

Effective today, Thursday, September 14, 2023, all Licensed Independent Clinical Social Workers are able to diagnose. Please see the updated rule regarding diagnosis and the new continuing education requirements below for LICSW's ONLY. The new continuing education requirements will begin for those renewing **January 1, 2024**.

#### *850-X-2.01 Definitions*

*2. Clinical social work is a specialized area of social work practice that includes assessment, diagnosis, treatment, client centered advocacy, evaluation and treatment of behavioral, mental, developmental or emotional disorders; including psychotherapy and counseling; client-centered advocacy; and evaluation. It includes direct client intervention, client centered supervision and client centered consultation. It involves the scientific, artful, ethical application of social work theories and methods of assessment, opinions, diagnosis, prevention and treatment. Assessment of interpersonal relationships, mental health status, family dynamics, environmental stresses and supports, social systems and the impact of physical, emotional and mental illness and disability on functioning are the emphasis of clinical social work practice.*

*3. Clinical social workers cannot practice outside their scope of practice. The scope of practice does not include the diagnosis, treatment, or provision of advice to a client for problems or complaints relating to conditions outside the boundaries of the practice of social work. For the purposes of this section, the terms diagnose and treatment, whether considered in isolation or in conjunction with the rules of the board, may not be construed to permit the performance of any act which a licensed clinical social worker is not educated or trained to perform including, but not limited to, any of the following: (1) Administering and interpreting psychological tests or intellectual, neuropsychological, personality, or projective instruments. (2) Admitting any individual to a hospital for treatment of any condition that is outside the boundaries of the practice of social work, as provided in subsection (b). Treating any individual in a hospital setting without medical supervision. (4) Prescribing medicinal drugs. (5) Authorizing clinical laboratory procedures or radiological procedures. (6) Using electroconvulsive therapy. Nothing in this section shall be construed to create a requirement that any health benefit plan, group insurance plan, policy, or contract for health care services that covers hospital, medical, or surgical expenses, health maintenance organizations, preferred provider organizations, medical service organizations, physician-hospital organizations, or any other individual, firm, corporation, joint venture, or other similar business entity that pays for, purchases, or furnishes group health care services to patients, insureds, or beneficiaries in this state, including entities created pursuant to Article 6, commencing with Section 10A-20-6.01 of Chapter 20, Title 10A, Code of Alabama 1975, provide coverage or reimbursement for the services described or authorized in this section."*

#### *850-X-8 Continuing Education*

*(c) A licensed independent clinical social worker must submit proof of thirty (30) contact hours of continuing education, of which 10 hours must be a live classroom event, 3 hours in ethics and 6 hours in clinical, 3 of which must be a comprehensive review of the current version of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual. Proof of this must be mailed or electronically mailed to the Board at the time of renewal.*