



DECEMBER 2023

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OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS
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NEWSLETTER

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The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) have not published a newsletter since 2014. We are committed to resurrecting publishing quarterly newsletters as a way to communicate changes to rules/laws, update stats on licensing & compliance investigations, providing updates to board information and resources, legislative topics, etc. There will be Spring, Summer, Fall & Winter editions coming.

Look for our upcoming quarterly newsletters that will be published on our website!

BLSW WELCOMES NEW STAFF

We have some exciting news!!!

After an extensive recruitment process, the Board has hired **Ray Miller** as the new Executive Director! More on Mr. Miller's background exclusively inside this edition!

We are also pleased to announce the hiring of our new half-time licensing assistant, **Cassie Kanaeholo**. She is going to assist in expediting the licensing process! She has already proven to be a great asset & quick learner. We are grateful for her.

In addition, the Governor's office confirmed the appointment of **Scott Wilson** as our newest licensed board member. Mr. Wilson is a Clinical Social Work Associate (CSWA), & will be assigned to some Board committees soon.

Welcome to our Team!

BLSW RESOURCES FOR QUESTIONS

The Board of Licensed Social Workers' (BLSW) Public Website has a wealth of information that can answer most questions related to the application and licensing process. We strongly encourage you to utilize this resource when looking for general questions. The Board's website is as follows:

www.oregon.gov/blsw

Currently, the BLSW completed recruitments for the new Executive Director position, as well as the half-time licensing assistant, who will work with current licensing staff in order to improve & expedite application completion and approval processes.

Our current BLSW Staff & Board Members includes the following:

- ⇒ (1) Executive Director
- ⇒ (3.5) Licensing Staff
- ⇒ (3) Compliance Staff
- ⇒ (5) Current Board Members; (2 public members, 3 licensees & 2 vacancies)

welcome
TO THE TEAM

BLSW BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES

By Mindy Tucker
Sr. Compliance Specialist

The BLSW currently has 2 vacancies & are looking for individuals who desire to volunteer service on the Board. Currently we have a public member and a licensed member opening.

If you or a licensee you know are interested in serving on the Board, please contact the Board for application information.

Board Members Needed!**A message from our Board Chair: "DID YOU KNOW?"**

By Stephanie Manriquez
Current BLSW Board Chair

Your BLSW board would like to use this newsletter to inform and educate their licensees, constituents, and the public about all things related to the business of issuing licenses, rules changes, and all things you "DID NOT KNOW". Thank you, **John Fant**, for the name suggestion for our newsletter article. John is a public member on the board since 2019.

There have been a lot of changes over the past several months here in the office. The executive director, **Randy Harnish** retired in March. The governor appointed an interim executive director to fill in while the search for a new executive director took place. **Lou Savage** has been an awesome addition to our staff and help to guide the board through the intricate undertaking of hiring a new executive director. Lou also was the face of BLSW in front of the legislature hearings and represented the BLSW in every manner required for an executive director.

The process of job posting, candidate selection, and interviewing the applicants has resulted in the hiring of our new Executive Director, **Ray Miller**. Ray joined the staff on Nov 15, 2023, and hit the ground running.

We have added an additional office staff person to help with the processing of the landslide of license applications from both in -state and out-of-state submissions. The OHA provided funds for the waiver of fees for first time license applications which resulted in this abundant of first-time applications which require several time-consuming verification steps.

We had two board members rotate off the board and one new member join the board in October. All new nominations for open board positions must be confirmed by our Oregon state legislature. This process has slowed the filling of the open positions on the BLSW board. There still is one more open position for a public member like me. If you know anyone interested, please have them put in an application on the Oregon website WORKDAY and search for our board to apply.

We will be highlighting staff members, board members, and answer the most asked questions staff receive. Please remember this is a work in progress and our goal is to meet the needs of our licensees, constituents, and the public.

AN INTRODUCTION from our new Executive Director: By Ray Miller
BLSW Executive Director

Ray Miller was born in Chicago, Illinois and raised in Gary, Indiana. He has lived in Oregon for over 15 years and Oregon is home. Ray is the father of a wonderful 7-year-old boy. Ray’s hobbies include a tabletop war game called Warhammer 40k, reading science fiction, fantasy and the bible as well as playing strategy board games. Ray also enjoys volunteering as a mentor and tutor. Ray is a combat veteran of the United States Marine Corps, and his duty stations include Japan, Korea, the Philippines and Puerto Rico.

Ray has over 9 years’ experience working for the State of Oregon as part of the Oregon Health Authority and the Oregon Department of Human Services. Ray has over 15 years of combined operational management and project management experience. His most notable accomplishments include managing the implementation of the Statewide Scanning team which employs 100% people with disabilities, diversifying the TANF Refugee program, by inclusion of a refugee in the workforce, and implementing OHA’s infrastructure for the distribution of HB5024 Regional Development and Innovation, which distributed \$65 million to Oregon communities for behavioral health licensed residential and supportive housing.

Ray’s vision as Executive Director of the BLSW is to integrate Diversity, Equity and Inclusion into every aspect of the BLSW, reduce the CSWA processing time and process the BLSW’s oldest open investigations. Ray strives to make a positive difference in someone’s life every day.

Thank you,
Ray Miller, *Executive Director*



Board Meeting

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARK YOUR CALENDARS
2023 Remaining Scheduled Board Meeting

✦ **Friday, December 8th, 2023**
Full Board Meeting in-person



- ÷ **Friday, January 19th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, February 16th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, March 15th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, April 19th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, May 17th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, June 21st, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, July 19th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **August 2024**.....**No Meetings**
- ÷ **Friday, September 20th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **Friday, October 18th, 2024**.....Meeting
- ÷ **November 2024**.....**No Meetings**

ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARD (ASWB)

By Mindy Tucker
Sr. Compliance Specialist



The ASWB posted their 2023 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly Highlights, which includes their Elections.

There were four new members elected to serve on the Association’s Board of Directors, which is a 2-year term. The highlight for the BLSW is that former BLSW Board Chair, Brenda Dennis, who has been elected as Director at Large at ASWB. Brenda served on the BLSW Board as a public member from June 2014 to June 2023. She was Board Chair from October 2019—June 2023. We are grateful for her service to the Board & the citizens of Oregon!



Brenda Dennis



John Fant, current
BLSW Public Member

Brenda Dennis



A MESSAGE FROM OUR LICENSING STAFF

By Wende Thatcher
Licensing Compliance Specialist

As a reminder, the Board of Licensed Social Workers' Public Website is designed to assist applicants and licensees with questions. Please use this resource when looking for general questions:

www.oregon.gov.blsw

As a reminder, the Board only has 3.5 licensing staff to receive, process, evaluate, communicate all initial and renewal applications. This also includes all forms of licensing communications via email or phone calls received. Here are our current numbers:

Current Licensed Numbers by Licensure Type:

LCSW— **6,194**

CSWA— **1,794**

LMSW— **331**

RBSW— **32**

Total licensees for the BLSW =....



8,351

We appreciate your patience as we continue to work through our pending applications. As you can see in the above numbers, the applications just keep on coming in and we are doing our best to process them as quickly as we can. Please be aware that there are elements to the application process that are beyond our control. Make sure when submitting your application that all documents requested are submitted. If the license type requires the verification, submit it. Do not assume because you were previously licensed in another state that it is not needed. If it is required for one, it is required for all.

If you have submitted it, or requested it, we most likely have it. Your application will be updated with the received documents upon review of the application. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received. Please understand that all applications are important, and everyone is waiting on their license to be approved in order to start their job. While waiting for your application to be approved, keep in mind that all non-clinical work is not regulated as long as you are not using the title Social Worker, or representing yourself in a manner that represents or can be believed to be represented as licensed.

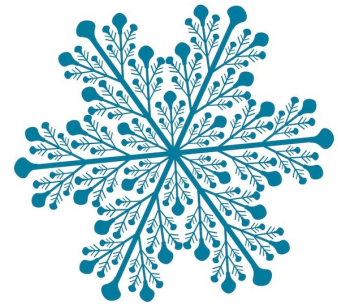
Clinical Social Work Associate—"GOLDEN NUGGETS":

By Wende Thatcher
Licensing Compliance Specialist

Here are a few reminders for our Clinical Social Work Associates (CSWA)

Annual Renewals
OAR 877-001-0025

Your CSWA renews every year no later than the last day of your birth month. The renewal is open to you as soon as the 15th day of the month prior. Look for the License Renewal tab to open on your portal dashboard. CSWA renewals are currently \$66.00/per year. There is a \$50.00 late fee if not paid within the renewal month.



Your renewal is not the same as your Supervision report, or 6 month evaluation! The supervision report is done every six months **based from the birth month**. Supervision reports go through the last day of the month, then given to your supervisor to complete and return to you within 30 days to submit on the portal. The date you see on the portal as your Next Report Date is your next End date.

For Example: If your birthday falls in May you will be able to renew as early as April 15, but no later than May 31 without a late fee. Your supervision reports will go through May 31 and November 30. Due to be submitted on the portal by June 30 and December 30.

DO NOT give your reports to your supervisors, or date and complete hours prior to the last day of the month.

CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIREMENTS REFRESHER

By Wende Thatcher
Licensing Compliance

Continuing Education Requirements for
LCSW, LMSW, RBSW

Continuing education rules and definitions can be found both on the board website's continuing education page and **Division 25** of the **OAR's 877-025-0006**

Continuing education requirements must be completed by the renewal month. The renewal month is the same as your birth month. You may not complete continuing education during the expiration period, which is the first month of the next years reporting period.

A reporting period is 2 years long, do not wait until the end of your two years to do the continuing education. The purpose and intention of continuing education is to ensure the continued competency of Oregon's licensed social workers in the field of social work. To continue their knowledge and competency in all the current and up to date methods and ideas throughout their practice.

COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATIONS INFORMATION

Here are some statistics of Compliance Investigations

By Mindy Tucker
Sr. Compliance Specialist

Here are some statistics since our last newsletter for Board complaint investigations:

2018:

(44) Cases Opened

(21) Cases Closed

(22) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

2019:

(48) Cases Opened

(70) Cases Closed

(30) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

2020:

(43) Cases Opened

(31) Cases Closed

(20) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

2021:

(50) Cases Opened

(25) Cases Closed

(47) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

2022:

(46) Cases Opened

(7) Cases Closed

(43) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

2023: (to date)

(48) Cases Opened

(35) Cases Closed

(4) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

(8) Additional cases pending closure at the December meeting

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

Since the Board's last reporting of disciplinary actions, there have been **(-37-)** disciplinary actions issued by the Board, which are public record. You can find a detailed description of each disciplinary case listed on our website under "Compliance" in the "Disciplinary Report" link.

Here is a list of those actions:

2013 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
GREEN, POLLY ~ LMSW #M5880	#2013-02	02.15.2013
WEINBERG, PAUL ~ LCSW #3414	#2012-58	03.15.2013
RIGBY, BRANDT ~ LCSW #3000	#2012-35	06.21.2013
CARLSON, JAMIE ~ LCSW #4597	#2012-63	08.23.2013

2014 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
KEUTER, JANICE ~ LCSW #1531	#2013-14	01.17.2014
OLSON, LAURA ~ LCSW #6446 (CSWA #A2552)	#2013-36	10.24.2014
MEUDT, CHELSEA ~ LCSW #6452 (CSWA #A2967)	#2013-42	12.05.2014

2015 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
McKAY, TYLER ~ CSWA #A3091	#2012-40	04.20.2015
MOHR-JOHNS, LANETTE ~ RBSW #R5653	#2014-30	05.17.2015
WALKER JR., GORDON ~ CSWA CANDIDATE #A3294	#2015-09	08.11.2015
ALEXANDER, JOSEPH ~ LCSW #1685	#2014-05	08.11.2015
ALEXANDER, JOSEPH ~ LCSW #1685	#2014-06	08.11.2015
ADAMS, BRADLEY ~ LCSW #1685	#2015-15	12.11.2015

2017 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
SORENSEN, CASSIE ~ CSWA #A3337	#2012-40	09.22.2017
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2016-03	12.08.2017
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2017-03	12.08.2017
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2017-23	12.08.2017
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2017-24	12.08.2017

2018 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
WIKANDER, MARY TERESA ~ LCSW #3702	#2013-49	01.19.2018
WEBER, ELISE ~ LCSW #4050	#2018-07	05.18.2018
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2016-03	09.21.2018
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2017-03	09.21.2018
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2017-23	09.21.2018
SLY, DAWN ~ LCSW #2786	#2017-24	09.21.2018
HARDMAN-WOUNG, GAIL ~ LCSW #3702	#2017-40	12.07.2018

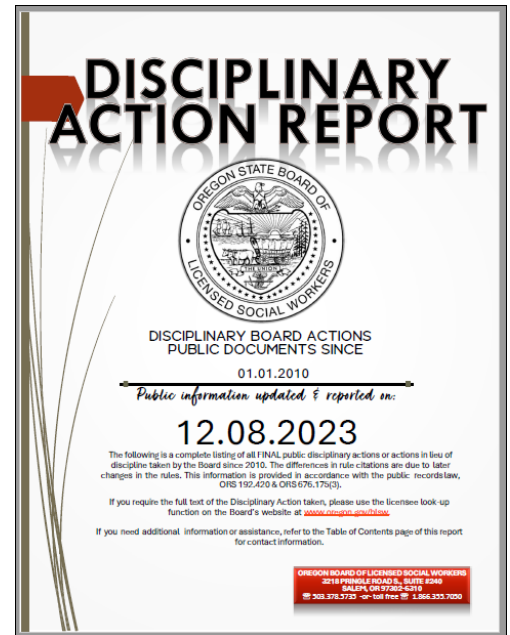
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COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATIONS INFORMATION CONTINUED

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Board investigators have been working on a backlog of cases and will continue to report the progress.

The full Disciplinary Action Report can be located on our website and will look like this:



2019 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
LANDIS, CHELSEA ~ LCSW #1531	#2014-10	02.15.2019
COX, BRIAN ~ LCSW #2785	#2018-14	06.21.2019
VINSON, MATTHEW ~ LCSW #7785	#2017-30	10.18.2019
VINSON, MATTHEW ~ LCSW #7785	#2019-28	10.18.2019
CLARK, EMILY ~ CSWA #A1531	#2016-06	12.06.2019
CLARK, EMILY ~ CSWA #A1531	#2016-37	12.06.2019

2020 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
SHELLMIRE, RAY A. ~ LCSW #2376	#2020-02	06.30.2020

2022 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	CASE NUMBER	DATE of ACTION:
SINKEY, ANNE M. ~ CSWA #A4441	#2019-16	04.15.2022

2023 BOARD ACTIONS TAKEN	Case Number	Date of Action:
NIELSEN, ROBERT W. ~ LCSW #7092	#2019-32	01.20.2023
MIDDLETON, INGRID M. ~ LCSW #7353	#2020-07	03.17.2023
LABORDE, ANNE ~ LCSW #11054	#2019-29	05.19.2023
MOSS JR., WILLIAM "BILL" ~ LCSW #3257	#2019-08	07.21.2023

BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF DIRECTORY

BOARD STAFF

- Ray Miller, Executive Director
- Kim Coleman, Licensing Manager
- Wende Thatcher, Licensing Compliance Specialist
- Angela Goodpaster, Licensing Assistant
- Cassie Kanaeholo, Licensing Assistant (part-time)
- Mindy Tucker, Sr. Compliance Specialist, Investigations
- Troy Clinton, Investigator
- Abe Dedek, Investigator

BOARD MEMBERS

- Stephanie Manriquez, Public Member, Board Chair
- Amy Ashton-Williams, LCSW, Vice Chair
- Mollie Janssen, LCSW, CPC Chair
- John Fant, Public Member
- Scott Wilson, CSWA
- **Vacant**, LCSW Position
- **Vacant**, Public Member

