting to get the process started and probably an end-of-process meeting to finalize all changes. Committee members will be reimbursed for mileage to attend meetings. The Board anticipates this Committee starting their process in May or June and having proposed changes to the Rules ready for public review by September.

Please contact the Board office if you would like more information or are interested in applying to serve on the Committee. Or contact the office to provide the Board with someone else's contact information who you believe would be able to effectively serve in this capacity.