

Fall
2010

News Link



You can view the Laws and Rules on the Board's website; they have changed 8 times since September 2007 and will likely change again within the next year. If you do not have a computer at home, you can download or print the Laws and Rules from a computer at your local library.

Samples of revised professional disclosure statements are available on the Board's website. Please make sure your PDS is up-to-date!



Save Time & a Stamp!

In September, **97.5%** of licensees used the option to renew online. It is fast, convenient, and provides immediate proof of renewal. Due to the current fiscal constraints of the state and to be environmentally responsible, the Board asks all licensees to renew online using a credit card. See the comment from a licensee on page 2 of this newsletter.

This policy went into effect with the July - December 2009 renewals. Many other Boards are also using this policy. Our goal is to have over 99% of renewals completed online due to the increased efficiencies and cost effectiveness of that process.

If you are unable or do not want to renew your license online, you must contact the Board in writing (email is fine) to request a printed renewal application. You should receive your printed application approximately two weeks from the date of your request.

Social Workers—You can take any CEU from....

The Social Worker Professional Standards Committee of the Board has approved all CEUs for social workers that are approved by:

1. The Association of Social Workers (ASWB) ACE Program
2. The National Association of Social

Workers (NASW) with a NASW program #

3. NASW State Chapters with a NASW program #

This change should give you a broader choice of pre-approved CEU programs.

CE Opportunities—See Rule 4757-9-06

Rule 4757-9-06

(B) The board shall grant continuing professional education credit to licensees who author journal articles or books on subjects related to counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy, and which meet the following requirements:...

(C) The board shall grant continuing education credit to individuals who conduct presentations on subjects related to counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy. Credit shall be granted for first time preparation and presentation of an in-service training workshop, a seminar or a conference

presentation, which is related to the enhancement of counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy practice, values, skills, or knowledge.

(D) The board may grant continuing education credit to individuals wishing to explore and develop independent learning opportunities, which are related to counseling, social work, or marriage and family therapy and which meet the following requirements:...

(E) The board may grant continuing education credit for approved home study programs when the distance learning program's sponsor can demonstrate to the board that:...

Renewal Mailings Changing to Quarterly

*The Board receives many calls for duplicate renewal forms from licensees that received them 5 to 8 months in advance due to the semi-annual mailings.

Renewal notices are now being mailed quarterly. The renewal forms will be mailed approximately 50 days before the beginning of each quarters renewals as follows:

*November 2010 renewal notices for those scheduled to **renew January - March**

* February 2011 renewal notices for those scheduled to renew **April - June**.

* May 2011 renewal notices for those scheduled to renew **July - September**.

*August 2011 renewal notices for those scheduled to renew **October - December**.



Renew online and save postage, waiting time and have an immediate receipt showing you have renewed your license!

Following is one of the many comments the Board has received:

“This is the first time I have renewed online and it was so easy! I think it took less than two minutes to complete. Also saves on some paper! Very nice.”

News From the Renewal Coordinator

Is this program pre-approved? Callers ask everyday. The pre-approval and post program approval process continues to baffle quite a few licensees. Here are a few facts you need to keep in mind when considering trainings for license renewal.

All pre-approved programs and providers are issued an approval number. Approval numbers begin with a prefix of a variation of the following letters: RCSTX or MCSTX, this prefix will be followed by numbers, (i.e.: RCSTX052409). The Letters indicate:

- (C) approval for counselors,
- (S) approval for social workers, and
- (T) approval for MFTs.

If the program sponsor cannot give you an approval number in this format, the program has not been pre-approved by this board and will not be accepted with the exception of programs that have approval of ASWB-ACE

program or NASW (for social workers only). Continuing Education that is completed within the State of Ohio by Counselors and Social Workers must be pre-approved, with the exception of distance learning and college course work in your field of licensure. Licensees may submit all programs completed out-of-state for approval via the post program approval process.

Post program approval forms may be submitted for programs completed outside of the State of Ohio, distance learning programs, college course work in related fields, for teaching/presentations, or publications you authored. The post program approval form is available on the Board's website at www.cswmft.ohio.gov under “[CEU Forms & Courses](#)” link. Post submitted without a return address or license number may experience delays in response.

Ethics Rules 4757-5-03 & 4757-5-08 Proposed - Bartering

Please read the following proposed ethics rule of the Board. Changes underlined and in [blue font](#) if viewed online.

4757-5-08 Standards of ethical practice and professional conduct: payment for services.

(A) Payment for services: When setting fees, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists shall ensure that the fees are fair, reasonable, and commensurate with the services performed.

(B) Counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists shall not accept goods or services as payment for professional services. Bartering is prohibited.

(C) Counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists shall not solicit a private fee or other remuneration for providing services to clients who are entitled to such available services through the counselor's, social worker's, or marriage and family therapist's employer or agency.

4757-5-03 Standards of ethical practice and professional conduct: multiple relationships.

(A) Counselors, social workers, or marriage and family therapists shall avoid multiple relationships and conflicts of interest with any client/consumer-of-services, ex-clients, family members of clients or ex-clients, or other persons encountered in professional or non-professional setting, which are not in the best interest of the client and might impair professional judgment or which increases the risk of client/consumer-of-services exploitation.

(1) When a multiple relationship is first recognized or cannot be avoided, counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists shall take the following appropriate professional precautions:

- ...(a) through (d)
- (3) The licensed professional shall not undertake or continue a professional relationship with a client/consumer-of-services when the objectivity or competency of the counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist is, or could reasonably be expected to be, impaired or where the relationship with the client/consumer-of-services is exploitative.
- (4) Examples of multiple relationships that shall be avoided include but are not limited to those listed below.
 - (a) Familial relationships;
 - (b) Social relationships;
 - (c) Emotional relationships;
 - (d) Financial relationships ([change removes “including bartering”](#));
 - (e) Supervisory relationships;
 - (f) Political relationships;
 - (g) Administrative relationships; and/or
 - (h) Legal relationships.
- (5) The list of relationships in paragraph (A) (4) of this rule as well as others require careful consideration to insure that impaired judgment or exploitation is not involved and that the best interest of the client is served at all times.
- (B)...

Disciplinary Action Taken Against Licensees

Social Workers:

Jamie Page (LISW) Non- sexual boundary issue. Two years of monitoring

Matthew McClelland (LISW). Practice on lapsed license. Formal reprimand.

Melissa Humbert (LSW) Sexual relationship with an ex-client within 5 years of termination. Suspension, personal counseling, and professional monitoring.

April Kirkwood (LSW) Improper Renewal. Revoked

Julie Calestro-McDonald (LISW) Non-sexual boundary violations. Reprimand, personal counseling, and supervision.

Susan D. Hensley (LISW) Non-sexual boundary violations. Additional ethics training.

Melanie Barber (LSW) Non-sexual boundary violations. Mandated Supervision

Rodney Stinson (LSW) Standards of care. Three months suspension, 18 months of supervised practice

Amy Kazanowski (LSW) Improper Renewal. Revoked

Melinda Woodworth (LSW) Improper Renewal. Indefinitely suspended

Terri A. Findlay Jones (LSW) Improper Renewal. Revoked.

Marla Percy (LSW) Improper Renewal. Revoked.

Cornelius Vines (LSW) Non-compliance with a Board Consent Agreement. Revoked.

Jodi Bednar (LSW) Improper Renewal. Indefinitely suspended

Counselors:

Diane R. Jackson (PCC) Inappropriate custody recommendation. Professional monitoring and additional CEUs.

Gayla Edwards (PCC) Improper Renewal. Revoked.

Heather Holland (PCC) Standards of care. Revoked.

George A. Martin (PC) Improper Renewal. Surrendered license.



Please make sure you have completed your continuing education requirements before you renew.

For 2009 the audits show a non-compliance rate of 11.8%!

Several licenses have been revoked and other disciplinary actions taken! Don't let it be you!

See Kirkwood, Percy, Kazanowski, Findlay Jones, Bednar, Woodworth, Edwards, and Martin on the discipline list on the top left of this page.

New Board CEU offering and Applicant Law and Rule Exam

The Board has developed online CEUs for ethics that reviews the laws and rules of the Board. The CEUs are for three (3) hours and meet the ethics requirements for licensees. Please check the web site for instructions if you are interested in using this option. Applicants are required to complete the Laws and Rules exam as part of the examination process for licensure for PC, PCC, SWA, LSW, LISW, MFT & IMFT.

The online program is designed in a way that any questions that you miss are re-presented until you get them all correct. There is a link to the section of the laws and/or rules that apply to each question. The students and licensees that have taken the exam and CEUs have found it very easy to use and very informative. The biggest surprise was the wordiness of questions and answers that directly quote the laws and rules.

Board Web Site Updates

The Board changed our web site front page. We removed links to eliminate difficulties locating information. The following link is on the top of the page: Use the link [Staff listing](#) for areas of responsibility, telephone # & email. You can find contact information for each staff member. In the center of the page there are white boxes with blue lettering with the most used links. One commonly used link is [Name Change/ Replace Wall Certificate](#), which provides the name change form and a new Wall Certificate, if needed.

Due to budget cuts only one **wallet card** will be mailed after you renew your license. In the past you were asked to place one of the cards with your wall certificate, but this is no longer necessary. Only the disclosure statement is

required by law to be **“displayed in a conspicuous location”**.

Another change due to the budget is the Board cannot re-print lost or misplaced wallet cards. If you lose your card or never received your card, you can utilize the Board's [Online License Verification](#). Enter only your last name and first initial; click search and then click on your name for proof of licensure. The online verification provides more information than a wallet card.

You cannot receive your renewal information without a correct address on file. Please use the link to [Address Change](#) to update your address with the Board.

The Link [Publications and Newsletters](#) has new and prior issues of newsletters and more.



News Link

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COUNSELOR, SOCIAL
WORKER & MARRIAGE
AND FAMILY
THERAPIST BOARD

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*The Board
regulates the
practice of
counseling, social
work and marriage
and family
therapy for the
State of Ohio.*

Meet Robert Nelson, LISW, SWPSC Chair

Robert Nelson was recently appointed for a second three-year term on the board by Governor Strickland. He presently serves as chair of the Social Worker Professional Standards Committee (SWPSC). Mr. Nelson, an LISWS, has over 40 years of social work experience in a variety of settings.

This experience includes 25 years as Executive Director and Director of Professional Services with Family Service Association, first in Buffalo NY and then in Dayton OH; 20 years as part time Clinical Supervisor with AIDS Resource Center Ohio, in Dayton; 3 years as Executive Director of a mental health agency in Buffalo NY; and 5 years teaching full time as Assistant Professor in the Social Work Department at Wright State University. Robert has also served on a number of not-for-profit

Ethics Issues – Competency in Practice Rule 4757-5-02

(A) Responsibility to clients/consumers of services as to competency:

(1) Licensees and registrants shall be able to present reliable and substantial evidence of competency in the areas in which they practice....

(2) Licensees and registrants shall practice only within the competency areas for which they are qualified by education and training. Licensees and registrants shall maintain appropriate standards of care based on their individual professional license. Standards of care shall be defined as what an ordinary, reasonable professional with similar training would have done in a similar circumstance.

(3) While developing new skills in specialty areas, a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist shall take steps to ensure the competence of their work and to protect the clients from possible harm. A counselor, social worker, or marriage and fam-

You have one new “Friend Request”...

More and more the Board is seeing concerns arise out of social networking sites. While this is a new arena for many of us to post pictures of friends, kids (and even grand-kids), and keep in touch with high school alumni get-togethers, it is not the place to add clients as “friends”. The platform is by name “social.” Facebook, My Space, and others, are a place for personal communication, not client contact. What should you do if you receive a “friend request” from a client? How much personal information about you is available publicly on your Facebook page for your clients to see and share? As a professional counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist, you

boards throughout his career. His professional interests have always centered on family treatment, and he has conducted numerous workshops and trainings throughout Ohio and the US.

Robert resides in Yellow Springs, OH, where he is currently easing toward full retirement. He spends considerable time enjoying his grandchildren, racing sailboats with his wife, running competitively, and playing his lute. Being an avid gardener and cook, Robert and his wife manage to grow and preserve a year’s worth of vegetables each summer.

While his career focus has been family therapy, Robert sees social work as a much broader undertaking that includes administration, community organization, and non-clinical social work.

ily therapist shall develop skills in specialty areas only after appropriate education, training, and while receiving approved supervision.

(4) Licensees and registrants do not diagnose, treat, or advise on problems outside the recognized boundaries of their competencies. Licensees and registrants shall make appropriate referrals when the client's needs exceed the counselor's, social worker's, or marriage and family therapist's competence level or scope of practice. The referrals shall be made in a timely manner.

(5) All counselors, social workers and marriage and family therapists shall use techniques/ procedures/ modalities in diagnosing and treating mental and emotional disorders that are grounded in theory and/or have an empirical or scientific foundation... and explain to their clients the potential risks and ethical considerations of using such techniques/procedures and take steps to protect clients from possible harm.

are responsible for maintaining appropriate boundaries with clients, ex-clients, and family members of clients. Simply put: it is a violation of the multiple relationships section of the code of ethics to befriend clients. Use the privacy option available on most sites to ensure that only your known friends can view your personal posted pictures and information.

For more information: Review section 4757-5-03 Multiple relationships, and 4757-5-02 (D) Confidentiality.

For questions you would like to see addressed under the “Ethics Issues” column contact Tracey at: Tracey.Hosom@cswb.state.oh.us