

**Spring 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
Holiday's**

April 22, 2019
May 27, 2019
June 3, 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

By: Dr. Michael Smith, LICSW-PIP, MBA

Fellow social workers, I wish you a happy National Professional Social Work Month and thank you for

servicing the citizens of Alabama through your practice of social work. Your work has purpose! Have you spent time lately thinking about your purpose? Purpose should drive the work we do and the way we take care of ourselves as social workers.

Just like we each have an individual purpose; The Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners also has a very specific purpose. It is spelled out clearly in the Code of Alabama, Title 34, Chapter 30:

“It is hereby declared to be the public policy of this state and the purpose of this chapter to protect the public by setting standards of qualification, education, training, and experience for those who seek to engage in the practice of social work and to protect the public by promoting high standards of professional performance for those engaged in the profession of social work, holding themselves forth as social workers.”

The Board's purpose is simply to protect the public and ensure persons presenting themselves as social workers are held to the high standards of our profession. All social workers are impacted when persons without the appropriate licenses or education call themselves social workers. Our law contains title protection to address that issue and the Board takes very seriously the inappropriate use of the title, social worker. The Board is also diligent in addressing concerns from the public related to social work practice.

During 2019, the Board will work to streamline processes for applications, renewals, continuing education, and many others. Our desire is to protect the public through improved efficiency and greater clarity in answering your questions. On behalf of the Board, I thank you for the opportunity to serve the profession.

Warmest regards,
Michael Smith, PhD, LICSW-PIP, MBA

New Continuing Education Requirements!

Effective immediately – All social workers are now required to have 3 hours of clinical continuing education credits, as well as 3 hours of supervision continuing education credits. The supervision credits are needed only if you currently provide supervision for another licensee.

Please keep in mind that you need 30 hours over a two-year period. Of the 30 hours required, 10 hours must be classroom hours. Everyone is allowed a 60-day grace period to renew their license. At the January 11, 2019 Alabama Social Work Examiners Board meeting, the Board unanimously agreed to allow all licensees the opportunity to earn the newly effective clinical and supervision requirements during your grace period. That extension will end December 31, 2019. All other hours must be earned in the two-year time frame.

You can visit our website at www.socialwork.alabama.gov to find classes available, approved CE providers and a link to the Association of Social Work Boards CE Courses. If you have questions do not hesitate to contact our office.

March is Social Work Month!

This year's theme, according to the National Association of Social Work, is "Elevate Social Work!" According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics social work continues to be one of the fastest growing careers in the nation, with more than 100,000 people expected to enter the field over the next seven years. Social workers can be found everywhere! In schools, colleges and universities, hospitals, and local and federal governments, just to name a few. You elevate and empower people and give the ability to overcome roadblocks and find the services they need to succeed daily. Your work is tireless and invaluable. Thank you!

To find out more about Elevating Social Work go to www.socialworkmonth.org.

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

New Executive Director for Alabama Social Work Examiners

I am excited to introduce myself. My name is Rachel W. Dickinson. I began my job as the Executive Director June of last year. It is an honor to stand with all of you who serve daily in the work of helping others through the calling of social work. My strong will to serve, I believe, has led me to this Board. I am grateful for the opportunity to assist the Board in their direction of providing support to ensure your needs and the needs of the public are met. I was fortunate enough to already have an established and knowledgeable staff in place upon my selection as Executive Director. I look forward to working for you all!

Find your Congressional District and learn who represents you!

