

June 2019

Newsletter

Board Members:

**Dr. Michael Smith, LICSW
Chair
District 5**

**Sharrie Cranford, LMSW
Vice-Chair
District 1**

**Amy E. Smith, LMSW
Secretary
District 4**

**Jennifer Venable-
Humphrey, LICSW
District 2**

**LaShea Cobb-England,
LICSW
District 7**

**Marilyn Latham Colson,
LICSW
District 6**

**Valeri White, LBSW
District 3**

**Upcoming State
Holidays**

July 4, 2019
September 2, 2019
October 14, 2019

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

Dr. Michael Smith, LICSW-PIP, MBA

As Summer begins, much of the focus nationwide is on making social work licensure more mobile. Jennifer Venable-Humphrey (District 2) and I recently returned from the Association of Social Work Boards Education Conference. This conference was a gathering of board members and administrators from Canada, the U.S., and U. S. territories to brainstorm and coordinate means of making licensure more uniform across the geographical areas.

Technology has created the ability of social workers to interact with clients remotely; sometimes even across the country. How do we handle the issues that arise from this? For instance, should a social work licensed in Alabama be able to provide services to a client residing in California through technology? What state board is responsible for governing this interaction? How do we make the portability of licensure easier so this can happen and the public is protected?

The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners is focused on regulation to protect the public and enforce the qualified practice of social work through licenses and certification. This requires the Board to examine the rapidly evolving practice of social work and how it will be delivered to clients in the coming years. I encourage you as a licensed social worker to be an active part of this process. You will see in this newsletter there are some proposed changes to our Administrative Code. Please take time to read these proposed changes. You may submit comments to the Board until August 2, 2019.

I thank you for your service to the citizens of Alabama, and I encourage you to be active in advancing the regulation of our profession.

Proposed Administrative Code Changes

The following is a list of proposed code changes. Written comments will be accepted until **August 2nd, 2019 at 4:00pm**. More information can be found on our website at www.socialwork.alabama.gov.

1. Defining Telehealth
2. Amend regulations to include military spouse reciprocity law
3. Define provisional license
4. Amend regulations to clarify continuing education requirements
5. Amend regulations to clarify renewal of expired license
6. Repeal regulation allowing reinstatement of license

Do you have a social work story you would like to share?

We are looking for uplifting, motivational, and inspirational stories to share with other social workers! Tell us what keeps you energized and inspired or share a story of overcoming odds. We want to know what drives you to continue to do the sometime thankless job you do. We will select stories to share on our website and in the newsletter throughout the remainder of the year. Please visit our website to submit your story.

Do you want to provide supervision?

If so, please submit the following information to the email below so we can begin creating a Supervision Database.

1. You must be a LMSW or LICSW or LICSW with a PIP in current & good standing
2. Name, License number, contact information (phone and/or email)
3. Counties which you are willing to travel to provide supervision
4. Level you wish to supervise (LBSW or LMSW or both)
5. Method of supervision – Group, Individual or Both
6. Type of practice to be supervised – Clinical, Social Casework, Community Organization, Social Work Research, Social Work Administration

Please submit your information to Rachel.dickinson@swb.alabama.gov

Upcoming Board Openings

We will have two Board Member positions expiring September 30, 2019. The positions are for District 2 and District 5. Both positions will need to be filled by an LICSW in current and good standing. If you are a licensed social worker at that level of licensure 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. You may also submit a letter on behalf of someone else.

We will accept nomination letters through August 31, 2019. 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:**Board of Social Work
Examiners**

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

Board Staff

Rachel Dickinson
Executive Director

Karen Hester
Examination Specialist

Cassandra Burrell
Registration Coordinator

- 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.

Nomination Requirements:

- The person being nominated and the person doing the nominating **must** both live in the same District.
- You can 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, 2019 going through September 30, 2022. 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.

Board Reminders

- **CE requirements – you must have three (3) CE hours in the following – Ethics, Clinical and Supervision (if you are currently under contract to supervise). Please remember that you need 10 (ten) live classroom CE hours as part of your 30 CE total.**