

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.

SUMMER
2015

News | Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners

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From The Chair

As usual, much has been going on behind the scenes at the LABSWE office. It is renewal season and systems are operating smoothly, as you will see if you renew online.

The Education Committee has met numerous times and has recommended some amendments to the rules relative to continuing education hours. The committee recommended the following additions:

- The board may grant a social worker approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning in the case of catastrophic medical condition. The licensee shall provide sufficient documentation for such an action.
- The board may grant a social worker approval to complete more than 10 hours of continuing education via distance learning if the social worker resides out of United States territories where no in-person continuing education is available. The licensee shall provide sufficient documentation for such an action.
- Reading books or journal articles with content applicable to social work and followed by a face-to-face discussion as part

of an organized workshop. A maximum of one hour of credit can be obtained from reading a book if the social worker, signs a statement that he/she read the book, attends the discussion about the book, and passes the pre-test administered prior to the face-to-face discussion with at least 70%. The one hour of credit for reading is considered distance learning. Credit for the discussion counts as actual time spent in the discussion and counts as in-person continuing education.

- Viewing documentary film with content applicable to social work practice not deemed for general public and followed by a face-to-face discussion. Film shall be pre-approved by LABSWE and must rate a 10 or higher on the Guide for Assessment of Continuing Education to qualify for continuing education credit.

There will be a period for public comment prior to their adoption. Notice will be sent by email advising that we are taking public comments regarding the proposed rules. We would like to thank Parker Sternbergh, LCSW, Hyacinth McKee, LCSW, Carmen Weisner, LCSW, and Anne Williams, LCSW, for their contributions.

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From The Chair

Members of LABSWE recently attended training by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) where the focus was on mobility in social work practice, as well as technology and social work practice. ASWB has published “Model Regulatory Standards for Technology and Social Work Practice”. The link to that publication is <https://www.aswb.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/ASWB-Model-Regulatory-Standards-for-Technology-and-Social-Work-Practice.pdf>. The Board is calling together an inter-organizational rules committee that will begin meeting in July. One of the charges of the committee will be to review ASWB’s guidelines and determine if the Rules, Standards and Procedures need to be amended to specifically address distance therapy. In the meantime, our current rules cover distance therapy relative to practicing within one’s competency, education and training, informed consent, and confidentiality. We recommend; however, reviewing other states’ licensing laws before treating a client in another state in the event you must be licensed to provide services.

In our last newsletter we advised that we were seeking bids for a website and database redesign. The board selected Covalent Logic for this project. We are excited to get started!

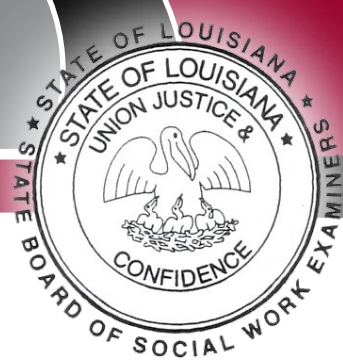
The entire board and staff of the LABSWE join me in wishing you a safe and happy summer.



NOTIFYING LABSWE of Arrest

Rule 117(E) A social worker shall notify the Louisiana state Board of Social Work Examiners within seven business days of any arrests or charges, to include DWI and DUI, regardless of final disposition. Minor traffic offenses such as speeding and parking tickets do not need to be reported.

Social workers that were required to have a criminal background check as part of the application process are maintained in the Louisiana State Police database. LABSWE will be sent RAP sheets if a person in their database is arrested.



CONTINUING EDUCATION MANDATORY FOR RENEWAL

Continuing education protects the public through continued competency. The goal is to ensure that social workers have formal opportunities to upgrade their professional knowledge and skills.

Social workers are required to obtain 20 hours annually. All social workers are required to obtain three hours in the area of social work ethics every two years. LCSWs are required to have ten hours annually in the area of clinical social work. LCSW-BACS are required to obtain three hours in the area of clinical supervision every two years to maintain the BACS designation. The collection period is July 1 – June 30. The Practice Act states in part, “If a social worker fails to complete the continuing education requirements by June 30 of each year, he may not practice social work.”

The board is authorized by the Practice Act to grant extensions to complete continuing education in the case of extenuating circumstances. An example of an extenuating circumstance is a serious medical condition that prohibits the social worker from practicing. If you need an extension, you must submit a request to the board along with a letter from your treating physician that documents your condition.

We often hear that financial constraints make it difficult to complete the requirements. There are several low-cost ways to obtain continuing education. We strongly encourage you to review Rule 317 to learn of all the approved learning situations.

It's Time to Renew

Renewal is required by August 31, 2015

Online renewal is secure and strongly encouraged. Renew online and receive ID card in one week. The processing time for renewals submitted by mail is six weeks. Due to the high volume of renewals received, the Board staff cannot confirm by telephone if your renewal has been received. If you wish to have confirmation that your renewal has been received, it is recommended that you mail your renewal certified mail/return receipt.

Important Reminders:

- Current email address must be on record in the Board's database to renew online.
- The \$3.00 credit card processing fee is waived for online renewal.
- If you request a password and don't see it in your email inbox, check your junk email box.
- Certified Social Workers cannot renew online (and will not be charged the credit card processing fee).
- Audit notices will be mailed certified in July 2015.
- Printable renewal forms are found on the home page of the Board's website www.labswe.org.
- Continuing education must be completed in order to renew per the Louisiana Social Work Practice Act, LA R.S.2714.
- BACS – fax or mail certificate documenting receipt of 3 hours of continuing education in the area of clinical supervision.

Online Renewal Instructions

1. Go To: www.labswe.org
2. Click on Licensee Login
If you never requested a password before, leave email box blank and click on “REQUEST PASSWORD” next to “FIRST TIME LOGGING IN?” Type in email address and click on submit. Your password will be sent to your email address. Retrieve password from your email and go back to number 1.

If you forgot your password, leave email box blank and click next to “FORGOT YOUR PASSWORD?” Type in email and click on submit. Retrieve password from your email and go back to number 1.

3. Enter in Email address
4. Enter Password (case sensitive) and click on “Login”
5. Click on “Renew Licensee Info button” at bottom of page
6. Start Renewal Process

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS (LABSWE) AND NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORKERS-LA CHAPTER (NASW-LA CHAPTER)

The Louisiana State Board of Social Work Examiners (LABSWE) and the National Association of Social Workers-LA Chapter (NASW-LA Chapter) are separate entities which are commonly mistaken for each other. LABSWE is a state agency which licenses social workers. NASW-LA Chapter is a professional organization of which social workers may be a member. Here is a summary of the differences.

LABSWE

- Established to safeguard the public health, safety, and welfare of the people of this state against unlawful, unqualified, and improper practice of social work
- Mandatory to practice in LA
- Board appointed by governor
- Statutorily prohibited to engage in legislative activities such as lobbying
- Offers CE hours for board meeting attendance
- Standards of practice

NASW-LA Chapter

- Promotes, develops, and protects the practice of social work and social workers; and seeks to enhance the effective functioning and well-being of individuals, families, and communities through its work and through its advocacy
- Membership is optional
- Board is elected by membership
- Involved in legislative issues
- Sponsors and pre-approved CE, regional meetings qualify for CE
- Other benefits such as malpractice insurance and legal consultation
- Code of ethics

LABSWE's 5 Core Functions

(1) The board is authorized to adopt and revise such rules and regulations as may be necessary to enable it to carry into effect the provisions of this Chapter including but not limited to rules and regulations which establish ethical standards of practice, which the board may adopt as a standard of practice.

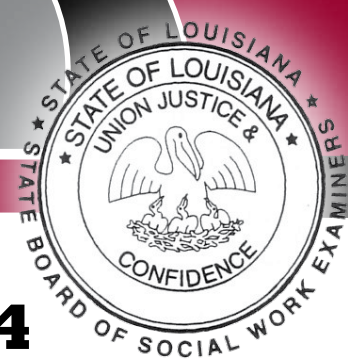
(2) The board is empowered to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the license of licensed clinical social workers and shall review applications at least once a year. The board is further empowered to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the license of licensed master's social workers and shall review applications at least once a year. The board is further empowered to examine for, deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the certificate of certified social workers or the license of licensed master's social workers and shall review applications at least once a year. The board is further empowered to deny, approve, revoke, suspend, and renew the registration of registered social workers and shall review applications once a year.

(3) The board shall have the power to conduct hearings on charges calling for revocation or suspension of a registration, certificate, or license. The board may institute disciplinary proceedings as authorized in this Chapter.

(4) The board shall prosecute and enjoin all persons violating this Chapter and shall keep a record of all the proceedings.

(5) The board is empowered to administer funds as provided in R.S. 37:2716(B) for the training and education of social workers so that competency may be assured.

LOUISIANA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS



North American Pass Rates For the ASWB Examinations 2014

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Associate			
First-Time	161	111	68.9
Repeat Group	38	15	39.5
Total Group	199	126	63.3
Bachelors			
First-Time	3,851	3,004	78.0
Repeat Group	828	311	37.6
Total Group	4,679	3,315	70.8
Masters			
First-Time	14,114	11,583	82.1
Repeat Group	4,038	1,327	32.9
Total Group	18,152	12,910	71.1
Advanced Generalist			
First-Time	158	113	71.5
Repeat Group	46	18	39.1
Total Group	204	131	64.2
Clinical			
First-Time	12,150	9,447	77.8
Repeat Group	4,394	1,663	37.8
Total Group	16,544	11,110	67.2
Total	39,778	27,592	69.4

Pass Rates of LA in 2014

Exam Category and Group Type	Total Number of Examinations	Pass Rate	
		Number	Percentage
Masters			
First-Time	374	237	63.4
Repeat Group	303	69	22.8
Total Group	677	306	45.2
Clinical			
First-Time	149	102	68.5
Repeat Group	77	24	31.2
Total Group	226	126	55.8
Total	903	432	47.8



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