

March 2021

Newsletter

Board Members:

**Octavio Ramirez, PhD.
LICSW
Chair
District 5**

**Kai Mumpfield, LICSW
Vice Chair
District 2**

**Nicole DeLee
Secretary
District 3**

**Angela Dean, LMSW
District 1**

**Marilyn Latham Colson,
LICSW
District 6**

**Dr. Robert McKinney
District 7**

**Upcoming State
Holiday's**

April 26th

May 31st

June 7th

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: Octavio Ramirez, PhD., LICSW

It is an honor to serve as Chair on the Alabama Board of Social Work Examiners. Serving on the Board is a responsibility I take seriously because it maintains the integrity of our profession. Although I have been on the Board since 2019 representing District 5, I have practiced social work for the last 25 years.

Ten of those years have been in professional practice and fifteen have been in academia. I currently serve as Chairman of the Social Work program at Oakwood University in Huntsville, Alabama. I enjoy teaching, research, administration, and clinical practice. Also, I enjoy volunteering when opportunities present themselves.

Currently, I am a member of the Quality Assurance Team for the Madison County Department of Human Resources, and just recently, I completed six years of service as a Commissioner of Accreditation for the Council on Social Work Education. I look forward to continuing the tremendous work the Board has accomplished thus far.

Board Opening

The Board currently has one Member position open for appointment immediately. The position is for **US Congressional District 4** (please see the map below). The position will need to be filled by a Licensed Master Social Worker who is current and in good standing. If you are a licensed social worker at this level of licensure from this District and are interested in serving on the Board, you may start collecting letters of nomination from fellow social workers from your District. The nomination letters and a resume must be mailed to the Board at 100 North Union Street, Suite 736, Montgomery, Alabama 36104, postmarked by May 31, 2020. The Governor makes the final selection from the list of the persons with the most nominations for the District.

If this is not something you're interested in, you may wish to submit a letter on behalf of someone. We'll accept nomination letters through May 31, 2020. We then submit the top three names for the District who receive the most letters to the Governor.

The duties of the Board are:

- 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 appointment will be for **three years** running through September 30, 2023. 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.



Recent Rule Updates

Several new and updated rules became effective November 14, 2020. The Board is currently in the process of approving and finalizing guidelines which will influence exact start dates for some items. Below is a summary of those updates:

- LBSW's that have completed their required two years of supervision and five years of work experience will now be eligible to register as a supervisor and provide supervision to other LBSW's toward their independent status.
- LMSW's will now be required to have two years of supervision upon becoming licensed. A clinical or non-clinical designation will need to be made at the time of licensure. LMSW's with the required two years of supervision and three years of work experience will now be eligible to register as a supervisor and provide supervision to LBSW's and LMSW's toward their independent status.
- LICW's are no longer required to obtain the Private Independent Practice certification to practice privately EXCEPT in the area of Social Casework. LICSW's providing supervision to LBSW's and LMSW's will now be eligible to register as a supervisor.
- Prior to registration as a supervisor all eligible licensees will need to complete a supervisor training course approved by the Board.
- A supervision plan will need to be submitted no later than 60 days after the licensee begins a social work position after becoming licensed.
- New supervision forms will be available soon on our website.

**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

Website Updates!

You can now purchase a replacement license, seal, or wallet card online. Just visit our site at www.socialwork.alabama.gov and follow the link to applications and forms.

Board Reminders

- **CE requirements – you must have 3 CE’s in the following – Ethics, Clinical and Supervision (if you are under contract to supervise). Please remember that you need 10 traditional classroom-based CE hours as part of your 30 CE total. Live/interactive webinars will count toward your classroom requirement. Recorded webinars are not considered live.**
- **Please keep in mind you cannot earn CEU’s during your 60-day grace period.**
- **We are no longer accepting PIP applications UNLESS you wish to be certified in the area of Social Casework.**
- **The Board will meet again April 6th in our Montgomery office.**