



Our Mission

The legislature declares that, in order to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unauthorized, unqualified and improper practice of social work, it is necessary that a proper regulatory authority be established and adequately provided for.

FALL 2016

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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From The Chair

Another fiscal year has ended and the LABSWE has remained within our budget. Our largest expenditure was for the new database and website, for which we have had mixed reviews, with some people loving the new site and navigating without problems to others reporting difficulty.

We realized that with a new renewal process, which included reporting continuing education, phone calls to the board office would increase. We included a help desk in our contract with Covalent Logic (our database and website designer) to assist with calls. Two employees from Covalent manned the help desk. Between June 1 and September 30 the help desk had 3,420 phone calls and emails. They spent 351.252 hours on the phone and their response time averaged 9.06 hours. We don't have a call center program at the board office, so I can't report to you on the number of phone calls and emails fielded by the board office. However, I will tell you that the call volume was extremely high, as were the emails and the foot traffic in and out of the board office.

The requirement to list your continuing

education is part of accountability to the renewal process. We hope that using your dashboard to report continuing education will assist you in tracking the hours as you complete them. Our biggest surprise with the continuing education reporting requirement, which quickly turned to concern, was the number of people who did not complete the required 20 hours of continuing education by June 30. The board office has received hundreds of letters requesting an extension beyond June 30 to complete the hours required for renewal; and as of the writing of this article, requests continue to be received. I think I speak for the entire board in saying that we are surprised to learn that people have been attesting to completing their continuing education, while evidence shows that they have not.

The purpose of the board is to protect the public from unauthorized, unqualified, and improper practice of social work. Our tools to accomplish this are limited, and we usually have to wait until a complaint is filed in order to know when there is a problem. Requiring continuing education is one of the few means we have to hopefully ensure competence.

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ATTENTION Board Approved Clinical Supervisors:

LABSWE is pleased to announce the supervision forms have been revised and/or updated as of 7/31/2016. The revised forms are available online. We believe the plan of supervision has been improved and simplified. The plan is meant to be a useful and meaningful guide for the supervision process. It should clearly outline the supervisee's learning needs. The revised plan calls for one (1) goal, activity, and outcome in ten (10) areas of social work. Please remember the ideal goals are specific, measurable, attainable, and time targeted. Initial plans should be sent to LABSWE within sixty (60) days of the first supervisory session. Revisions are due within thirty (30) days. Supervision is a collaborative process, and there is a shared responsibility between supervisors and supervisees to safeguard, maintain, and submit records timely.

A Board Orientation Workshop is required to become a Board Approved Clinical Supervisor (BACS). This two (2) hour workshop is offered every other month. The workshop is open to any LCSW-BACS who would like a refresher. Because the plan of supervision has changed significantly, it is recommended you attend a workshop so you may acquire a complete understanding of the requirements for supervision and the components of the new plan.

The 2017 Board Orientation Workshop dates are January 13, March 24, May 20, July 28, September 23 and November 18. The workshops are held at the Board office and begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 p.m. The registration can be found at <https://www.labswe.org/page/supervision>.

Gina L. Signorelli, LCSW-BACS, ND, CTN
Supervision Consultant

2017 Meeting Dates

January 6, February 10, March 17, April 21, May 19, June 16, July 21, August 25,
September 29, November 3, and December 8

LABSWE falls under the Louisiana Open Meetings Act. This law specifies that every meeting shall be open to the public, unless the subject of the meeting relates to the character and professional competence of a person, or to the investigation of a complaint or negotiation of litigation. Compliance Hearings (to ensure people comply with the licensing law) and Disciplinary Hearings (to address public complaints about professional practice) fall under the open meeting law. The schedule for each LABSWE meeting is posted on the board's website 24 hours ahead of the scheduled meeting. Any member of the public who wishes to address the board may submit a request in writing at least 24 hours before a public meeting to be included on the agenda. All votes are public, as are all minutes of the meeting.

All meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and are conducted at the board's office located at 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Meetings will carry-over to Saturday, if necessary. Interested persons may attend the public portions of the meeting. Social workers can obtain continuing education for attending the public portions of the meeting.



LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



Board Vacancy



The Licensed Master Social Work position on the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners expired October 4, 2016. La. R.S. 37:2704 mandates the following qualifications for board members:

- Citizen of the United States
- Resident of the State of Louisiana
- Hold current, valid license, certification or registration
- Must have five (5) years of social work experience

If you are interested in serving on the Board, you should submit a letter stating your interest, along with a current resume to one of the following organizations by **December 31, 2016**:

Dr. Hyacinth McKee, LCSW-BACS President, Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers
P. O. Box 8734 | New Orleans, LA 70182

Louisiana Chapter of National Association of Social Workers
700 North 10th Street, Suite 200 | Baton Rouge, LA 70802 | Fax (225) 346-5035

Louisiana Council on Social Work Education Attn: Traci Lilley, LCSW | LSU School of Social Work
311 Huey P. Long Fieldhouse | Baton Rouge, LA 70803

FAQs about serving on the Board:

What is the time commitment for serving?

An appointment to the Board is made by the governor for three consecutive years. Meetings are held approximately every 5 weeks on a Friday at the board office in Baton Rouge. Meetings begin at 8:30 a.m. and carry-over to Saturday, if necessary. Other examples of board activities include, presenting at the NASW-LA Annual Conference and serving on committees.

Are board members paid?

Board members are reimbursed for necessary expenses incurred on board business. For example, mileage driven to and from a meeting is reimbursed at the state rate, which is currently .51 per mile. We also reserve a hotel room for board members that are required to travel a significant distance to meetings. We provide breakfast and lunch at the meeting. If you need to stay overnight, dinner can be reimbursed up to the amount allowed by the state's travel guidelines.

If you have any questions concerning the board's activities and the time commitment required of board members, please email the Board's Administrator, Emily DeAngelo at edeangelo@labswe.org.

SEEKING FEEDBACK – PRINTING PROOF OF LICENSURE

As the profession continues to grow, and staff size remains the same, we are forced to examine our procedures and make changes. One of the things being considered is discontinuing the issuance of ID cards. We are asking you to provide feedback on the ease of printing proof of license from the website. After you login to your dashboard via the website, you will see an orange box that says "PROOF OF LICENSURE". Clicking on the orange box brings up the printable proof of licensure. Please provide us with feedback prior to December 31, 2016.



IN MEMORY OF JACQUELINE “JACKIE” SHELLINGTON

The only person allowed to call Jackie “Jacqueline” was her mother... Anyone else would get “the look” that would quell them into submission. Jackie was a fiercely brilliant, stubborn, wonderfully generous, sassy firecracker who dedicated her life to making the world a better place for the lost and lonely. In the early morning of July 23rd, she lost her battle with cancer. After working as a social worker in Galveston at University of Texas Medical Branch, she moved back to Louisiana and soon became the Director of the Immunological Support Program at Our Lady of the Lake Regional Medical Center where she ran St. Anthony’s Home, an assisted living residence for people disabled by HIV/AIDS. Jackie was a social worker’s social worker, mentoring emerging professionals and affecting the profession on local and state levels. She taught social work at the master and undergraduate levels, most recently at Our Lady of the Lake College for 12 years. She was appointed by the governor to the Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners and served as its chair before continuing to serve on several legislatively established task forces and commissions,

served on two committees to help refine the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act. She also was the Complaints Consultant for the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners from 2012 until her death. She was active in the Louisiana and Texas chapters of the National Association of Social Workers and was President Elect of the NASW-LA Board of Directors from 2000-2001 and President in 2001-2002. She served as chair of the Health Committee from 2002-2004 and was an active member of the national Health Specialty Certification Workgroup from 2002-2003. In 2008, ASWB awarded her their prestigious Sunny Andrews Award for Outstanding Commitment to Social Work Regulatory Board Service. She also was active with other boards including the HIV/AIDS Alliance for Region Two (HAART), Capital Area Alliance for the Homeless (CAAH), the LA Commission on HIV/Aids and Hepatitis C, and the Gulf Coast Texas HIV Consortia for Ryan White Funds.

A Few Stats for Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 – June 30, 2016

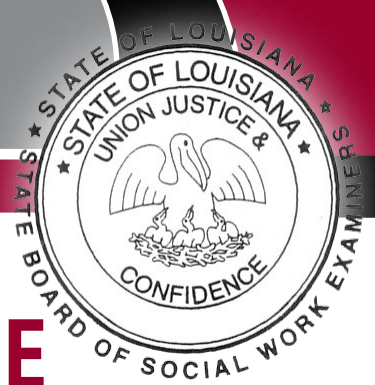
1,020 New applications were processed (RSW, LMSW, LCSW)

425 Retake applications were processed

178 Complaint files were opened

- a. 36 of 178 were either not accepted or dismissed
- b. 91 of 178 are Consent Agreement and Orders for unlicensed practice
- c. 3 referred to Impaired Professional Program
- d. 5 of 178 were resolved through Consent Agreement and Orders for other violations which include,
 - Record keeping
 - Falsifying documents
 - Exploitation
- e. The rest remain open/pending





EXPLORING LABSWE'S ONLINE DASHBOARD



Your personalized Dashboard on the LABSWE website, <http://labswe.org>, provides your license information and history and allows you to access licensee-specific forms. It can be a valuable resource if you know about its features.

When you first arrive at the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners website, you'll notice there is a navigation bar across the bottom. This gives you quick and easy access to each section of content on the website.

If you scroll down, there are items designed with you in mind: Currently Licensed, Applying to be Licensed and Looking for a Licensed Professional.

To log in to Your Dashboard, click the LOG IN button at the top right-hand corner of the website.

Your Dashboard is a comprehensive picture of all of the information that you have stored with LABSWE.

MY INFO

You will see the My Info tab, which has your name, your license number and a link to your **Proof of Licensure** across the top.

Below modules on this page include:

- Account Info
- License Info
- Mailing Preferences
- Education
- Examination
- Post-Master's Experience

You can edit your account info. However, the information for the other modules on the My Info tab are controlled by the Board.

EMPLOYMENT

In the Employment tab, you have the opportunity to edit employer information. Keeping this information up to date is very important for the Board records.

If you are an LCSW-BACS or a LMSW will then see your Supervision information. Any supervisors and supervisees for the current year will be listed here. You have the option to terminate a supervision relationship at any time.

CEU

On the next tab, CEU, there are a list of courses you have taken. You will need to have your courses entered here before you will be allowed to renew your license.

FEES

The Fees section of Your Dashboard is a list of all financial transactions you have completed with LABSWE. From here, you can print a receipt for each one.

FORMS

Here you will find your renewal form as well as several other forms you may need to fill out at some time in your career.

If you are transferring to another state or seek to be licensed in another state that requires that this form come directly LABSWE, you will need to complete the Verification of License.

If you need to apply to take an exam again, you will fill out and submit the Retake Form.

The Renewal Form will be available during the renewal period and is only located here on Your Dashboard.

Additional forms can be found in the Licensee Info section in the site navigation.

We hope you familiarize yourself with and enjoy the new LABSWE site.

Robert Showers, RSW, Reappointed to LABSWE

The Board is pleased to announce that Robert Showers was reappointed by the governor on August 5, 2016, to serve until June 6, 2019.



Robert Showers is a Program Manager with the Louisiana Department of Health Office for Citizens with Developmental Disabilities. He has been employed with DHH for 32 years. Robert received his B.A. degree in Social Work from Southeastern Louisiana University in 1986. He is currently a board member with the Louisiana State Board of Social Worker Examiners as well as the Southeastern Louisiana University African American Alumni Chapter. In addition to his work on the various boards, he also President of the Dr. Lavanner Brown Showers Scholarship Fund. Robert currently resides in Independence, La with his wife Debra and two children, Colby and Kaylan.

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