

The Bulletin of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

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From the Board Chair

Mary C. Burke
LCSW-C, BCD



Over the past few months, among the e-mail messages I have sent to Board members, some have been entitled, "When it rains, it pours" and "Just when you thought it couldn't get worse." That pretty much captures the level of activity in the office.

You have already been informed of the significant decision to accept the resignation of our previous Executive Director. We applied for and were granted a freeze exemption for this position. We have received 86 applications for the position and will soon begin the interviewing process. We hope to have a new director hired by the beginning of the summer. Gloria Jean Hammel, LCSW-C, our Staff Social Worker, was appointed Acting Executive Director but, after much deliberation, decided not to apply for the position. I am pleased to report, however, that she will stay with us in her previous position.

Our very limited staff was further impacted by several health-related absences. In the meantime, despite the fact that Board members have been coming in to the office to try to help out in a variety of ways, some work has fallen behind. Understandably, Gloria has not been able to complete the many functions of her previous position.

We have already submitted freeze exemptions for other positions: a compliance officer, a data base specialist, and a legislative officer, among them. These are positions that many of the other Boards have had. Despite being the third largest Board, we were struggling with a "skeleton crew" primarily because we did not have the funds to hire additional staff. Once we made the difficult decision to raise the fees, the hiring freeze went into effect, and then we were cut three permanent positions. It seemed that we just could not win!

On a more positive note, in the midst of all of this, despite many recommendations, the legislature passed our Sunset bill, which was signed on May 13, extending the Board until July, 2014. An interim report is due October 1, 2003.

Throughout all this time, I continue to remind myself of many things I was taught in social work school and often try to convey to my clients now when they are dealing with difficult situations: "partialize and prioritize," "this too shall pass" and, "out of every crisis, comes an opportunity." This is obviously a time of transition. I do believe, however, that in the end, we will be a far stronger Board and office.

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS BOARD MEMBERS



(Seated L - R) Sheila D. Scriggins, Emanuel (Manny) Mandel (Board Secretary), Mary C. Burke (Board Chair), Anne E. Walker (Standing L - R) Stephanie B. Sharpe, Isadora R. Hare, Wanda W. Moore, Laurie T. Thomas, Charles W. Griffin

State Board of Social Work Examiners

Sanctioned Licensees as of May, 2003

NAME	STATUS
1. Bonnie A. Cox Case #298	Placed on Probation & Reprimanded 01/13/99-01/13/01
2. Barbara Dieterle Case #221	License Revoked 03/13/1998
3. Ronald Doswell Case #272	License Revoked 06/15/1998
4. Anita Parr Felps Case #362	License Revoked 07/02/2001
5. Charles A. Fleming Case #414	License Surrendered 09/05/01
6. Katherine High Cases #255 & #277	Licensee On Probation 06/29/00 - 06/29/03
7. Julia Jackson Case #198	Placed on Probation & Reprimanded 01/17/97 - Present
8. Leslie Faye Lewis Case #374	License Surrendered 04/23/01
9. Joanne S. Nibblett Case #388	License Revoked 12/14/01
10. Jennifer R. Peverly Case #465	Licensee on Probation 10/11/02 - 10/11/03
11. Tear P. Plater Case #388	License Revoked 08/26/02
12. Leon Raesly Cases #145, #159, #160, and Case #166	License Revoked 10/21/96
13. Ronald A. Stanley Cases #329 & #330	Licensee on Probation 06/08/01 - 06/08/03
14. Kathleen A. Stewart Case #405	License Suspended 1/24/02 - 1/24/04, with all but 12 months immediately stayed; Licensee on Probation for 1 year following suspension period
15. Patricia A. Tenanty Case #232	License Revoked 12/15/99
16. Elizabeth A. Titus Case #411	Licensee on Probation 03/08/02 - 03/08/04
17. Keith A. Wagner Case #124	Licensee on Probation 05/13/94 - Present
18. Melita Williams Case #104	License Suspended 03/08/96 - Present
19. Wanda M. Wilson Case #413	License Revoked 12/14/01

Alert

Please be alerted to the fact that LARRY DEXTER WILLIAMS has been prosecuted and convicted for impersonating a social worker. He was convicted of practicing without a license and misrepresenting himself as a social worker. He provided a fraudulent Masters' Degree diploma and LCSW-C license to prospective employers. The Board has reason to believe that he may still be impersonating a clinical social worker.

ATTENTION

In order 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 in order to begin to accumulate the hours necessary to qualify for advanced licensure (LCSW & LCSW-C)

Maryland Public Information Act

In response to numerous inquiries regarding what information may be given out to the public, the Board was provided with the following information:

1. A licensee may not have his or her contact information with the Board (business telephone number and business address, or home address if the business is not available) kept private. In other words, licensees do not have a right to privacy of their name; business address, or if business address is not available, home address; educational and occupational background; professional qualifications; and orders from formal disciplinary actions.

2. A licensee may have his or her name removed from the Board's list of licensees that is compiled for sale by requesting this in writing.

3. The Board may charge reasonable fees for responding to a PIA (Public Information Act) request and may also waive those fees if statutorily required conditions are met.

Tax and Unemployment Insurance Compliance

James D. Slade, Esq., Legislative/Regulations Officer

The Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2003 requires that health occupations Boards verify that licensees have paid all undisputed taxes and unemployment insurance contributions before renewing a license. A provision is made for licensees that have outstanding taxes or outstanding unemployment insurance contributions, who are making payments on the balances. The bill goes into effect July 1, 2003 so all renewals after this date will be subject to verification through the State Comptroller's Office or the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulation. The bill does not address initial licensure.

Reminders

Sheila D. Scriggins, LCSW-C

- The **importance of keeping records** cannot be stressed enough. The Board statute cites the failure to maintain adequate patient records as one of the grounds to deny a license, fine a licensee, reprimand a licensee, place a licensee on probation, suspend or revoke a license. If you become a subject of an investigation due to a complaint made against you, your client/patient record is crucial in the process and will assist you in defending your actions. Keeping good records and notes is not an option; it is a requirement.
- Did you know that those persons in their last semester of social work school could **take the licensing exam** prior to graduation? This will help in speeding up the process of getting a license and assist in obtaining employment as a social worker. Pass the word.
- **License renewal applications** need to be mailed in as soon as possible after you receive them, particularly if you have any issue in the renewal process. Your license expires on October 31st. Therefore, you need to get the renewal into the office in

Licensees who may owe outstanding taxes or unemployment insurance contributions should satisfy these debts before attempting to renew their license. If the debt cannot be satisfied, the licensee should contact the appropriate party to work out a satisfactory payment plan. If a licensee has an outstanding balance related to taxes or unemployment insurance contributions, the Board will not be able to renew the license until the debt is satisfied or payment arrangements are made with the appropriate collecting authority.

Please call the Comptroller of Maryland, Compliance Division at 410-974-2432 if you have any questions or need to make payment

- time for it to be processed and returned to you before it expires. When you receive your notice in August, look it over carefully. If you have any issue or question related to this renewal, put your question in writing immediately for the Board to review it prior to the September Board meeting. The Board meets on the second Friday of each month. You do not want your license to be held up pending the answer to your question or concern.
- If you are **moving and changing your address**, please remember that you must inform the Board in writing of your new address. It is recommended that you send this correspondence by certified mail. You are the person held responsible for notifying the Board of your change of address. As always, it is recommended that you keep all Board materials together in one place (CEU's, license renewal applications, correspondence etc.)
- The **new continuing education regulations** go into effect on November 1, 2003, requiring 40 credit hours and three credit hours in a professional ethics course.

Budget Matters

Emanuel (Manny) Mandel LCSW-C, ACSW
Chair Budget Committee



The State of Maryland has licensed social workers since the mid 1970's, one of the earlier licensing states of the country. Just for comparison, though, Virginia has had licensees since the mid 1960's. You may know that about ten years ago, the legislature chose to move all Health Occupations Licensing Boards to a status of special funding. That means we collect funds from the licensees and pay our way through the systems that the state has developed through the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene (DHMH).

While this process still has detractors and proponents, it is the current system and gives some advantages with its concomitant negatives. For instance, the budget crunch is only tangential to us as we do not work with tax revenues. On the other hand, rules exist that limit our purchase of services for our licensees as the State has the privilege to place limits, freeze slots, and otherwise

control expenditures. It even has the right to take unspent funds and transfer them into the general fund.

We had planned to use 2003 funds resulting from our recent – first time in 10 years – fee increase for desperately needed staff. Hiring freezes prevented that action. Thus, we held an overage that the State decided to transfer into general funds.

For FY2004, the Board is actively planning to have staff to aid in compliance, and data analysis. We are also planning to move forward with electronic licensing. We expect that the use of credit cards in on-line renewals will be part of this initiative and will simplify the process for our licensees. Stay tuned for further information.

News From ASWB

A Maryland social worker, Megan McNeill of Baltimore, has been appointed to the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Examination Committee. The sixteen (16) member committee reviews, edits, and approves questions for the social work licensing examination used in forty-eight (48) states, Washington, D.C., the Virgin Islands, and Alberta, Canada.

Ms. McNeill is employed at the Baltimore County Department of Social Services in the Independent Living Unit where she works with foster care youth between the ages of 14 and 21 with a focus on promoting self-sufficiency. Her volunteer experience includes work with Baltimore Reads, the Philadelphia District Attorney's Office Youth Aid Panel, the Howard County Office on Aging and a hospice program. She holds a Master of Social Service degree from Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania.

ASWB is the organization of the Boards that license and discipline social workers. Its purpose is to provide support and information toward the goal of protection of the public which uses social work services.

Board Vacancies

Periodically, the Board has vacancies, particularly at the LSWA, LGSW, and LCSW licensure levels. You need to be able to make a commitment of meeting once a month for a full day, in addition to committee meetings, and to devote additional time as a liaison in disciplinary cases, testifying in Annapolis, etc.

If you are interested in being appointed to the Board, please contact your professional association or refer to the Social Work statute, Maryland Health Occ. Code Ann. § 19-202(a)(4)(i), (ii) and (iii).

HIPAA Information

The following is information provided by Nelson J. Sabatini, the new Secretary of DHMH:

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) Privacy Rule went into effect on April 14, 2003. Individuals and organizations that work with health records will need to be familiar with both HIPAA and Maryland statutory requirements with regard to disclosure of health information.

The State Advisory Council on Medical Privacy and Confidentiality (SACMPC), drawing upon assistance from the Office of the Attorney General, at DHMH and the Maryland Health Care Commission, and the health Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association, has developed a comparison of Maryland law and HIPAA. The comparison provides overviews of key areas and charts comparing the relevant sections of State and Federal law. It is not intended to be a comprehensive guide to HIPAA related issues; however, it should be a very useful reference for anyone who works with medical records or other health information in Maryland. The document, which will be revised and updated periodically, can be viewed and printed from the SACMPC website at: www.hhs.gov/ocr/hipaa/privacy.html

State Board of Social Work Examiners

Board Members	Terms of Office
Mary C. Burke, LCSW-C, BCD <i>Board Chairperson</i>	07/01/01 - 06/30/05
Emanuel (Manny) Mandel, LCSW-C <i>Board Secretary</i>	07/01/03 - 06/30/07
Charles W. Griffin, Ed.D <i>Consumer Board Member</i>	07/01/00 - 06/30/04
Isadora R. Hare, LCSW <i>Board Member</i>	04/13/01 - 06/30/03
Wanda W. Moore, LCSW-C <i>Board Member</i>	07/01/02 - 06/30/06
Sheila D. Scriggins, LCSW-C <i>Board Member</i>	07/01/99 - 06/30/03
Stephanie E. Sharpe, LGSW <i>Board Member</i>	03/22/02 - 06/30/04
Laurie T. Thomas <i>Consumer Board Member</i>	07/01/01 - 06/30/05
Anne E. Walker, LCSW-C <i>Board Member</i>	07/01/01 - 06/30/05
Vacancy <i>LCSW-C Board Member</i>	
Vacancy <i>LSWA Board Member</i>	

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS BOARD STAFF MEMBERS



(Seated L – R) Bernnadette Staten-Evans (Administrative Specialist), James D. Slade (Legislative Officer), Beverly J. Lewis (Office Services Clerk) (Standing L – R) Howard F. (Rick) Kenney (Investigator), Delia Turano Schadt (Board Counsel), Gloria Hammel (Acting Executive Director), Kevin D. Brydie (Office Secretary)

"FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS"

Sheila D. Scriggins, LCSW-C

**Q: Whose responsibility is it if I do not receive my renewal form in the mail?**

A: It is the licensee's responsibility to renew his/her license every two years. If you do not receive your renewal form by August 30th, call the Board office immediately to request that another renewal form be sent to you. If you have changed your address and did not report this change in writing to the Board, then your renewal form would have been sent to the previous address, the address the Board has on record. It is the Board's responsibility to mail the renewal form to you; however, it is not the Board's responsibility to ensure that you receive your renewal form. *It is your responsibility to ensure that you receive your renewal form and renew your license before your current license expires.*

Q: How long do I need to keep my client/patient records?

A: Destruction of medical records is statutorily controlled. Specifically, Maryland Health Occ. Code Ann. § 4-403(b) provides: "Except for a minor patient, unless a patient is notified, a health care provider may not destroy a medical record... about a patient for 5 years after the record or report is made." The Board recommends that social workers in private or independent practice obtain a copy of this statute in its entirety, review it and consult an attorney if they have any questions. For social workers in agency settings, it is recommended that they follow the guidelines the agency has established based on this law and any other regulations which may dictate how long a client file needs to be retained. You can obtain copies of Maryland statutes at www.lawlib.state.md.us and Code of Maryland Regulations ("COMAR") at www.dsd.state.md.us

Q: Under the continuing education regulations which go into effect on November 1, 2003, can a licensed social worker obtain credit hours for providing or receiving supervision or case consultation?

A: No. A licensed social worker cannot obtain credit hours for providing or receiving supervision or case consultation. However, the regulations do include "structured peer-case conferences" among LCSWs and LCSW-Cs.

Q: Is an ACSW a license?

A: No. It is a national professional certification. It began prior to licensure laws being enacted and is still available through the National Association of Social Workers.

"Frequently Asked Questions" will be an ongoing column in the newsletter. Please submit questions you would like to have addressed to:

Newsletter Editor
C/O The Board of Social Work Examiners
4201 Patterson Avenue Room 323
Baltimore Maryland 21215-2299

CoachingLaurie T. Thomas, Chair
Continuing Education Committee

The practice of social workers who do therapy using coaching has become quite an issue in the last few years. There is an International Coach Federation estimated to have some ten-thousand full-time coaches. This organization estimates that, "One in five clinicians offer coaching as part of their practice."* The founder of the Federation has also established the Graduate School of Coaching.

Therapists who use this tool as part of their counseling cannot bill third party payers for the time they incur with a patient. Many use it in conjunction with regular therapy. It seems to be a combination of the therapist as cheerleader as well as one who helps the patient identify the goals they wish to strive for to better their life.

When the Board was originally asked whether or not programs with the content area of coaching could be used for continuing credit hours, they voted in the negative. However, NASW began sponsoring workshops and seminars on coaching. The Board brought up the issue again, and in their December, 2002 meeting, voted to accept for Category I credit hours, continuing education programs with the content area of Coaching when these programs are offered by sponsors approved by the National Association of Social Workers (NASW), the Association of Social Work Board (ASWB), and other Board pre-approved sponsors. The Board agreed by consensus that programs submitted to the Board for approval which pertain to coaching by non pre-approved sponsors should be reviewed by the Board.

*"The Coaching Boom", *Psychotherapy Networker*, July / August, 2002

Mental Health Volunteer Corps

The Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's (DHMH) Mental Hygiene Administration is coordinating the development of a volunteer corps to be trained in crisis counseling and other information relevant to a coordinated disaster response. Once registered, approved and trained, DHMH volunteers would self-select for availability in a local, regional and/or State deployment in the event of a disaster. **The Maryland Health Volunteer Corps Application is available on the Board's webpage and by mail by calling the Board's office.**

Approved volunteers will receive specific DHMH training in Disaster Response and will be formally recognized as DHMH volunteers. This formal relationship provides qualified immunity under the Maryland Tort Claims Act, as if they were State or local health department employees. Information on specific training dates will follow. For more information on the Mental Health Volunteer Corps you may contact Jenny Howes, LGSW at 410-724-3180 (howesj@dhhm.state.md.us) or Barbara Carey, RN, MSN at 410-402-8320 (bcarey@dhhm.state.md.us).

Supervision Committee Report

Wanda W. Moore, LCSW-C



Social work supervisory relationships are exceedingly important to the overall practice of social work. In fact, one could say that they are essential to effective social work practice, since social work professionals are regularly required to develop well-formulated, appropriate responses to a wide-range of client-related issues. Additionally, social workers are frequently challenged and confronted by personal, ethical problems for which they need guidance.

Regular, well-structured supervision will provide assistance to social work professionals in both types of situations.

In the Second Edition of his book entitled *Clinical Social Work Supervision*, Carlton Munson, DSW, states the following in a section entitled "Expectations of the Supervisor." "The supervisee has the right to expect that a supervisor:

1. is a master teacher
2. is able to guide learning by virtue of superior knowledge and skill
3. is able to transmit knowledge that integrates theory and practice activity
4. has in-depth knowledge that can be applied to practice with precision
5. is able to apply research knowledge and methodology to practice
6. is confident in their knowledge, but open to questioning
7. is able to accept criticism without becoming defensive
8. is fair, honest, candid, but supportive and patient
9. can provide cases that are appropriate, but challenging
10. is appropriate in appearance, courteous, and clear in communication

11. is thorough in providing orientation to the agency or setting
12. is prepared for conferences and avoids wasting precious supervision time
13. is involved in the agency, the community, and the profession
14. is knowledgeable about the agency, the community, and the profession
15. is knowledgeable about the code of ethics and faithfully adheres to its tenets."

We must nurture, strengthen and remain dedicated to supervisory relationships in social work practice because those relationships will help Maryland social workers improve their skills, which in turn will help them protect the public.

The Board of Social Work Examiners is presently re-proposing regulations relating to social work supervision, which it expects will become effective July 1, 2004. The proposed regulations will address many issues including the qualifications of the supervisor, group supervision for advanced licensure, supervision by licensed graduate social workers, and the responsibilities of the supervisee. The original proposal was published for comment in the September 6, 2002 Maryland Register. The re-proposal still must be published in the Maryland Register for public comment. If you do not subscribe to the Maryland Register, you may access the re-proposal via the Internet, at www.dsd.state.md.us.

The Board believes that the proposed regulations will help to nurture, and strengthen supervisory relationships in social work.

Announcement

The Board is pleased to announce the appointment of Nelson F. Sabatini as the new Secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. A welcoming reception sponsored by The Boards and Commissions and its Consumer Advocacy Group was held on May 5, 2003.

Board Member Profile

Stephanie B. Sharpe, LGSW

Stephanie B. Sharpe, LGSW, was appointed to the Board in May 2002. She is a native North Carolinian and earned a BSW from the University of North Carolina at Charlotte in 1996. Shortly thereafter she attended Howard University School of Social Work where she earned her MSW. She fills the position on the Board of the Licensed Graduate Social Worker. She is planning to take the exam for the LCSW-C as soon as she has the requisite hours of clinically supervised practice at the LGSW level. Stephanie works in a hospital setting. She is a member of the Southern Prince Georges County Business and Professional Women's Organization, and the National Association of Social Workers.

Stephanie resides with her spouse and daughter in Upper Marlboro, Maryland.



BSWE Committee Chairpersons

Budget Committee

Emanuel (Manny) Mandel, LCSW-C, ACSW

Continuing Education Committee

Laurie T. Thomas, Consumer Member

Disciplinary Committee

Charles W. Griffin, Ed.D, Consumer Member

Newsletter Committee

Sheila D. Scriggins, LCSW-C

Oversight Committee

Mary C. Burke, LCSW-C, BCD

Rehabilitation Committee

Anne E. Walker, LCSW-C

Supervision Committee

Wanda W. Moore, LCSW-C

Number of Active Licensees as of May, 2003

License Level	Number of Licensees
Associates / LSWA	1,104
Graduates / LGSW	2,531
Certifieds / LCSW	587
Clinicals / LCSW-C	6,789
Total	11,011

Legislative Updates

James D. Slade, Esq.
Legislative/Regulations Officer



State Board of Social Work Examiners- Sunset Extension and Program Evaluation

Programs subject to the Maryland Program Evaluation Act are evaluated by the General Assembly every 10 years, with certain exceptions. The purpose of the evaluation is to determine whether a program is still necessary for the public interest, and to hold programs accountable for the protection of the public. After the evaluation, a bill is introduced into the General Assembly to either:

1. Extend the existence of the program with no alterations to its statute;
2. Extend the existence of the program with alterations to its statute; or
3. Repeal the program's statute, thereby ending its existence.

The Board of Social Work Examiners was evaluated and a bill was introduced extending its existence with alterations to its statute. The two changes to its statute relate to the make-up of the Board and the Board's authority to appoint officers.

The Board was required to have a licensed social work associate (LSWA) and a licensed graduate social worker (LGSW) as members. Historically, these positions have been difficult to fill, although the graduate social worker's seat on the Board is currently filled. The law was changed to allow the Appointments Office 6 months to seek an LSWA or an LGSW for the respective positions. If the Appointments Office is unable to fill either of these positions within 6 months of the vacancy, then a social worker of any license level may be appointed to the position provided the appointee is otherwise qualified. Presently the Board is seeking an LSWA member.

The second change to the Board's statute allows the Board to elect officers from within its membership. Some of the recommendations of the Sunset evaluation related to the fiscal management of the Board and in order to address the recommendations the Board will now be able to appoint a treasurer to manage Board finances. Currently, the Board Secretary manages these duties.

Budget Reconciliation and Financing Act of 2003

As part of the State's attempt to balance its budget, the General Assembly voted to transfer \$218,000 from the Board's fund to the General Fund of the State. The Board, along with other interested parties, opposed the transfer. Originally, it was proposed that a larger sum be transferred, but that sum was reduced to \$218,000.

Health Occupations-State Board of Social Work Examiners-License

This bill was introduced to aid social workers that are licensed in other states or who possess comparable qualifications in another jurisdiction to transfer to Maryland. It was also introduced to aid employers who hire out-of-state social workers as well. An out-of-state social worker may practice social work in Maryland without a license provided the social worker has:

1. A license to practice social work in any other state or possesses social work qualifications in another jurisdiction comparable to the qualifications of a social worker in the Maryland Social Workers Act;
2. An application for licensure pending with the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners; and

3. Met the requirements established by the Board in regulations

A social worker may not practice social work under this provision for more than 6 months. This provision becomes effective October 1, 2003, provided the Board has implemented regulations.

Family Law - Reporting of Out-of-State Child Abuse and Neglect

A social worker, along with others that are specified in the law, will be required to report suspected child abuse and neglect, even when the suspected child abuse and neglect occurred outside of Maryland and the child lives outside of Maryland. The social worker will be able to report the abuse and neglect to any Department of Social Services office in the State of Maryland. The social worker will have to make an oral report as soon as possible and "a written report within 48 hours after the contact, examination, attention, or treatment that caused the person to believe that the child had been subject to abuse or neglect." Once the Department of Social Services receives the report, it will forward the information to the appropriate agency outside of the State.

The bill also addresses children who reside in Maryland but it is suspected that abuse and neglect occurred outside of Maryland. In these instances, social workers will follow the existing reporting requirements, which are to contact the Department of Social Services in the county where the allegedly abused child lives or the county where the abuse is alleged to have occurred, to report the abuse. For reports of neglect, the social worker will contact the Department of Social Services in the applicable county. If the social worker is acting as a staff member of a hospital, public health agency, child care institution, juvenile detention center, school, or similar institution, the social worker will also immediately contact and give all required information to the head of the institution or the head's designee.

Once the Department of Social Services receives a report of this type, it will forward a report to the appropriate out-of-state agency, cooperate with the out-of-state agency that investigates the alleged incident or incidents, and if determined appropriate by the Department of Social Services, "interview the child to assess whether the child is safe, and ... provide services to the child and the child's family."

Mental Hygiene Administration - Emergency Evaluation - Standards and Content

This bill changed the standard under which emergency evaluations may be filed and adjudicated. The standard that had to be proven was that the individual had a mental disorder and there was a "clear and imminent danger of the individual doing bodily harm to the individual or another". Under this bill, the petitioner still has to allege a mental illness and the existence of a mental illness still needs to be proven in order to have a petition approved. The change is that instead of alleging and proving that the individual presents a clear and imminent danger of the individual doing bodily harm to the individual or another, the

petitioner must allege and it must be proven that the "individual presents a danger to the life or safety of the individual or" others. The petitioner may make a petition based on the examination or observation of the individual or "other information obtained that is pertinent to

**BOARD
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Gloria Jean Hammel
Acting Executive Director
Staff Social Worker
Howard F. (Rick) Kenney
Health Occupations Investigator
Bernnadette Staten-Evans
Administrative Specialist
Diane V. Cooper
Office Secretary
Kevin D. Brydie
Office Secretary (Contractual)
Beverly J. Lewis
Office Clerk (Contractual)

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Anna D. Jeffers, Esq.
Legislative/Regulations Specialist
James D. Slade, Esq.
Legislative Officer
Henry Harle
Computer Network Specialist

**Maryland State Board of
Social Work Examiners**
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Board Chair
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Acting Executive Director
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The Board's phone number is 410-764-4788
Toll Free number 1-877-526-2541
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www.dhmv.state.md.us/bswe

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