

Fall 2018
Newsletter

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

**Upcoming State
Holiday's**

October 8, 2018
November 12, 2018
November 22, 2018
December 25, 2018

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

ABSWE

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



View from the Chair

By: Sharrie Cranford, LMSW, MS, CCTP

As we move into this new era of Social Work addressing telemedicine and the ever-changing practitioner crossing state lines and their need for reciprocity while ensuring our standards are satisfied, I believe it is important for all social workers within the state of Alabama to know that their Board members are working diligently to represent the needs of all social workers while continuing to ensure the protection of our citizens.

We have seen several changes to the laws and regulations in Alabama. Know that we are here to help ensure that all social workers understand the changes and how it affects their practice. The staff members at the ASBSWE will be available Monday through Friday to answer your questions. We are also updating the website to ensure a more user-friendly experience that also keeps the members up to date.

Please know your Board members are available to speak to your group to help clarify the new CE requirements. We will try to schedule the member from your district, however, there are some occasions they may not be available, but we will ensure you have someone available for your meetings.

As representatives of your Board, we each look forward to helping our profession grow and succeed and take our job as board members very seriously.

Our meetings are typically every other month and you are always welcome to attend the board meetings which are posted on the ABSWE website.

2017 Alabama Pass Rate for Licensing Exams

Bachelors	Percentage
• First Time	63.1%
• Repeat	34.5%
• Total	55.8%

Masters

• First Time	61.1%
• Repeat	39.1%
• Total	53.4%

Clinical

• First Time	68.5%
• Repeat	38.1%
• Total	57.5%

2017 North American Pass Rate

Bachelors	Percentage
• First Time	77.7%
• Repeat	37.2%
• Total	56.9%

Masters

• First Time	81.2%
• Repeat	35.6%
• Total	70.4%

Clinical

• First Time	78.4%
• Repeat	39.8%
• Total	68.1%

You can find more information on how your University or College performed on our website.

The ASWB social work licensing exams are changing in 2018

From 2015 to 2016, the Association of Social Work Boards conducted its sixth analysis of the practice of social work to update the content and weighting of the blueprints for the social work licensure exams. The practice analysis is critical for ensuring that the content of each exam is relevant to current professional practice and reflects the opinions and expertise of a diverse group of stakeholders. **Beginning January 2, 2018, all exam categories reflect the new content outlines.**

Minor structural and editorial modifications

The changes made to the licensing exam blueprints based on this practice analysis include predominantly minor structural and editorial modifications for comprehensiveness and currency. The most extensive changes were observed for the Advanced Generalist exam blueprint. The content areas and the percentages derived from the 2015-2016 practice analysis are generally consistent with the previous practice analysis outcomes. Of primary importance was ensuring that the statements are easy for candidates to understand and

meaningful for individuals involved in exam development activities.

Three steps to prepare for your social work license

The time to start thinking about licensure is when you *start* your social work education! Here are **three things you can do** the first semester of your degree program:

1. Research regulation in any state or province in which you think you might want to consider practicing social work

2. Start a SAVINGS ACCOUNT now!

Calculate what it will cost to practice:

- License/Registration application fee
- Exam fee
- Exam prep
- Supervision (it's not always provided free by employers)
- Continuing Education/Continued Competency requirements to stay licensed

3. Plan for field placements.

Try out a variety of social work practice specialties by investigating the options for field placements. Use your time in field placements to explore a variety of types of social work practice.

Whether you're just starting BSW or your MSW, or you're halfway through your degree, you don't have to wait until your last semester to prepare for professional practice!

Changes in the Administrative Code made effective September 2016 will now go into effect and we will begin auditing October 1, 2018, for the following CE's:

- **Supervising a social worker for licensure will require the supervisor maintain 3 hours of CE's per renewal.**
- **All social workers are required to have at least 3 hours of clinical CE's per renewal.**

At this time the Board will not decide what is considered clinical but, it will be left up to the provider to discern the type of CE provided.

If you have a social work success story you would like to share in the next newsletter please send to info@socialworkexaminers.com

**Board of Social Work
Examiners**

100 North Union Street
Suite 736
Montgomery, AL 36130

(334) 242-5860 or
(888) 879-3672

Board Staff

Rachel Dickinson
Executive Director

Karen Hester
Examination Specialist

Cassandra Burrell
Registration Coordinator

Your decisions today
define your tomorrow.

Be sure to visit our website at
www.socialwork.alabama.gov to find
information on upcoming board meetings,
job announcements and other items
pertaining to social work requirements.