

The Examiner

The Newsletter of the MS Board of Examiners for Social Workers & Marriage & Family Therapists

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Term expires: 6/30/2015

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Term expires: 6/30/2014

Sharon Adams, LMFT
Term expires: 6/30/2013

Patricia Terry, LSW
Term expires: 6/30/2013

Special points of interest:

- ◆ Continuing Education Changes
- ◆ AAMFT Changes
- ◆ Send us your email address!
- ◆ Check us out on Facebook

A Word from the Chair

As the New Year begins, there are quite a few changes at the Board office. It is a very exciting time for us and we hope the changes will improve service to our licensees.

We are continuing to move forward in the electronic age by allowing LCSW Supervisors to become credentialed as supervisors through on-line training courses.

We also want to improve accountability to the public by having ethically prudent licensees. One way to ensure that is on-going review of the rules and regulations governing our profession. As part of that accountability, we will be implementing a jurisprudence exam at each renewal. It's an open book test. Instead of checking a box attesting you've read the rules and regulations, you'll answer a few

questions to let us know you have.

We have again updated our rules and regulations as a result of the activities last session. We've begun licensing at the Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associate level and implementing changes for practice in Independent Social Work practice by distinguishing between clinical social work and advanced social work practice.

Make sure you have the most recent copy of the Rules and Regulations by accessing on our website.

Kristi Plotner, LCSW



Social Work Continuing Education Forms

The MBOE has posted forms Continuing Education for Social Workers and they are included in a link on the left side of this page. In addition, The Social Work Continuing Education Committee has

completed a guide for Designated Provider Organizations, those wishing to become Designated Providers, and those interested in being approved for Individual Presentations. It should be used to guide

how quality Continuing Education Programs for Social Workers are proposed, prepared, presented, and monitored. If you have any questions please email us at: mboe@swmft.ms.gov

Question related to MFT continuing education? Email mftdsc@swmft.ms.gov

A Word from the Marriage and Family Therapist Chair

The AAMFT Code of Ethics Has Been Revised

The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Code of Ethics has been revised, effective July 1, 2012. The practice of marriage and family therapy is governed by both law and ethics. Marriage and family therapists must consider applicable laws, regulations and the AAMFT Code of Ethics when making professional decisions. This article will highlight some of the revisions made to the AAMFT Code of Ethics. Every marriage and family therapist is strongly encouraged to read through the new AAMFT Code of Ethics in its entirety. You may view or download them from AAMFT's website at www.aamft.org.

We have provided some examples for you here.

1.1 Non-Discrimination. Marriage and family therapists provide professional assistance to persons without discrimination on the basis of race, age, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, disability, gender, health status, religion, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or relationship status



Sarah Garrison, LMFT
LMFT Discipline Specific Chair

1.3 Multiple Relationships. Marriage and family therapists are aware of their influential positions with respect to clients, and they avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of such persons. Therapists, therefore, make every effort to avoid conditions and multiple relationships with clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. Such relationships include, but are not limited to, business or close personal relationships with a client or the client's immediate family. When the risk of impairment or exploitation exists due to conditions or multiple roles, therapists document the appropriate precautions taken.

1.4 Sexual Intimacy with Current Clients and Others. Sexual intimacy with current clients, or their spouses or partners is prohibited. Engaging in sexual intimacy with individuals who are known to be close relatives, guardians or significant others of current clients is prohibited.

1.5 Sexual Intimacy with Former Clients and Others. Sexual intimacy with former clients, their spouses or partners, or individuals who are known to be close relatives, guardians or significant others of clients is likely to be harmful and is therefore prohibited for two years following the termination of therapy or last professional contact. After the two years following the last professional contact or termination, in an effort to avoid exploiting the trust and dependency of clients, marriage and family therapists should not engage in sexual intimacy with former clients, or their spouses or partners. If therapists engage in sexual intimacy with former clients, or their spouses or partners, more than two years after termination or last professional contact, the burden shifts to the therapist to demonstrate that there has been no exploitation or injury to the former client, or their spouse or partner.

1.14 Electronic Therapy. Prior to commencing therapy services through electronic means (including but not limited to phone and Internet), marriage and family therapists ensure that they are compliant with all relevant laws for the delivery of such services. Additionally, marriage and family therapists must: (a) determine that electronic therapy is appropriate for clients, taking into account the clients' intellectual, emotional, and physical needs; (b) inform clients of the potential risks and benefits associated with electronic therapy; (c) ensure the security of their communication medium; and (d) only commence electronic therapy after appropriate education, training, or supervised experience using the relevant technology.

2.7 Protection of Electronic Information. When using electronic methods for communication, billing, recordkeeping, or other elements of client care, marriage and family therapists ensure that their electronic data storage and communications are privacy protected consistent with all applicable law.



Melinda Pilkinton, LCSW
SW Discipline Specific Chair

A Word from the Social Work Chair

It has been an active year at the Board office. The Social Work Discipline Specific Committee continues to work to improve the ease of submission for applications and renewals. We want to take this opportunity to remind you of important notes. The information pertains to some of the frequently asked questions we receive as a committee. We encourage you to contact us through the Board office whenever you have a question.

- 40 continuing education clock hours are needed for renewal every 2 years
- Ethics - 4 hours of the required 40 clock hours must be approved Ethics Hours
- Cultural Competency - 2 hours of the required 40 clock hours must be approved Cultural Competency Hours
- Online Continuing Education Hours - Half (20) of the required hours needed for license renewal can be obtained from approved online training sessions

Don't forget! The MS Chapter NASW Annual Conference in Natchez, MS March 21-22, 2013.
www.naswmschapter.org.

Don't Miss Out on Important Board Information!

We want to have a good way to get information to our licensees and will be improving the communication through the newsletter. We invite you to sign up to receive that information via email, so you can get it as soon as possible and so it doesn't get lost with the bills. We will soon be moving to a fully electronic com-

munication style, so you don't want to miss out! Send us your email address today! If there's a topic you'd like to see more on, please contact our communications committee and we'll try to address it in an upcoming issue. We also want to step more into the information and social networking age. So, go

"LIKE" us on Facebook! Board members will be updating the Facebook page regularly with pictures, information, and news!
www.facebook.com/MSBOE



Send us your
email address to
include in our
files so that we
can start sending
you updates
electronically!

Executive Director's Corner

WE ARE MOVING IN MARCH!!! Come visit us in our new space! We are still located in the Jackson Medical Mall, but have moved near the Cancer Center. We will be in a fantastic new location—SUITE 761 — on the first floor of the Medical Mall near the UMC Conference Center and Cancer Center.

Ms. Nellie Brown and Ms. Erica Allen continue to work hard to ensure that all of your license needs are met. You can always come to our office, email us at

info@swmft.ms.gov, or call 601.987.6706.

As a reminder, please contact the Board office if you have a change in address, employment, or want to be included in our email communication.

Don't forget! Save time and money! Renew your license online! www.swmft.ms.gov

Marriage and Family Therapist Reminders!

- 24 continuing education hours are needed for every 2 year renewal period.
- 4 hours of the required 24 continuing education hours must be Board approved MFT Ethics hours.
- Board Approved Supervisors are required to earn 2 Board approved continuing education Supervision hours per renewal period.
- MFT Ethics and Supervision continuing education hours cannot be earned through self-directed learning projects and/or distance learning/internet (online) courses.

Marriage and Family Therapist Reminders!

- Licensees can earn up to 6 of the 24 required continuing education hours through self-directed/distance learning/internet (online) courses for each renewal period. Completion of the course and proof of successful completion of posttest, course examination, and/or evaluation from the course provider is required.
- All 24 continuing education hours earned for renewal must be Board Approved MFT Continuing Education Hours. Continuing Education offerings for MFTs are listed on the Board's website and updated continuously as new offerings are approved. The listing indicates if an offering is approved for general hours, ethics hours and/or supervision hours.
- License renewals are audited each year. It is important to maintain documentation of the continuing education hours earned.

Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers & Marriage & Family Therapists

Visit our website for all your licensing needs!

www.swmft.ms.gov

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OUR MISSION:
To protect the public

Import Address Here....



ASWB Deputy Executive Director, Dwight Hymans, LCSW Visited the BOE for the board retreat in June 2012!

LCSW's Take Note!

In an effort to provide more accessible and convenient LCSW Supervision training, the Board of Examiners will now accept LCSW Supervision Training hours which can be obtained online through the Zur Institute. Please refer to the MSBOE website for a link and instructions on how to complete these hours online.

Also, Organizations and / or designated providers can now provide

LCSW Supervision training which meets all established requirements and has been approved as appropriate. **ALL** supervision training must be approved by the BOE. Supervisors continue to be responsible for insuring their LCSW Supervisor status is current and in good standing.