

Spring/Summer
2007



Special points of interest:

- Online License Renewals
- Does your License expire on 10/31/07
- School Social Work
- Board Memberships
- Board's Website

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Bulletin of BSWE



Yvonne M. Perret, LCSW-C
Board Chair

Greetings. I am pleased to report that we now have a full complement of Board members—the first time in many years. We are saying so long to Manny Mandel, former Board chair and member of the Board for 8 years. Thank you, Manny, for your years of hard work and service. We welcome new board members, Thomas Smith, LSWA, Loretta Wall, LCSW-C, and Judy Levy, LCSW-C. You will hear more about Thomas, Loretta and Judy in the next issue.

In this Spring/ Summer, 2007 edition of our newsletter, we are highlighting the on-line renewal effort that the Board staff has been working on for several months. The plan, as you will see, is to implement this new initiative beginning with this October's renewal cycle.

In addition to this initiative, the Board is implementing a process to create electronic rather than paper records for our office. This will make all the staff's efforts a bit easier as we move forward. We want to express our gratitude to Jack Frost, Director of our Administrative Unit, for spearheading both these complex but important initiatives.

Attention

To practice social work in Maryland, you must be licensed by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners. Also, you *must be licensed as a LGSW* to begin to accumulate the hours necessary to qualify for advanced licensure (LCSW & LCSW-C). Hours gained prior to LGSW status will NOT be accepted.

The Board is working on a number of other significant projects:

We have just finished re-drafting the supervision regulations and have sent them to the Administrative, Executive, and Legislative Committee for review, comment, and approval.

We are currently beginning to work on a revision of the continuing education regulations.

We have requested a recommendation from the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) regarding the issue of equivalence for licensees from other states when they come to Maryland and request licensure. This issue has been assigned to a committee of ASWB for the development of recommendations.

We are working very hard to ensure that our newsletter reaches you twice a year. In the future, we shall be exploring ways of sending this to you electronically.

We have implemented a new phone menu system that we hope serves both licensees and the public well.

I welcome comments and concerns from all of you. You can reach me through the Board office at 410-764-4788. Hope your summer goes well.

Anyone interested in verifying the licensing status of a social worker should check out the Board of Social Work Examiner's website at <http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/> or contact the Board office at 410-764-4788.

MEET BOARD MEMBERS



Stephanie B. Sharpe, LGSW
Secretary/ Treasurer

**Please note that the Board makes every effort to ensure the accuracy of this list; however, the occasional typographical error may occur. Please contact the Board office with any questions or for clarification.*



Solomon O. Akwara
Consumer Member

Updated Sanctions: Current through April 30 2007 *

NAME	STATUS
1. Beverly Anita Alford-Williams Case # 801	License on Probation 05/12/2006- 05/12/2009
2. Milton A. Clarke Case # 799	License Revoked on 10/13/2006
3. Susan W. Federroll Case # 458	License Surrendered 02/10/2006
4. Ronald C. Gompf Case # 924	License on Probation 04/14/2006 - 04/14/2008
5. Mairi Brighid Grizzard Case # 938	License Suspended 03/10/2006 - 03/10/2008
6. Rosemary McDowall Case # 584	License Suspended 06/10/2005 - Present
7. Thomas Mumaw Case # 780	License Suspended 09/16/2005 - Present
8. Reginald Suggs Case # 493	License Suspended 09/13/2004 - Present
9. Elizabeth A. Titus Case #411	License on Probation 03/08/02 - Present
10. Patricia Tenanty Case # 456	License Reinstated and on Probation 01/14/2005 - Present
11. Lewis O. Moon Case # 969	License on Probation 02/09/2007- Present

ATTENTION: To practice social work in Maryland, you must be licensed by the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners. You must be licensed as a LGSW to begin to accumulate the hours necessary to qualify for advanced licensure (LCSW & LCSW-C).

Board closes 76 complaints in 2006

During calendar year 2006, the Board closed 76 complaint cases. The Board receives over a hundred complaints per year. Complaints come from citizens, other health care professionals, health care facilities, other social workers, and government agencies. All complaints are reviewed by the Disciplinary Complaint Review Committee, which can recommend that a complaint be dismissed or send the complaint for investigation. The Committee also assigns a Board Member to sit as a liaison to the case who monitors the investigation and makes a recommendation to the Board. The liaison will recommend dismissal, informal action or formal action to the Board. The Board, at its monthly meeting in administrative session (not open to the public), will review the complaint and the investigative findings and consider the recommendation of the case liaison. If the Board votes for dismissal, no further action will be taken and both the licensee and the complainant will be notified of the Board's decision. When the Board votes for an informal action, either a letter of admonishment or a letter of education will be sent to the licensee. These are non-public actions

Board closes 76 complaints in 2006 (Continued)

which means that a licensee need not reveal it to any person, nor report it should he/she be asked if the Board has taken any action against his/her license. Informal action is used by the Board in lieu of public discipline, but only in cases involving minor misconduct, where there is little or

no injury to a patient or the public and little likelihood of repetition by the practitioner. Formal action involves charging the licensee for violation of the Board's laws or regulations. Any sanctions taken and imposed under formal action is available to the public. Listed below is a sum-

mary of the closed complaints for 2006:

Cease and Desist Actions	4
Admonishment	39
Letters of Education	4
Dismissals	25
Formal Action	4



Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C

If you are renewing in October 2007, you will need 40 credit hours to renew the license.

DOES YOUR LICENSE EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 31, 2007



**Gloria Jean Hammel
Director of Certification & Licensing**

Avoid anxiety and stress at renewal time by reviewing your documentation for continuing education now. If you are renewing in October 2007, you will need 40 credit hours to renew the license. Pull out your continuing education documentation and use the CE Report Form provided on the Board's website. If you have not obtained 40 credit hours since November 1, 2005, you still have time. Continuing education programs can be completed up to and including October 31, 2007.

Last year, the Board received many calls from various agencies indicating that they would

suspend an employee without pay if her/his license was not renewed after October 31. Needless to say, the Board received many desperate calls from licensees who mailed the renewal just days before October 31st.

The Board tried to accommodate the licensees in this situation, but keep in mind that about 5,000 renewals are completed each year and hundreds were pouring in just days before October 31st.

Reminders:

Social Workers who were issued a new license between January 2005 and October 2005 can use continuing education credits earned from the date the license was issued. This "extra time" only applies to new licensees.

The 3 Category I credit hours required in ethics cannot be obtained through a home

study program because credit hours for home study programs are in Category II. These credits must be obtained from a program which was at least 3 hours in length. Before calling the Board with a question on continuing education, please read COMAR 10.42.06. In addition, there is continuing education information on the Board's website, (www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/).

There are approximately 11,500 licensed social workers in Maryland, and half renew in the even years and half in the odd years. The 2006 renewal period generated an enormous number of calls (some social workers called the week before the expiration date) concerning: Continuing education requirements; programs; ethics requirement; the difference between Category I

(Continued on page 4)



Dan Buccino, LCSW-C, BCD



Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C

Membership
requirements for the
Maryland Board of
Social Work
Examiners.

Judy Levy, LCSW-C

Board Members and their Terms

Yvonne M. Perret, LCSW-C
Board Chair
07/01/2007- 06/30/2011

Cherie Cannon, LCSW-C
Board Member
07/01/2007- 06/30/2011

Thomas Smith, LSWA
Board Member
07/01/2006- 06/30/2010

Stephanie B. Sharpe, LGSW
Board Member (Secretary/Treasurer)
03/22/2002- 06/30/2008

Judy Levy, LCSW-C
Board Member
07/01/2007 - 06/30/2011

Loretta Wall, LCSW-C
Board Member
07/01/2007- 06/30/2011

Solomon O. Akwara
Board Member (Consumer)
07/01/2004 - 06/30/2008

Philip Newsom, LCSW-C
Board Member
7/1/2005 - 6/30/2009

Daniel L. Buccino, LCSW-C,
BCD
Board Member
07/01/2005- 06/30/2008

Yvonne Bryant, LCSW-C
Board Member
07/01/2005- 06/30/2009

Trinita Robinson
Board Member (Consumer)
07/01/2005 - 06/30/2009

Board Memberships

To become a member of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners:
Requirements:

- Must be a resident of the State of Maryland
- Must be licensed in the State of Maryland

Except for the Licensed Social Worker Associate (LSWA) or Licensed Graduate Social Worker (LGSW), an applicant must have been licensed in the State for five years immediately preceding the appointment and actively employed in the field of social work for at least three of the five years immediately preceding the appointment. Applicants may be licensed at any level for these positions (LSWA, LGSW, LCSW, LCSW-C).

If interested please contact

Anna Lieberman at the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene,
Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations,
Room 519A, 201 W. Preston Street,
Baltimore, MD 21201
Telephone:410-767-4049, Fax 410-333-7687,
email: alieberman@dnhmh.state.md.us

DOES YOUR LICENSE EXPIRE ON OCTOBER 31, 2007 (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)
and Category II; documentation needed; credits for presenting programs; how to complete the continuing education report form, etc. There are only two licensed social workers on staff at the Board.

The Board does not accept continuing education credit hours for the following:

- 1) Supervision
- 2) Consultation
- 3) Coaching
- 4) American Sign Language
- 5) Spanish or other languages

6) Computer Software Training (Word; Excel; Access etc.)

Remember - Poor planning on your part can create an inability to respond in a timely way.

Cultural Competency

Cultural competency in health care services refers to being aware of cultural differences among diverse racial, ethnic, and other minority groups, respecting those differences, and taking steps to apply that knowledge to professional practice. Understanding and respect of the cultural, religious and lived experience of others is key in every aspect of existence, but it is especially important in the health care arena. There are indisputable data that illustrate that increasing cultural competency of health care providers is associated with increased trust in the medical system, enhanced

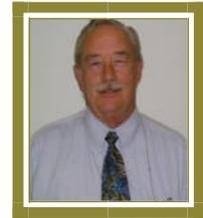
patient satisfaction, and greater adherence to a treatment regimen.

To increase the cultural competency of health care providers, the United States Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health developed and tested a curriculum on cultural competency training for health care providers entitled "A Family Physician's Practical Guide to Culturally Competent Care." The teaching module, which provides 9 CME units, is interactive, free and is based on the latest research in the area of cultural competence. It incor-

porates the CLAS (Culturally and Linguistically Appropriate Services) standards and can be accessed on the following site:

<http://thinkculturalhealth.org/ccm/>

Prepared by the Maryland's Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities, that is charged with promoting programs to eliminate health disparities in racial and ethnic minority groups in the state of Maryland. Check out the website at www.mdhealthdisparities.org



Philip Newson, LCSW-C

HOUSE BILL

1040 – Education

– Social Workers –

Certified

Professional

Personnel

SCHOOL SOCIAL WORKERS

HOUSE BILL 1040 – Education – Social Workers – Certified Professional Personnel –

This law was passed by the Maryland General Assembly in 2004. HB 1040, under which the COMAR regulation 13A.12.03.11 was promulgated, states in the synopsis "requiring the State Board of Education and the Professional Standards and Teacher Education Board to certify social workers employed by a local school employer as professional personnel." The certification and education requirements associated with HB

1040 are not contained in the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners social work statute, Health Occupations Title 19, and DHMH regulations, COMAR 10.42. However, the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners reviewed the content area of the course *SPE 526-Special Education for the Classroom Teacher* and determined that social workers could obtain 20 credit hours in Category II for this particular course. For other social workers taking similar programs in special education, please be aware that you may

obtain up to 20 credit hours on this topic in Category II. Any questions regarding school social work certification and training requirements associated with HB 1040 and COMAR 13A.12.03.11 should be directed to the Maryland State Department of Education or the Human Resources Department associated with your school.



Trinita Robinson
Consumer Member



Thomas Smith, LSWA

*“You may only
renew on-line
between
August 15, 2007
and
October 31, 2007.”*



Loretta Wall, LCSW-C

Online License Renewals

The Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners is preparing to launch the Online Renewal system in the fall of 2007. Therefore, the social workers who will be eligible to renew in 2007 will receive an instruction letter from the Board in July/August. You will then be able to go to the Board's website, at www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/ and log on to Renew Online.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

**Please be advised that the instruction letter will be your only renewal notice.
You may only renew on-line between August 15, 2007 and October 31, 2007.**

Before you begin, you will need the following:

1. Your Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners license number and Social Security number.
2. A printer, to print a copy of your application and Invoice or Receipt.
3. Internet access.
4. Your Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners continuing education records.
5. Your Visa or MasterCard. Your checkbook or money order, if mailing in payment.

To Renew Online:

1. Go to the Board's website at www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/ and click **RENEW ONLINE**, then select License Level.
2. Read the instructions and click **LOGIN** to proceed to the Logon Screen.
3. Enter your Logon ID (Your Board of Social Work Examiners License Number without the A or G prefix for the Associate and Graduate levels)
4. Enter your password (The last four digits of your Social Security Number)
5. Fill in the information as requested; note that some areas may already be completed.
6. Preview your application and then click **AFFIRM AND MAKE PAYMENT**. Note that once submitted the application cannot be changed. Print and maintain a copy of your application.
7. Prior to selecting a method of payment, you must certify that all information in the application is accurate and correct.

Payment Methods:

1. Select Visa or MasterCard credit card payment. Only click once to confirm payment. Applications will be processed within 1-2 business days. This system does not accept American Express or Discover.

OR

2. Select **PAYMENT BY MAIL** to mail in your check or money order to the Board of Social Work Examiners at the above address, Attn. Licensing Unit. Your license will not be processed until payment is received. The Board must receive payment on or before October 31st.

If you are unable to complete your application online for any reason, please download and print the renewal form from the Board's website at www.dhmh.state.md.us/bswe/. You may not use the system on or after your license expires on November 1st.

If the Board receives a renewal application between November 1st and December 31st, a late fee in addition to the renewal fee is due. The late fee is \$ 50.00. If a social worker does not renew by December 31st, they are considered to be practicing without a license and are subject to a Cease and Desist order and disciplinary action. In addition, social workers who have not completed the entire application process by December 31st may not renew, but are instead required to pay a license reinstatement fee and complete the license reinstatement process.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

What paperwork will I send in?

When you renew online, no paperwork is required. You will attest electronically that you have completed your continuing education (CEU) requirement.

What if I do not have access to the internet?

In July/August, you will receive an instruction letter regarding the renewal process. The Instructions on how to request a paper renewal application will be in the letter.

Online License Renewals (Continued)

Will there be an audit?

Yes. After the renewal is over, the Board will conduct an audit of CEUs. Those randomly selected for audit will be required to submit certificates of completion of Continuing education, along with brochures, agendas or outlines.

Is it secure?

Yes. The Board's website uses the same security as your banking institution.

BSWE - Website – Your 24 Hour Access

You may ask yourself, "Why use the Board's Web Site? All I need is a telephone and I can call the Board anytime." Unfortunately the Board's business hours are from 8:00 AM until 5:00PM Monday through Friday except for State and Federal Holidays. With the website, you can conduct your business with the Board 24 hours, 365 days a year. Since the Board is supported by your licensing fees and websites are quicker, easier and more cost-effective to update than print based media, using the website can cut the Board's costs and save you money.

Some of the features and services included on the Board's website include:

Moving?

By law, licensees are required to notify the Board in writing of changes in address within 60 days.

Forms, Forms and more Forms!

Need a form? Download the following:

Application packets and instructions for licensing, inactive status, reinstatement, reactivation.

Supervision - registration form and contractual agreement forms for supervisors of candidates for LCSW & LCSW-C licensure.

Continuing Education Credit Report Form.

Renewal forms (Between August 15 and October 31).

Complaint Form

Maryland Mental Health Volunteer Corps Application.

Newsletters

The website has copies of all back issues including licensees that have been sanctioned by the Board.

Ethics Question?

Go to the legislation/regulation section.

Verification

Verify an individual licensed by the Board.

Verify a supervisor registered by the Board.

Board Meetings

Want to see what the board is up to? Check out the date, time, and agenda for the next board meeting.

Want to join the board?

Membership information and application is available on-line.

Links

Other state social work boards.

National Association of Social Workers. (NASW)

Association of Social Work Boards. (ASWB)

Societies for Clinical Social Work.

Council on Social Work Education. (CSWE)

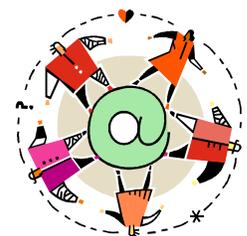
Clinical Social Work Federation.

Information about the state and state and local government. (Maryland Manual Online).

So come see our website www.dhmf.state.md.us/bswe/ and join the more than 106,000 visitors.



“By law, licensees are required to notify the Board in writing of changes in address within 60 days.”



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Fax # 410-358-2469

Internet Address

<http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/bswe/>

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4201 Patterson Avenue, Room 217

Baltimore, Maryland 21215-2299

We're on the Web!

<http://www.dhmd.state.md.us/bswe/>