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# THE EXAMINER

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February 2012

Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers  
and Marriage and Family Therapists Newsletter

Issue XX

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## **Social Worker Reminders!**

### **SUPERVISORS**

- Initial supervisor training of 16 hours is now required. If you did not complete the training by June 30, 2011, your supervisory status has effectively lapsed. The BOE and other organizations will be offering supervisory training in various locations over the next year. You may not continue to supervise unless you received the appropriate training. Please contact the Board office for more information.
- The required 2 hours of continuing education specific to supervisors will be offered at the NASW Annual Conference in Natchez in March. See the NASW website for details.

### **Continuing Education Notes**

- **40 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
- **Carry over hours** - 10 clock hours can be carried from one renewal period to the next
- **Online Continuing Education Hours** - Half (20) of the required hours needed for license renewal can be obtained from approved online training sessions
- **Graduate courses** - One graduate academic semester hour successfully completed with a grade of B or better shall be equivalent to five(5) continuing education hours

### **License Renewal Notes**

- Checks are no longer accepted!
- Easy renewals online!
- . An application is not considered complete until all documentation is received by the BOE. This includes any supporting documentation that may be requested by the Social Work Discipline Specific Committee (SWDSC) after the initial application form has been received.

Executive Director  
Billy A. Dilworth

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## Audits

- Licensees are chosen randomly for auditing
- It is recommended that you keep your original continuing education certificates for at least 5 (five) years

## Background Checks:

Sex offender registry and criminal background checks are required for those individuals who are applying for Social Work Licensure. The applicant, not the Board, is responsible for fees associated with these background checks.

## **House Bill 607**

We are so excited that House Bill 607 passed and continues to support social worker and marriage and family therapist professionals. Here's a little background for the bill that you may want to know:

Section 73-53-1, Mississippi Code of 1972, is amended as follows:

73-53-1. It is declared to be the policy of the State of Mississippi that the profession of social work affects the public health, safety and welfare and requires appropriate regulation and control in the public interest. It is the intent of this chapter to protect the people of Mississippi by promoting high standards of professional performance for those engaged in the profession of social work by regulating the title and by setting standards of qualification, education, training and experience for those who engage, or seek to engage, in the practice of social work.

Title Protection: "Social work practice" means the professional activity directed at enhancing, protecting or restoring people's capacity for social functioning, whether impaired by physical, environmental or emotional factors. It is now in the law that a person, corporation, association, or business entity cannot use terms such as "social worker" or "licensed social worker" or abbreviations such as "SW," "LSW," or the like unless that person, business, etcetera holds a valid social work license.

Here are some key changes in the bill:

### **Social Workers: Are you practicing within your scope?**

The Board has amended the rules and regulations to reflect changes in the bill. More changes are coming but here are some key points. Section B of the social work section of the BOE R&R contains several changes mainly intended to further clarify scope of work and practice based on licensure level. Important in this section is what type of work is **not** within the role of different license levels.

For example, a Licensed Social Worker (LSW) should never engage in the practice of diagnosis, therapy, counseling, or any activity related to clinical practice. LSWs are considered generalists and can practice as such. A Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW) can engage in any activity that an LSW can do and can practice in specific areas as an advanced generalist. A LMSW cannot practice therapy, counseling, and clinical work UNLESS he/she is supervised by a Board approved Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW), PhD level Clinical Psychologist, or Psychiatrist. A LMSW also cannot engage in diagnosis or independent practice. A Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW) can engage in clinical practice, psychotherapy, diagnosis, independent practice, macro practice, and supervision of LMSWs and other staff. LCSWs cannot practice outside the scope of their expertise. For example, a LCSW who specializes in family therapy would be practicing outside their scope of practice if they attempted to treat someone identified as suffering from post traumatic stress disorder & if he/she had not been trained specifically for this clinical activity).

Here are some key definitions for you to remember:

- "Master's social work practice" means the application of social work theory, knowledge, methods and ethics and the professional use of self to restore or enhance social, psychosocial, or biopsychosocial functioning of individuals, couples, families, groups, organizations and communities. Master's social work practice includes the application of specialized knowledge and advanced practice skills in the areas of assessment, treatment planning, implementation and evaluation, case management, information and referral, counseling, supervision, consultation, education, research, advocacy, community organization and the development, implementation, and administration of policies, programs and activities. Under supervision as provided in this chapter, the practice of master's social work may include the practices reserved to clinical social workers.
- Clinical Social Work: means the application of social work methods and values in diagnosis and treatment and prevention of psychosocial dysfunction disability or impairment including emotional, mental, and behavioral disorders. It is directed at enhancing, protecting, or restoring people's capacity for social functioning, whether impaired by physical, environmental, or

emotional factors. Clinical social work has a primary focus on the mental, emotional and behavioral well being of individuals, couples, families and groups. It centers on a holistic approach to psychotherapy and the client's relationship with his or her environment as essential to treatment planning.

- Macro social work practice: focuses on changing larger systems, such as communities and organizations. It encompasses a broad spectrum of practice, including planning, program development, community organizing, policy analysis, legislative advocacy, program evaluation, task-oriented group work, community education, and human services management.
- Psychotherapy: "Psychotherapy" is a specialized, formal interaction between a social worker or other mental health professional and a client (either individual, couple, family or group) in which a therapeutic relationship is established to help resolve symptoms of mental disorder, psychosocial stress, relationship problems and difficulties in coping in the social environment.
- Clinical Supervision: An interactional professional relationship between a supervisor and a social worker that provides evaluation and direction over the supervisee's practice of clinical social work....

**Attention Marriage and Family Therapists:  
The MFT Licensure Law Has Changed and New Rules and Regulations Are Forthcoming  
W. Jeff Hinton and Sarah Garrison**

After receiving approval in the House of Representatives and the Senate, House Bill 607 was signed into law by Governor Barber. The new law takes effect on July 1, 2011. The new licensure law should strengthen the Board of Examiners (BOE) ability to carry out its mission of public protection and further enhance the profession of marriage and family therapy in the state. The most significant changes for MFTs include the addition of a new level of licensure (Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associate [LMFTA]), statutory authority for criminal background checks and the adoption of the AMFTRB National Examination in Marital and Family Therapy as the official examination for MFT licensure. For those LMFTs who are dually licensed as social workers, the social work licensure law also contains some important changes. The new licensure laws for social workers and marriage and family therapists will be available on the Board's website in July. Each licensee is strongly encouraged to review the new licensure law.

As a result of the new law, the Board of Examiners (BOE) has been busy reviewing, revising and updating the rules and regulations in order to more effectively carry out the Board's mission of public protection. Members of the Board's MFT Discipline Specific Committee have invested much time and effort into the forthcoming revision in order to clarify common misconceptions, identify the role of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associates (LMFTAs), revise continuing education requirements and update BOE forms for LMFTs. While some of the proposed changes to the forthcoming rules and regulations are highlighted below, every licensee is encouraged to review the revised rules and regulations when they are posted on the Board's website in September. While the information in this article is deemed reliable, it does not supersede the actual information contained in the forthcoming revised rules and regulations or the Mississippi licensure law.

*Continuing Education Proposed Changes*

The MFT Discipline Specific Committee, in consultation with the MFT Continuing Education Committee, has dedicated many hours contemplating revisions to the continuing education requirements for LMFTs. Throughout this process, attention was paid to national trends, continuing education research, and the professional and political context within the state. As many of our licensees have noticed, the MFT CE Committee has established more stringent guidelines for approving CE offerings in recent years. While not always popular with licensees, these changes are consistent with national trends, the PEER Committee report and the BOE's commitment to meet its mandate to promote continuing competence for licensees.

Marriage and family therapy is a distinct profession with its own codified body of knowledge and established core competencies. All of the changes to the continuing education process have been made with the goal of promoting clinical competence among LMFTs in the state. The MFT CE Committee acknowledges this is not an exact science and the limited amount of research on continuing education yields mixed results at best. However, the MFT CE Committee is committed to approving quality CE offerings that are directly related to the practice of marriage and family therapy and have the potential to advance professional competence. The idea, that continuing education quality is more important than quantity, has consistently emerged from extensive committee discussions. The MFT Discipline Specific Committee and the MFT CE Committee believe that these efforts are resulting in higher quality continuing education opportunities for LMFTs. Therefore, both committees are recommending a reduction in the total number of required continuing education hours for license renewal in the forthcoming revised rules and regulations!

Currently, the BOE requires each LMFT to complete 35 hours of approved continuing education each renewal period. This includes 4 approved MFT ethics hours for all licensees and 2 approved supervision hours for all state approved supervisors. The forthcoming revised rules and regulations for LMFTs will reduce the number of required continuing education hours needed for license renewal from 35 to 24! The required MFT ethics hours (4) and supervision hours (2) will remain unchanged.

The proposed revised rules and regulations will modify the number of hours that licensees can earn through self-directed learning projects and/or distance learning/internet learning courses that receive Committee approval. Licensees will be eligible to earn up to 8 of the 24 required continuing education hours through self-directed/distance learning courses for each renewal period. The MFT CE Committee will grant continuing education hours only after completion of the course and proof of successful completion of post-test, course examination, and/or evaluation from the course provider. The Board will continue to deny approval of self-directed learning projects and/or distance learning/internet learning courses for the MFT ethics or supervision continuing education requirement.

The new continuing education requirements are designed to promote high quality marriage and family therapy continuing education opportunities while reducing the costs to the licensee by decreasing the total number of required hours. As these new requirements take effect, the MFT CE Committee will continue evaluating CE offerings with the goal of approving high quality opportunities directly related to the practice of marriage and family therapy.

#### *Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (LMFTA) Proposal*

A Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associate (LMFTA) holds a license that is granted to an individual who has met and maintained all the qualifications necessary for LMFTA licensure. A LMFTA must practice in an agency setting under a "Board Approved" supervision contract. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy Associates do not have to earn continuing education beyond their supervision requirement and are not eligible for inactive status. The LMFTA license is valid for two years and can only be renewed once. Therefore, the LMFTA license will not be valid for more than four years. This should provide ample time to complete the post graduate supervised clinical experience requirements for licensure.

The Board of Examiners plans to begin licensing Marriage and Family Therapy Associates (LMFTAs) in January of 2012 in accordance with the new licensure law and the forthcoming revised rules and regulations. The addition of the LMFTA level of licensure, allows marriage and family therapy graduates to be licensed while completing their post graduate supervised clinical experience requirements for LMFT licensure. Licensing MFTs at two levels is a national trend that facilitates public protection and enhances opportunities for those candidates seeking full licensure as a LMFT. A summary of the LMFTA licensure requirements is listed below:

- Official transcripts of graduate education from a COAMFTE accredited MFT Program.
- Documentation of a completed clinical practicum of no less than 12 consecutive months that provided face to face clinical practice with individuals, couples and families and live supervision. The practicum student must have completed a minimum of 500 face to face clinical client contact hours of which no less than 200 must be relational contact hours with couples and/or families and must have received supervision with a ratio of no less than one (1) hour of supervision for each six (6) hours of clinical client contact. The practicum experience must be supervised by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor or Supervisor Candidate under supervision-of- supervision by an AAMFT Approved Supervisor. Practicum groups shall be limited to a maximum of 8 supervisees per supervisor per group.
- Documentation of a passing score on the National Examination in Marital and Family Therapy prescribed by the Association for Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards.
- Documentation of an acceptable supervision plan that has been approved by the Board.
- Three acceptable letters of professional reference from licensed mental health professionals who have known the applicant for at least one year, sent directly to the Board by the professional.
- A recent picture of the applicant.
- An acceptable criminal history records check, using finger print identification, by appropriate governmental authorities and an acceptable sex offender check, prescribed by the Board.
- The non-refundable application fee. The Board does not accept personal checks for payment of fees.

If you have any questions or comments regarding any information contained in this article, please feel free to contact any MFT member of Mississippi Board of Examiners or Billy Dilworth, the Executive Director of the Board.

## CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

The following programs have been reviewed and approved by MS Board of Examiners Social Work CE Committee.

*Beginning July 1, 2011, all social work licensees will be required to obtain four (4) hours of approved professional ethics and two (2) hours of approved cultural diversity/multicultural issues/cultural competency continuing education hours for each renewal period.*

For further information about specific programs, please contact the sponsoring organizations at the telephone number provided on this list. This page is offered as a courtesy only, The Board will not be held responsible for any problems that arise from the cancellation or attendance of the following programs.

02/15/2012

Date	TOPIC	LOCATION	SPONSORED BY	CONTACT INFORMATION	CE
3/23-24/2012	MS NASW Annual Conference	Natchez, MS	MS NASW	601-936-0667	Up to 10.5 CE
03/23/2012	Ethics & Cultural Diversity in Helping Professions	Tupelo, MS	New Beginnings	662.842.6752 x 111	6 CE includes 2 CD 4 E
3/22-23/2012	Care and Management Overview of HIV Infection	Jackson, MS	UMMC	601-984-1300	14.75 CE
03/07/2012	The Nuts & Bolts of Legal & Ethical Practice	Jackson, MS	CMI Education Institute	800.844.8260	6.25 CE includes 6 E
03/02/2012	Social Work Ethics, Diversity & Practice in the 21st Century	Richland, MS	Rankin County Chamber of Commerce/Elder Law Service	601.906.2260	6 CE includes 3 CD 1.5 E
02/24/2012	Ethics & Cultural Diversity in Helping Professions	Tupelo, MS	New Beginnings	662.842.6752 x 111	6 CE includes 2 CD 4 E
02/17/2012	An Introduction to Treatment for HIV Positive Client	Jackson, MS	University of MS Medical Center	601.984.5542	7.25 CE
02/17/2012	Building Healthy Families Conference	Tupelo, MS	New Beginnings	662.488.5507	6 CE
02/17/2012	Cultural Solution to Working with Children of Trauma	Greenville, Ms	Our House	662-334-6873	8 CE
02/10/2012	Asperger's High Functioning Autism & Nonverbal Learning Disorder	Memphis, TN	Health Education	800.839.4584	6 CE
02/2-3/2012	Gulf Coast Social Work Conference	Biloxi, MS	Continuing Education Productions	877.496.2361	10 CE includes 3 Ethic 7 1 CD
01/30-31/2012	Social Work End of Life Education Project	Shreveport, LA	LA-MS Hospice & Palliative Care Organization	662.934.0860	12 CE

1/25-27/2012	10th Annual Child Welfare Conference	Jackson, MS	JSU School of Social Work	601.432.6816	10 CE
01/20/2012	Ethics & Cultural Diversity in Helping Professions	Tupelo, MS	New Beginnings Adoption & Family Services	662.842.6752 x 103 Leah	6 CE 2 CD 4 E
01/19/2012	MS Mental Health & the Law	Jackson/Pearl MS	Health Ed	800.839.4584	6 CE
01/17/2012	Completing the Mental Status Exam	Jackson, MS	Cross Country Education	800.397.0180	6 CE
01/13/2012	Moving Beyond the Basics	New Orleans, LA	Health ED	800.839.4584	6 CE
01/06/2012	2012 Annual Conference: Stress Management for Social Workers in a Changing Environment	Lula, MS	Family & Youth Opportunities	662.902.4848	3 CE
01/06/2012	2012 Annual Conference Ethics As it relates to the Social Work Profession	Lula, MS	Family & Youth Opportunities	662.902.4848	3 CE Ethics
01/04/2012	Prolonged Exposure Therapy for PTSD	Jackson, MS	Cross Country Education	800.397.0180	6 CE

## **CONTINUING EDUCATION OFFERINGS FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

The following programs have been reviewed and approved by the MFT Continuing Education Committee of the Board of Examiners. With this approval, the programs meet continuing education requirements for renewal of your MFT license as required by the Mississippi Board of Examiners for Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists.

This list is provided as a courtesy to licensees and may be updated on this website once monthly. If you have any questions or concerns about a program, please contact that sponsoring organization at the phone number or email provided on this list.

**The continuing education offerings for each discipline (social workers and marriage and family therapists) are approved independently. Licensees should NOT assume that an approved offering for one discipline is also approved for the other discipline. The MBOE website maintains separate lists of approved continuing education offerings for social workers and marriage and family therapists.**

As of 02/10/2012

Date(s)	Topic	Location	Sponsor	Contact Number or Email	C. E. Hours
Early 2012	John Gottman's " Couples Therapy: A Research Based Approach"	Jackson, MS	RTS, M11-105	<a href="mailto:jhurley@rts.edu">jhurley@rts.edu</a>	14 gen. hrs., no ethics
4/11-13/2012	LATE, LOST & UNPREPARED: EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION & THE DISORGANIZED CHILD/ADOLESCENT	4/11/12, TUPELO, MS; 4/12/12, JACKSON, MS; 4/13/12, BILOXI, MS	CMI Education Institute, M12-007	DAWN MESSING-CECMI@CMIEDUCATION.ORG	6 gen. hrs., no ethics
4/11-12/2012	PSYCHOPHARMACOLOGY: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT PSYCHIATRIC MEDICATIONS	4/11/12, METAIRIE, LA; 4/12/12, BATON	CMI Education Institute, M12-008	DAWN MESSING-CECMI@CMIEDUCATION.ORG	6 gen. hrs., no ethics

		ROUGE, LA			
3/22 & 3/28/2012	What Underlying Factor Will Determine The Drug of Choice	3/22-Yazoo City, MS  3/28-Vicksburg, MS	St. Dominic Behavioral Health, M12-015	Leah Bolan, LBOLIAN@STDOM.COM	1 gen. hrs., no ethics
3/12/2012	Solutions for Clinical and Ethical Challenges	Hattiesburg, MS	Pine Grove Behavioral Health, M12-001	<a href="mailto:SROSA@FORRESTGENERAL.COM">SROSA@FORRESTGENERAL.COM</a>	5 gen. hrs., no ethics
3/9/2012	MS Controlled Substance Update 22011	Hattiesburg, MS	Pine Grove Behavioral Health, M11-103	<a href="mailto:SROSA@FORRESTGENERAL.COM">SROSA@FORRESTGENERAL.COM</a>	1 gen. hrs., no ethics
2/27- 29/2012	SMART BUT SCATTERED: EXECUTIVE DYSFUNCTION AT HOME AND SCHOOL	2/27/11, LAFAYETTE, LA; 2/28/12, BATON ROUGE, LA; 2/29/12, NEW ORLEANS, LA	CMI Education Institute, M11-096	DAWN MESSING- CECEMI@CMIEDUCATION.ORG	6 gen. hrs., no ethics
2/23/2012	The Role of Substance Abuse When Assessing Suicide	Hattiesburg, MS	Pine Grove Behavioral Health, M12-002	<a href="mailto:SROSA@FORRESTGENERAL.COM">SROSA@FORRESTGENERAL.COM</a>	1 gen. hrs., no ethics
2/16- 18/2012	MAMFT 2012 ANNUAL CONFERENCE, "Diverse Families, Diverse Approaches"	Hattiesburg, MS	MAMFT, M12-016	Marita Harris <a href="mailto:maritaharris@gmail.com">maritaharris@gmail.com</a>	10 gen. hrs.  4 mft ethics hrs.  3.5mft supervision hrs

**SUMMARY OF BOARD DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS**

The following licenses have been revoked or suspended by the Board since July 1, 1997.

**REVOKED/SUSPENDED**

Name	License Number	Date of Action	Sanction
Catherine Jean Pacher	C1386	09/11/98	Revoked
Marguearite E. Whiting	W4415	12/11/98	Revoked
Monica Hubbard Porter	M3025	12/07/07	Revoked
Hope Reagan	T0251	08/04/11	Revoked

**FINGERPRINT BACKGROUND HISTORY CHECK**

**Beginning January 1, 2011, the Board of Examiners will require a fingerprint based criminal history record information check and a sex offender registry check** for each applicant for licensure. The checks must be obtained from the appropriate governmental authority or authorities and must be received by the Board within one-hundred eighty (180) day of the completed application. The appropriate governmental authority is the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Criminal Information Center (CIC) and the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI).

The fingerprint criminal history and sex offender registry checks apply to an applicant seeking licensure as a Licensed Social Worker (LSW), Licensed Master Social Worker (LMSW), Licensed Certified Social Worker (LCSW), Licensed Marriage Family Therapist Associate (LMFTA) and Licensed Marriage Family Therapist (LMFT). **Applicants must complete a "Request for Fingerprint Card Form" that is located on the Board's website at [www.swmft.ms.gov](http://www.swmft.ms.gov) and mail it to the Board's Office. The Board will charge a processing fee of \$50.00 to process background checks. The fee is payable by money order or cashier's check to the Mississippi Board of Examiners for SW/MFT.**

After receiving the applicant's request and payment, the Board will mail you a traditional fingerprint card. The applicant will then follow instructions below for completing the card:

- ❖ Applicants must have picture identification (driver's license) with them at the time their fingerprints are taken. Applicants should have their fingerprints rolled by a local Law Enforcement Agency, such as a local police department or sheriff's department. Be prepared to pay a fee for having the fingerprint card executed as some law enforcement agencies charge a fee. The fingerprints must be taken by an appropriately trained law enforcement official. The fingerprint card must be signed by a law enforcement official in the appropriate block.
- ❖ Additional fingerprint cards are available from the Board's office upon request. The Board's contact information is available at the top of this letter.
- ❖ Fingerprint cards must be completely filled out. Required information includes: full name, social security number, date of birth, home address, sex, height, weight, hair color, eye color, place of birth (state or country only), citizenship, and reason fingerprinted. Reason fingerprinted should be pre-filled with the following statement: "Applicant for SW or MFT Licensure, Miss. Ann. 73-53-11".
- ❖ The fully completed card should be mailed to: Mississippi Board of Examiners for SW/MFT, P.O. Box 4508, Jackson, MS 39296-4508. Please do not allow the fingerprints to smudge.
- ❖ The Board will mail your completed fingerprint card to the Mississippi Department of Public Safety, Criminal Information Center. The Center shall process the fingerprint images and forward them to the FBI for identification through the national system. It will take four (4) to six (6) weeks for your criminal history record information check to be completed. The completed criminal history and sex offender registry checks must be received by the Board office before an individual's application will be considered for licensure.
- ❖ Please note that if your fingerprint card is rejected, you will be notified in writing and processing of your application will be delayed.

## Mississippi

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