

OVERVIEW OF CHANGES TO SOCIAL WORK PRACTICE ACT

TOWN HALL MEETINGS

INFORMATION PREPARED BY THE INTER-ORGANIZATIONAL
COMMITTEE (IIOC)

1

PURPOSE AND LEARNING OBJECTIVES

This Town Hall meeting is designed to provide participants with

- Information about the proposed amendments to the Social Work Practice Act
- An outline of the timeframes of process
- Solicit input about the proposals

2

WHAT IS THE INTER ORGANIZATIONAL COMMITTEE (IOC)?

The social work community in Louisiana comes together periodically to review any needed changes to the Social Work Practice Act. The gathering of the profession is through professional organizations and major employers to review and recommend changes to the Practice Act.

This is the process that has been used when major changes have been made to the Practice Act since the profession came together to recommend that we have multi-level licensure in the 1999 Session of the Louisiana Legislature.

3

WHAT GROUPS ARE ON THE IOC?

Schools of Social Work

Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners

Louisiana Association of Clinical Social Workers

National Association of Black Social Workers, New Orleans

National Association of Black Social Workers, Northwest Louisiana

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

Retired Social Workers, Baton Rouge

4

WHAT GROUPS ARE ON THE IOC? - CONTINUED

Louisiana Department of Health, Office of Behavioral Health
Louisiana Department of Children and Family Services
Louisiana Department of Veterans Affairs
Louisiana Foundation Against Sexual Assault

5

WHAT WAS THE PROCESS USED?

The IOC was convened by NASW at the request of the LABSWE. We began our work in May, 2018 with the vision that we would have proposed changes ready for the 2020 Session of the Louisiana Legislature. The group has met monthly.

Meetings were held face to face; telephone conferencing was available to participants given travel challenges – time, distance, weather. Meetings were convened by the Chair and Vice-Chair; participants were provided with an agenda and minutes of previous meeting; a log was maintained indicating who participated in each meeting. Participants were also provided a copy of the Model Practice Act (ASWB), the current Louisiana Practice Act, the Rules, Standards and Procedures of LABSWE, draft changes, and language from states with applicable provisions.

6

WHAT ELSE IS GOING ON CONCURRENTLY?

The LABSWE has also convened a Rules Committee for proposed Administrative Rules changes that will not be in the proposed Practice Act amendments. The IOC requested that the Rules Committee look at resurrecting a retired status. Other behavioral health professions provide for this status in their administrative rules rather than their practice act.

7

WHAT IS TIMEFRAME?

Members of the IOC are hosting Town Hall meetings in communities throughout the state in October and early November, 2019.

The IOC will reconvene to consider comments from the Town Hall meetings in December, 2019 and finalize proposed changes.

The IOC will secure a sponsor for the legislation in January, 2020.

The 2020 Louisiana Legislature will be convening in March, 2020.

8

R.S. 37:2703. DEFINITIONS

As a move towards title protection, add a definition of “social worker”:

ADD: A person who holds an undergraduate or graduate degree in social work.

9

R.S. 37:2704. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

CURRENT: A. There is hereby created a Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners within the Department of Health and Hospitals...

CHANGE: A. “There is hereby created a Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners within the Department of Health and Hospitals” to *“Louisiana Department of Health”..*

10

R.S. 37:2704. BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

Current:

A.

- (1) One registered social worker with at least five years of social work experience.
- (2) One licensed master's social worker with at least five years of social work experience.
- (3) Three licensed clinical social workers each with at least five years of clinical social work experience.

Change:

A.

- (1) One registered social worker with at least **three** years of social work experience.
- (2) One licensed master's social worker with at least **three** years of social work experience.
- (3) Three licensed clinical social workers each with at least **three** years of clinical social work experience.

11

R.S. 37:2705 (A) BOARD

Current: A. The board shall hold meetings at least semiannually. The board shall elect annually from its membership a chairman, vice chairman...

Change: A. The board shall hold meetings at least semiannually. The board shall elect annually from its membership a ***chairperson, vice chairperson***...

12

R.S. 37:2705 (D) BOARD; MEETINGS; POWERS

CURRENT: The board shall keep a listing of social workers licensed, certified, or registered under this Chapter. At each meeting of the board the listing shall be updated and made available to the general public.

CHANGE: delete "At each meeting of the *board* the listing shall be updated and made available to the general public." This language is no longer necessary as all credentialed social workers are listed on the website.

13

R.S. 37:2706. (B) QUALIFICATIONS; RSW

Current: An individual registered as a registered social worker may engage in generalist social work practice based on the application of social work theory, knowledge, ethics, and utilizing problem-solving methods to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities through assessment, prevention, and intervention and evaluation, case management, information and referral, supportive counseling, advocacy, research, supervision, community organization, and the implementation and administration of policies, programs, and activities. A social worker at this level shall work as an employee in an agency and shall not engage in advanced practice or in clinical social work.

Change: Add "education" to scope of practice. An individual registered as a registered social worker may engage in generalist social work practice based on the application of social work theory, knowledge, ethics, and utilizing problem-solving methods to restore or enhance social functioning of individuals, families, groups, organizations, and communities through assessment, prevention, and intervention and evaluation, case management, information and referral, supportive counseling, advocacy, research, supervision, community organization, education and the implementation and administration of policies, programs, and activities. A social worker at this level shall work as an employee in an agency and shall not engage in advanced practice or in clinical social work.

14

R.S. 37:2708. (A).3. QUALIFICATION; LCSW

Current: Has completed at least five thousand seven hundred sixty hours of postgraduate social work practice. At least three thousand eight hundred forty hours of the required postgraduate social work experience shall be in a setting practicing social work under the supervision of a board-approved clinical supervisor.

Change: “Has completed at least three thousand hours of postgraduate social work practice over a minimum two-year and maximum four-year period under the supervision of a board-approved clinical supervisor. Under any circumstances, the three thousand hours of experience must be completed within eight years.”

15

R.S. 37:2709. (B) LICENSE, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION REQUIRED

Current: B. An individual shall submit an application for licensure, certification, or registration to the board within ninety days of commencement of social work practice.

Change: “An individual shall complete all components of the application process for licensure, certification, or registration with the board within 90 days of commencement of social work practice.”

16

**R.S. 37:2712. (1.B) LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION BY
RECIPROCITY OR ENDORSEMENT OF CREDENTIALS**

Current: The state, territory, commonwealth, or District of Columbia from which the applicant for a license comes, accords similar privilege or licensure without examination to holders of licenses under this Chapter.

Change:

- Remove language that Louisiana only provides a license to those applicants who come from a jurisdiction that accords similar privilege to increase reciprocity.
- Add: requirement that applicant passes the board exam on the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and the Rules, Standards and Procedures.

17

R.S. 37:2713. LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, REGISTRATION

Current: The board shall issue a license, certificate, or registration signed by the chairman and vice chairman ...

Change: The board shall issue a license, certificate, or registration signed by the chairperson and vice chairperson...

18

**R.S. 37:2714. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LICENSE, CERTIFICATE, AND
REGISTRATION RENEWAL**

(B) **Current:** On or before July first of each year, the board shall mail an application for renewal of a license

Change: On or before July first of each year, the board shall send notice for renewal.

(C) **Current:** Current collection period for continuing education collection period is July 1st to June 30th

Change:

- Continuing education collection period is September 1st to August 31st, which is the lapse date of licenses, certificates, and registrations.
- Lapsed license fee becomes applicable on September 1st rather than December 1st.

19

**R.S. 37:2714. CONTINUING EDUCATION AND LICENSE,
CERTIFICATE, AND REGISTRATION RENEWAL (PART 2)
REINSTATEMENT**

Add: (F)

The board shall have the authority to grant reinstatement for social workers between 6 months and 60 months of lapse status who complete 20 hours of continuing education (10 Clinical hours are required for LCSW applicants and ethics hours are required for all applicants), and a passing score on the board exam on the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards and Procedures.

The board shall have the authority to grant reinstatement for social workers beyond 60 months who complete 40 hours of continuing education 10 Clinical hours are required for LCSW applicants and ethics hours are required for all applicants), and a passing score on the board exam on the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act and Rules, Standards and Procedures.

20

R.S. 37:2715. RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES

Add: Section F

No individual shall assume the title “social worker” unless the individual has a bachelor’s or master’s degree in social work.

21

R.S. 37:2716. (B) FEES

Current: The fees established under the provisions of this Section shall be paid to the secretary-treasurer of the board.

Change: The fees established under the provisions of this Section shall be paid to the Louisiana Board of Social Work Examiners.

22

R.S. 37:2717. DISCIPLINARY ACTION; HEARING; PROCEDURES; APPEAL

Current: Section A: The board shall have the power to deny, revoke, or suspend any license, certificate, or registration issued by the board or applied for in accordance with this Chapter, or otherwise discipline a social worker for any of the following causes:

- **Current:** (2): Use of drugs or intoxicating beverages to an extent which affects his professional competence.

Change: (2) to read, "Incapacity or impairment that prevents licensee from engaging in the practice of social work with reasonable skill, competence, and safety to the public."

- **Add:** A(13) practicing social work with a lapsed or invalid license, certificate, or registration."

Current: Section D: The state of Louisiana shall be a party to the prosecution of all such actions and hearings before the board pertaining to the suspension or revocation of a license, certificate, or registration; and the attorney general shall appear in behalf of the state.

Change: The state of Louisiana shall be a party to the prosecution of all such actions and hearings before the board pertaining to the suspension or revocation of a license, certificate, or registration; and the attorney general or other approved legal counsel shall appear in behalf of the state.

23

R.S. 37:2717. DISCIPLINARY ACTION; HEARING; PROCEDURES; APPEAL

- **Add Section G:** The board has the authority to issue a cease and desist order.
- **Add Section H:** The Board requires the license, certificate or registration to be returned if an order of revocation or suspension has been is issued.

24

R.S. 37:2719. DISCRIMINATION

Current: No license, certificate, or registration shall be denied any applicant based upon the applicant's race, religion, creed, national origin, sex, or physical impairment so long as the physical impairment does not interfere with the performance of professional duties.

Change: No license, certificate, or registration shall be denied any applicant based upon the applicant's race, religion, creed, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, gender expression or physical impairment so long as the physical impairment does not interfere with the performance of professional duties.

25

R.S. 37:2724. (B) QUALIFICATION; CERTIFIED SOCIAL WORKER

Current: The individual may hold the certificate for no more than three years from the issuance of the original certificate, and the individual shall take an examination approved by the board within the first six months after certification and annually for the next two and a half years or until they have achieved a passing score.

Change: The individual may hold the certificate for no more than three years from the issuance of the original certificate.

26

NEXT STEPS

1. IOC will convene to consider comments.
2. Find author for bill.
3. Present in 2020 legislative session.

27

YOUR COMMENTS

- Share them in the meeting to be recorded and shared
- Write comments on index card and give to presenter today
- Mail comments to: Emily DeAngelo, LABSWE, 18550 Highland Road, Suite B, Baton Rouge, LA 70809 by November 15, 2019
- Email comments to: Emily DeAngelo at edeangelo@labswe.org by November 15, 2019

28