

Fall 2017

Newsletter

ABSWE

Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners 334/242-5860 or 1-888-879-3672

Board Members:

Sharrie Cranford, LMSW
Chair

**Jennifer Venable-
Humphrey, LICSW**
Vice-Chair

Amy E. Smith, LMSW
Secretary

**LaShea Cobb-England,
LICSW**

**Marilyn Latham Colson,
LICSW**

Dr. Michael Smith, LICSW

Valeri White, LBSW

Individual Highlights:

Board Member Openings	2
Exam Pass Rate	4

Upcoming State

Holidays

September 4, 2017
October 9, 2017
November 10, 2017
November 23, 2017
December 25, 2017

Please note that the Board Office will be closed on the days posted above.



By: Sharrie Cranford, LT SW

View from the Chair

It is common for the Chair of most boards to write that it is an honor to serve the group. I have learned that this statement is true in very sense. To be allowed the opportunity to represent our profession on the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners (ASBSWE) is humbling in itself. I thank you for trusting your Board and me to represent all social workers in Alabama. Each person on your Board has a vast amount of experience and a love for social work that keeps them diligent in all responsibilities.

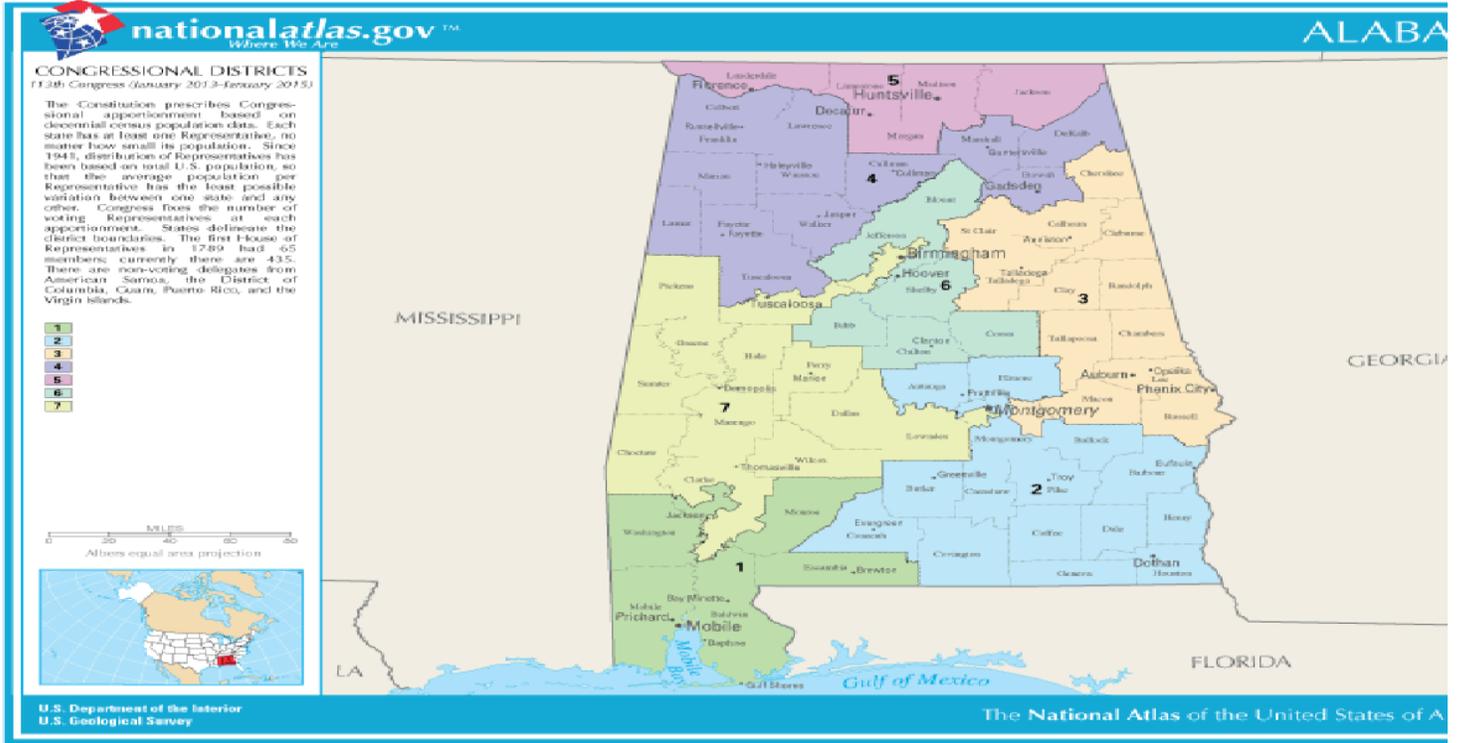
Our responsibilities range from addressing licensing issues to responding to ethical violations. The primary purpose of the Licensing Board is to protect the public. In doing so, actions that the Board takes may impact a person's ability to practice social work in Alabama. For this reason, it is important that you regularly review the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiner's website. You will find information on changes in licensure requirements, CE opportunities, and board activities including recent minutes.

As you review the minutes, you will see we have experienced many changes over the past two years. It is important to review all the changes, but especially those that will impact your license. Effective October 21, 2016, the Code states that every social worker renewing their license must have three ethics CE hours.

(Continued on page 3)

Three Board Appointment Openings

There are three positions for Board Members coming open for appointments October 1, 2017. These three positions are for an LBSW in District 3, and LMSW in District 4, and a LICSW in District 7. The current Board Members from these Districts are



Valeri White, Amy E. Smith, and LaShea Cobb-England. If you are a licensed social worker at the level of licensure listed above from one of these Districts and are interested in serving on the Board you may start collecting letters of nomination from fellow social workers from your District. The Governor makes the final selection from the list of the persons with the most nominations for each District. The Governor's Office requests that we provide them with at least three names for each District.

If you're a social worker living in one of these districts at the level stated above, and this is something you might be interested in doing, you may start collecting letters nominating you for the Board position. If this is not something you're interested in, you may wish to submit a letter on behalf of someone else or for the current member eligible to return. We'll accept nomination letters through December 15, 2017. We submit the top three names for each District who receive the most letters to the Governor. The Governor makes the final decision and appoints the Board Member for each district.

The duties of the Board are:

- To protect the public from incompetent, unethical and unlawful social work practice.
- To enforce qualification standards for all levels of licensure and certification.
- To delineate unlawful conduct through disciplinary procedures against practitioners who violate applicable laws or rules.

The Board meets every other month for about 4-6 hours.

Nomination Requirements:

- The person being nominated and the person doing the nominating must both live in the same District.
- You **are** allowed to nominate yourself.
- The person making the nomination must be a licensed social worker.
- Nomination letters must be mailed or hand delivered, you may collect the letters and send them in all together – *faxed or emailed letters are not acceptable.*

The Board appointments are for three years starting October 1, 2017 going through September 30, 2020. *No experience necessary* training offered on the job! There is no pay for serving under this capacity, but you are reimbursed for in-state and out-of-state travel expenses at the same rate as a state employee.

View from the Chair (continued from page 1)

Also made effective on that date every social worker renewing must have three clinical CE hours, and if you are supervising social workers for licensure, you must also have three supervision CE hours. For those clinical and supervision hours, the Board will begin auditing October of 2018. To ensure you are meeting these new requirements for licensure renewal, please visit our website for upcoming courses and consider reviewing your acquired CE hours each year.

Another change in the Licensing Board office is the retirement of our long-time Executive Director, Brenda Holden. Brenda has been the Executive Director of the Board since 1999 and has provided our organization invaluable leadership and guidance. We are thankful for her many years of service to our organization; she will be greatly missed. We wish her the best as she spends much deserved time with family. We hired a replacement that was unable to continue, so we will be at some point again in the near future be seeking an executive director for the ASBSWE.

Sharrie Cranford, LMSW

2016 Pass Reports for Licensing Exam

Alabama Pass Rate

Exam Type	Number of Exam	Pass Rate Number	Percentage
Bachelor			
1 st Time	151	94	62.3
Repeats	47	21	44.7
Total	198	115	58.1
Masters			
1 st Time	261	173	66.3
Repeats	108	32	29.6
Total	369	205	55.6
Clinical			
1 st Time	125	78	62.4
Repeats	60	28	46.7
Total	185	106	57.3

2016 North American Pass Rate

Exam Type	Number of Exam	Pass Rate Number	Percentage
Bachelor			
1 st Time	4,097	3,145	76.8
Repeats	897	357	39.8
Total	4,994	3,502	70.1
Masters			
1 st Time	15,442	12,535	81.2
Repeats	4,601	1,465	31.8
Total	20,043	14,000	69.8
Clinical			
1 st Time	13,958	10,910	78.2
Repeats	4,910	1,746	35.6
Total	18,868	12,656	67.1

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Board Staff:

Karen Hester, Interim
Executive Director

Yvonne Lee
Part-time Retiree

Robin O'Neil
Examination
Coordinator

Cassandra Burrell
Registration
Coordinator

What is License Eligible

It is not unusual to see job announcements these days for a license eligible person. But what is a license eligible person? This is someone who has a license to practice or an applicant that has been approved to take the licensing exam. An applicant can maintain their approved status for 12 months. The law allows an approved applicant to maintain this status in order to work in the field while preparing for the licensing exam. The eligibility expires at the end of the 12 months from the date the application was approved. No one in Alabama should practice social work or call themselves a social worker unless they are licensed or an approved license eligible candidate. Non-licensed or non-approved license applicants should not be hired for social work positions.

Reminders from the board office...

Continuing education is due to be accrued by the last day of the month your license is to be renewed. The 60-day grace period applies ONLY to getting the information into the office.

All licensees are required to obtain 30 hours of CE per renewal period for their license. Of these 30 hours, 20 can be from online courses. Only 10 of the 30 hours have to be in a classroom or live interactive setting. The Board is now requiring and auditing for the 3 hours of ethics CE for each renewal cycle. We will be auditing beginning October 2018 for the three clinical CE hours. The three hours of supervision CE hours if you are supervising social workers for licensure will start to be audited for also in October 2018.

If you have not completed the DHR Mandated Child Abuse Reporting Training and mailed us your certificate, please do so at your earliest convenience. The Board cannot mail your updated seal and wallet card to you until you have completed the requirement that the legislature has mandated us to enforce. If you do not receive your renewal seal or wallet after you have renewed your license online, this could be the reason. We cannot mail those items out to you until we have compliance on this issue. Thank you for your cooperation on this matter.