

OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS

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BLSW Board Member Updates:

Board Member Vacancy Announcement

The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Board as professional and public representatives. Currently, the BLSW has two public Board Member openings and one professional Board Member opening for a CSWA, LMSW, or RBSW. Members of the Board of Licensed Social Workers are appointed by the Governor and confirmed by the Senate.

If you are interested in a Board position and would like to apply, go to the Governor’s Executive Appointment Website at: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/board-list.aspx>.

BLSW Staff Updates:

Welcome to our new Office Assistant Noelle Johnson (she/her/ella)!

Noelle joined the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers staff July 15th, 2024. She joins the BLSW team with a Bachelor of Science in Education and training in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. She has worked as an educator/home visitor for a combined total of 7 years, providing educational and wrap around services to children and families in Oregon. Noelle, a native Oregonian, loves to spend her time hiking in the mountains with her partner or reading a fun book while cuddling her dog. She loves cooking her favorite recipes and helping others reach their goals.

BLSW Directory:

Board Members:

- **Stephanie Manriquez**, Public Member, Board Chair
- **Amy Ashton-Williams**, LCSW, Vice Chair
- **Mollie Janssen**, LCSW, CPC Chair
- **John Fant**, Public Member
- **Paddy Farr**, LCSW
- ****Vacant****, CSWA, LMSW, or RBSW member
- ****Vacant****, Public Member
- ****Vacant****, Public Member

Staff Members:

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



Common Questions This Quarter:

By Noelle Johnson & Cassie Kanaeholo
Licensing Assistants

? How do I log into my portal?

Licensee Portal Instructions:	Applicant Portal Instructions:
1. Make sure you are using a computer or laptop; our site is not mobile device friendly.	1. Make sure you are using a computer or laptop; our site is not mobile device friendly.
2. Try using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers (our site can be picky)	2. Try using Google Chrome or Mozilla Firefox web browsers (our site can be picky)
3. Are you using the Licensee portal: https://blsw.us.thentiacloud.net/webs/blsw/service/#/login	3. Are you using the Applicant portal: https://blsw.us.thentiacloud.net/webs/blsw/application/#/login
4. Make sure you are using the email address that you used to set up your account.	4. Make sure you are using the email address that you used to set up your account.
5. If password is not working, reset your password.	5. If password is not working, reset your password.
6. Follow the prompted instructions to complete changing your password and security questions	6. Follow the prompted instructions to complete changing your password and security questions

? Why am I receiving an OHA Fee Waiver Survey?

The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers recently partnered with Oregon Health Authority to send out a survey to all social workers. The intent of this survey was to gather data about the February 2023-February 2024 Fee Waiver program.

Please note that all funds for the previous program are exhausted and fee waivers are no longer available. All fees for licenses, ASWB exams and renewals are as posted on the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers Website.

If you have any questions about the survey, please contact the Oregon Health Authority directly.

By Kim Coleman
Licensing Manager

BLSW Licensing Statistics—Yearly Snapshot:

December 2023:		December 2024:		Total Growth:	
LCSWs:	6,194	LCSWs:	6,890	LCSWs:	+696
CSWAs:	1,794	CSWAs:	2,090	CSWAs:	+296
LMSWs:	331	LMSWs:	357	LMSWs:	+26
RBSWs:	32	RBSWs:	33	RBSWs:	+1
Total:	8,351	Total:	9,370	Total:	+1,019

Over the last year, the BLSW has seen a large amount of growth. Licensees grew by 1000+ in one year, that is amazing!

The BLSW saw the amount of licensees grow by 1,019 total licensees between December 2023 and December 2024.

That is a growth rate of +12%. Thank you to all of our licensees for licensing with the Oregon BLSW and thank you to all of our staff and Board members for all of the hard work they did behind the scenes.

BLSW Compliance Statistics—Yearly Snapshot:

by Mindy Tucker
Sr. Compliance Specialist, Investigator

Here are updated statistics for Board complaint investigations:

2023:

(-48-) Cases Opened

(-43-) Cases Closed

(-04-) Application investigations requiring Board review & approval

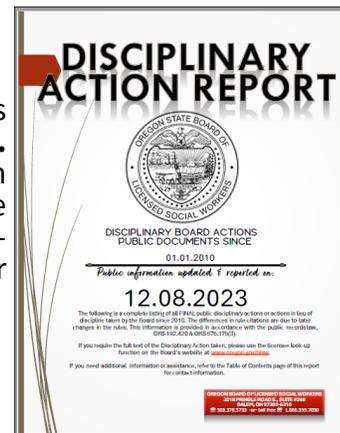
2024: (to date)

(-61-) Cases Opened as of 12.04.2024

(-112-) Cases Closed as of 12.06.2024

Compliance staff have worked hard this year addressing the accumulated backlog of investigation cases. We were able to exceed our team goal to close 100 cases in 2024.

The Board's Disciplinary Action Report is updated **following each Board meeting**. If there were no disciplinary actions taken at the last board meeting, then only the date changes on the cover page of the report. The Report is then posted to our website for access and looks like this... 



Board Executive Director—Letter

By Ray Miller
BLSW Executive Director

Thank you BLSW staff for a remarkable year!!

As of November 15, 2024, I have served the Board of Licensed Social Workers as Executive Director for one year. My wish is that this one-year celebration focuses on the outstanding work the BLSW staff have performed. My goal was to provide direction, create the vision, provide training, and support and create an environment for BLSW to thrive. Once that seed was planted, the talented BLSW staff responded with impressive results.

Prior to June 2023, BLSW experienced an unprecedented and unexpected increase in licensing applications along with temporary staff shortages. These 2 combined difficulties resulted in regulated social workers reporting application processing times of up to 6 months. Applicants were regularly contacting BLSW with requests for application updates from those waiting. BLSW had a reputation for lack of response to both telephones and emails. BLSW was understaffed and under resourced. Fast forward to today. All applications are processed within 30 days. BLSW rarely gets contacted for application status updates. Phones and emails have a 48-hour response time with most responded to within 24 hours. BLSW is regularly receiving acknowledgments for the excellent customer service we are providing.

But none of this would have been possible without the outstanding contributions of the BLSW staff. Some of you have contacted, through phone or email, the dedicated BLSW staff and know their names as you read this message. My wish is, when you encounter excellent customer service from this amazing team, do as I do, thank them staff for the service they provide.

Having been truly blessed to work daily with this incredible team, I know each BLSW team member is committed to the best possible outcome with any interaction. So, join me in celebrating the BLSW staff!!!

Board Chair—Letter

By Stephanie Manriquez
BLSW Board Chair

The year 2024 is almost over, and as I look back over the past year here at the BLSW, I recognize the evolution and changes we have experienced. More changes are coming in 2025 with the Social Workers Compact conversation and ASWB exam discussion, along with the vacancy of a public member who has fulfilled his maximum of two 4-year terms!

Additionally, John Fant has been a valuable public member of our board. He is a quiet but powerful speaker who brings our board discussions back to the center. John retired from his work as an addiction specialist this year and is enjoying his newfound freedom. He is an accomplished photographer, and his photography work always amazes me.

John's departure is a significant loss, and we need to find more public members who wish to support the BLSW mission statement: "Protecting the citizens of Oregon through the licensing and regulation of social workers."

This newsletter does not reach the public, but I would encourage you to look around and see if you know someone who would be willing and able to apply for our open positions on the BLSW board. They can call the office and speak to Ray Miller, our Executive Director, for more information.

I will close out this 2024 year with visions of the future for BLSW and wishing everyone Happy Holidays!

~ **Stephanie Manriquez, Public Member, Current BLSW Board Chair**

2025 Board Meeting Dates and BLSW Website:

February 21, 2025

April 18, 2025

June 20, 2025

September 19, 2025

October 24, 2025

December 5, 2025



To learn more about the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers, join a public meeting or find additional information about social work licensing in Oregon, click on the link below!:

oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/index.aspx