



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.

NEWS FROM: Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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Shreveport, LA

Robert Showers, RSW

Board Member

Independence, LA

From the Chair...

Judith Haspel, LCSW-LABSWE Chair

LABSWE would like to offer a warm welcome to our newest board members: Robert Showers, Peggy Salley, Yolanda Burnom, and Paulette Walker. Working diligently on behalf of the profession, the board's ultimate goal is to protect the public. Appointments to the board are for a period of three years, so the board changes somewhat with each new addition.

Your current board members are completely committed to thoughtfully considering all issues before them. At a frequency of about once every five weeks, the board meets in Baton Rouge on Friday beginning at 8:30 am. Accordingly, some board members travel from as far as Shreveport, which necessitates a two night stay in Baton Rouge. At times the business of the board requires the meeting to extend into the next day, Saturday.

We now have a new telephone answering system. The telephone system allows callers to leave a message for a specific staff member, if the staff member is not available to answer at the time of the call. We will also be seeking proposals for a new website and database design. The goal is to have more automated processes similar to the online renewal.

The Association of Social Work Boards is participating on an International Technology Task Force to develop new standards for the use of technology in social work practice. A draft is available for review at <https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/11/DelegateAssemblyDraft.pdf>. We would like to take this opportunity to remind practitioners that it is not acceptable to post any information, no matter how vague, regarding any of their clients on Facebook or any other social media forum.

Carmen Weisner, Executive Director of NASW-LA Chapter, reported to the board at our last meeting, that its executive committee had recently met and voiced concerns over the number of individuals practicing social work without a license. In addition, they are concerned about credentialed social workers practicing beyond their scope of practice. In response to these concerns, we

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Public Member
Ponchatoula, LA

have included an article regarding who has to be licensed and the scope of practice for each level of license.

If you have any questions or concerns, we invite you to call and/or write the board office. It is always better to ask prior to making a mistake or committing a violation. When staff is able to help, they will do so. For more complicated or ethical issues, they will request that you direct your questions in writing to the board.

The board members and staff join me in wishing you a happy, prosperous, and safe New Year.

Who Is “The Board”?

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners is made up of seven volunteers who are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the senate. The members represent different arenas of practice, as well as, diversity in race, gender, and geography.



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Social Work: Who Must Be Licensed and What is Their Scope?

Individuals with an undergraduate or graduate degree in social work must be credentialed by LABSWE to practice social work in Louisiana. Practicing social work does not mean that your job title is social worker. The practice of social work is defined as the “professional application of social work values, theories, and interventions to one or more of the following: enhancing the development, problem-solving, and coping capacities of people; promoting the effective and humane operations of systems that provide resources and services to people; linking people with systems that provide them with resources, services, and opportunities; developing and improving social policy; and engaging in research related to the professional activities. The practice of social work shall include but not be limited to clinical social work, planning and community organization, policy and administration, research, and social work education. Social work practice is guided by knowledge of human behavior, biopsychosocial development, social systems and resources, economic and cultural institutions, and their interactions.” It is a common misconception that if the employer does not require licensure, then one does not need to be licensed. Any person with a degree in social work that is providing social work services as defined must be credentialed.

[Click to read more...](#)

Update: The DSM-5 and The ASWB Social Work Licensing Exams

The ASWB social work licensing exams will include content related to DSM-5 beginning July 2015. ASWB’s new study materials reflecting the DSM-5 will be available in February 2015.





2015 Board
Meeting Dates



2015 Board
Orientation
Workshop Dates



Ethics
Presentation

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