

BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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Message from the Chair

It is with great pride and enthusiasm that I introduce myself as Dr. Shalunda Allen-Sherrod, the new Chair of the Alabama State Board of Social Work Examiners. As a Licensed Independent Clinical Social Worker (LICSW-S) and a dedicated advocate for our profession, I am honored to serve as the District 5 Representative and to represent the diverse and talented social work community of Alabama.

I am a proud graduate of Oakwood University, an esteemed Historically Black College and University (HBCU) located here in Alabama, where I earned my Bachelor's degree. I continued my education by earning both a Master's and Doctorate in Social Work, which equipped me with the academic foundation to support my professional practice and leadership.

With over 30 years of experience, my career has spanned various sectors, including child welfare, healthcare, non-profit organizations, local and federal government, independent practice, school social work, and higher education. These experiences have provided me with a broad perspective on the challenges and opportunities within our field and strengthened my commitment to advancing the profession and protecting the public we serve.

As the Chair of the Board, I am deeply committed to upholding the standards of our profession and ensuring that social workers across Alabama remain accountable to these principles. Public protection is at the heart of our mission, and I am dedicated to fostering trust, accountability, and excellence within our community.

I look forward to engaging with each of you as we work together to promote the integrity and effectiveness of social work practice across Alabama.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve and for your commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those we serve.



DR. SHALUNDA ALLEN-SHERROD, CHAIR

District 5

Notes from the Delegate Assembly

Growing through Service

In November, I had the honor of representing Alabama as your delegate for the Association of Social Work Board's (ASWB) Delegate Assembly. This assembly brings together all the social work regulatory boards apart of the ASWB including the U.S., Guam, Canadian territories, and the Virgin Islands. Here, we gather to connect, learn and grow from one another while being a part of the decision-making process regarding the election of new board members, reviewing committee reports and voting on important resolutions and bylaws amendments. This is also a time to hear from the ASWB legal counsel on pertinent cases that could impact our work. Two key pieces of this three-day meeting that I feel are pertinent to share with you include the Board Member Exchange (BMX) and the address from our CEO Dr. Stacey Hardy-Chandler, LCSW.

During the BMX we discussed successes, as well as the challenges boards are navigating in their respective areas. It is affirming to know that we have similar challenges but the same resolve to stand firm in our responsibility to serve as

regulators for this great profession. Even more so, I am proud of the work we have done here in Alabama around regulatory practices to be competitive with other jurisdictions. Some of the seeds of progress that we were able to celebrate included discussion of the Social Work Licensure Compact legislation, the development of Compact Commission, next steps to move the compact forward and tentative timeline for the compact to become active. In addition, we were able to unpack and uproot challenges related to ensuring quality licensure supervision, practicing unlicensed and title protection which include exemptions in some jurisdictions, alternative pathways to licensure and the legal as well compact implications for alternative pathways, and clarifying our professional identity. Let me take a moment to till the ground around this concept of “professional identity.” One thing that was clear during not only the BMX, but the entire 3-day meeting, was understanding that our identity is rooted in a community of practice that includes every scope of practice from Bachelors, Masters, Clinical, Advanced Generalist, to Micro, Mezzo and Macro practice. There are no “just LBSWs” or “only Macro practitioners,” but as a strong body, rooted in service, we serve across scopes of practices and across systems enhance the lives of the vulnerable and oppressed with the goal of helping to ameliorate social problems and advance social justice. We, better than any other profession, know that every part of this system of Social Work is important, and we have to be leaders in affirming and edifying one another as such.

Lastly, let me share some highlights with you of the address by Dr. Hardy-Chandler. If you’ve noticed, there has been a garden theme sown throughout this recap. This was intentional as Dr. Hardy-Chandler shared with us her lessons learned from the book *Leading from the Roots: Nature Inspired Leadership Lessons for Today’s World* by Dr. Kathleen E. Allen. Dr. Hardy-Chandler shared how we are charged with ensuring the garden of this profession thrives, is well taken care of and well maintained, so that this garden continues to produce good fruit! There are certain tools, knowledge, skills and resources required for this garden to grow. Each of us, as a piece of this garden, bloom uniquely and independently. However, there are common communal standards, guidelines and regulations for this garden to thrive. In this garden of ours, there are standards of education, experience and examination along with standards of practice and a system of accountability that your board is charged with carrying out. However, we know there must be an exchange of light, power, nutrients, purpose and we hope as a board we have engaged you in a way to create this exchange. Like most root systems of we too are diverse, and we have a responsibility to not only benefit from the system, but to contribute to the system and ensure its success even through climate changes. Again, it was an honor to represent you all there this past November and to have done so as your outgoing chair. I am resolved to continue to put my hands to the plow as I complete my season of service this year, to ensure this garden of Social Work continues to blossom here in Alabama.



**KAI MUMPFIELD, SECRETARY
DISTRICT 2**

BOARD

FAQ's

If you renew online, you will now have the option to print your own wallet card. We will no longer print and mail wallet cards for online renewals.

As a reminder, all LICSWs must have 6 hours of Clinical CEs, with 3 hours devoted to covering the most current version of the DSM, at each renewal. If renewing online, you will be required to upload proof of the DSM CEU. If mailing in your renewal ALL CEU's documents must be included.

Board approved supervisor status does not replace your current active license. This means you must renew both your license and supervisor status each renewal period. Supervisors must have 3 hours of Supervision CEs at each renewal.

All licensed Social Workers must have 3 CEs of Ethics at each renewal. Please remember that you need 10 classroom-based CE hours as part of your 30 CE total. Live/interactive webinars will count toward your classroom requirements. Recorded webinars are not considered live.

Please keep in mind you cannot earn CEU's during your 60-day grace period.

Applications for exam and re-exam can take 14-21 days to receive approval.

Transcripts, immigration compliance forms and supervision plans and supervisor verifications can now be emailed to the office at info.socialwork@swb.alabama.gov

If you submit a transcript to the office, please let us know if it is in different last name other than what is on your application.

The Social Work Licensure Compact has been enacted in at least twenty states. However multistate licenses are not yet being issued. The implementation process for the compact will take 12 to 24 months before multistate licenses are able to be issued. There are several contributing stakeholders and organizations working on this compact, so stay connected! 2026 is the expected date for implementation.

If you would like to keep a record of your continuing education hours, print a copy of your license or wallet card, you must register through our website. To do so you need the code that was provided in your original license packet. If you do not have this letter, please contact the Board & we can provide the code again.

Next Board meeting

March 27th @ 10 am.