



Spring Newsletter

OUTREACH BOARD MEETING—UPDATE

Thank you to everyone who participated in our 'BLSW Outreach Board Meeting' survey. We received nearly 2000 survey responses! At this time, we are working to reschedule our outreach meeting and will share an update as soon as we can.

FRIENDLY REMINDER—CHECK LICENSEE PORTAL REGULARLY

Our BLSW Staff want to remind all license holders that all of your renewal dates, Supervisor Credential expiration dates, and license information can be located in the Oregon BLSW Licensee Portal—<https://blsw.us.thentiacloud.net/webs/blsw/service/#/login>.

BOARD MEMBER VACANCY INFO

The Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers is looking for individuals interested in serving on the Board as professional and public representatives. Currently, all BLSW member positions are full. However, there will be an opening during Summer 2025. 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: <https://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/board-list.aspx>, or contact Executive Director, Ray Miller at ray.miller@blsw.oregon.gov.

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SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- Outreach Board Meeting—Update
- Board Member Vacancies
- Continuing Education Takeaways and Tips
- ASWB Testing Resource: Mastery Test Taking Course
- Messages from Board Chair and Executive Director





2025 BOARD MEETING DATES

- February 21st, 2025
- April 25th, 2025
- June 27th, 2025
- September 19th, 2025
- October 24th, 2025
- December 5th, 2025



Check out the Oregon BLSW Website: Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) page—<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/ASWB.aspx> for additional testing resources for additional information

MORE RESOURCES:

- **ASWB Examination Guidebook**—<https://www.aswb.org/exam/getting-ready-for-the-exam/aswb-examination-guidebook/>
- **Online Practice Test**—<https://www.aswb.org/exam/getting-ready-for-the-exam/online-practice-test/>
- **Nonstandard Testing Arrangements**—<https://www.aswb.org/exam/getting-ready-for-the-exam/nonstandard-testing-arrangements/>

ASWB—MASTERY TEST TAKING COURSE

The ASWB program: Mastery Test Taking is highly recommended for all test takers, or if you have previous difficulties with anxiety or testing anxiety. This program is no test specific, but helps you prepare your mindset for taking an important test. This program is free for all of those that are interested in participating.

Launched in January 2023, ASWB began parting with FifthTheory, a minority-owned firm with expertise in high-stakes testing and occupational assessment. You can find additional information on the ASWB website: <https://www.aswb.org/mindset-resources-to-be-offered-to-all-aswb-test-takers/>.

When exam candidates register for their exam, their Authorization to test email invites them to access the FifthTheory Test Mastery Inclusion Program. The program starts with a self-assessment. If candidates choose to participate, they will receive an individualized report with information and insights to help them prepare for their ASWB exam. Participants will also receive a test mastery coaching guide, a guided journal and access to a self-interpretation webinar and positive affirmation audio files.

If you have questions, please reach out to the ASWB Candidate Services at www.aswb.org.

**A Test Mastery Inclusion Resource for ASWB Test-Takers:
Needs Analysis and Self-Coaching Resources**

RESEARCH STUDY

FifthTheory Research Report



Prepared by:
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John W. Jones, Ph.D.
FifthTheory, LLC.

Date:
June 2024

Research Summary: Key Findings Presented in this Report:

- In 2023, ASWB administered more than 70,000 licensing exams. There were 6,896 test-takers who were unsuccessful on a licensing exam and who then completed the FifthTheory TestPrep Profile™ questionnaire as part of the ASWB Test Mastery Inclusion™ program.
- These test-takers that completed the FifthTheory TestPrep Profile™ questionnaire were examined to document their test preparation and test readiness mindset.
- Around 60% of ASWB participants could use support and guidance in their test preparation and/or test readiness mindset as they prepare to retake the ASWB exam.
- Many participants tended to have a strong Test Preparation mindset (54%).
- A small percentage of ASWB participants (21%) tended to have a strong Test Readiness mindset.
- Approximately 42% of ASWB participants scored below average on both the Test Preparation and the Test Readiness Composite scores (i.e., Style 1), indicating an important opportunity to work on strengthening their Test Mastery Mindset.
- Overall, for the ASWB test-takers, development of the Test Readiness Mindset (dimensions of Confidence and Resiliency is more of a priority than development of the Test Preparation Mindset dimensions (i.e., Motivation and Responsibility).
- From a test-taker experience perspective, Test Preparation and Test Mastery overall scores were higher the more a social work program or school discussed licensing and the exam.
- Test Preparation scores were associated with the number of study methods used to prepare for the exam (i.e., study courses, practice tests, and individual study plans). That is, higher Test Preparation scores reflect higher usage of study methods.



CONTINUING EDUCATION

All Continuing Education is required to be completed BEFORE the last day of your renewal date, which is the last day of your BIRTH MONTH. Your expiration date is 30 days after your renewal date. You may still renew during your expiration month with a late fee, but only if you have already met the continuing education requirements prior to your renewal date. Renewals are not available in the portal until CE requirements have been met. If you have submitted your renewal, and are audited, you may be charged a fee if your renewal is submitted incomplete.

Please make sure to familiarize yourself with and utilize our website, <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/index.aspx>. Continuing education information and requirements can be found here, <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/ContinuingEducation.aspx>. Please note, CSWAs and new licensees renewing for the first time do not need CEs and there will be no CE portal option.

Licensees can upload CEs at any time. You may use the full two years reporting period to spread out the trainings. When you complete a training, enter it into the continuing education portal immediately. This will file it in your portal, keep a running total for you, and have it done and ready for you when you renew. If you cannot accurately complete the fields in the portal by looking at the certificate of completion, the training may not be appropriate or approved for social work CEU licensure.

To fit within our Ethics requirement, the CE needs to be related to Professional Boundaries, Confidentiality, Dual Relationships, Legal or Law course, and Mandatory Reporting topics. Cultural Competency is a range of cognitive, affective, behavioral, and linguistic skills that lead to effective and appropriate communication with people of other cultures and lifestyles.

If your workplace requires you to take trainings, or offers trainings through an independent program, sponsored by your agency, and the trainings otherwise fit our rules for types of continuing education (see OAR 877-025-0006) you may claim up to half of your requirements using Agency Sponsored In-Service Activity. Do not use Continuing Education approved by other State Social Work Boards unless your certificate provides a particular state social work board. These two options are not catch all categories. They are specific and the certificate should identify why you have selected that option.

CE TAKEAWAYS

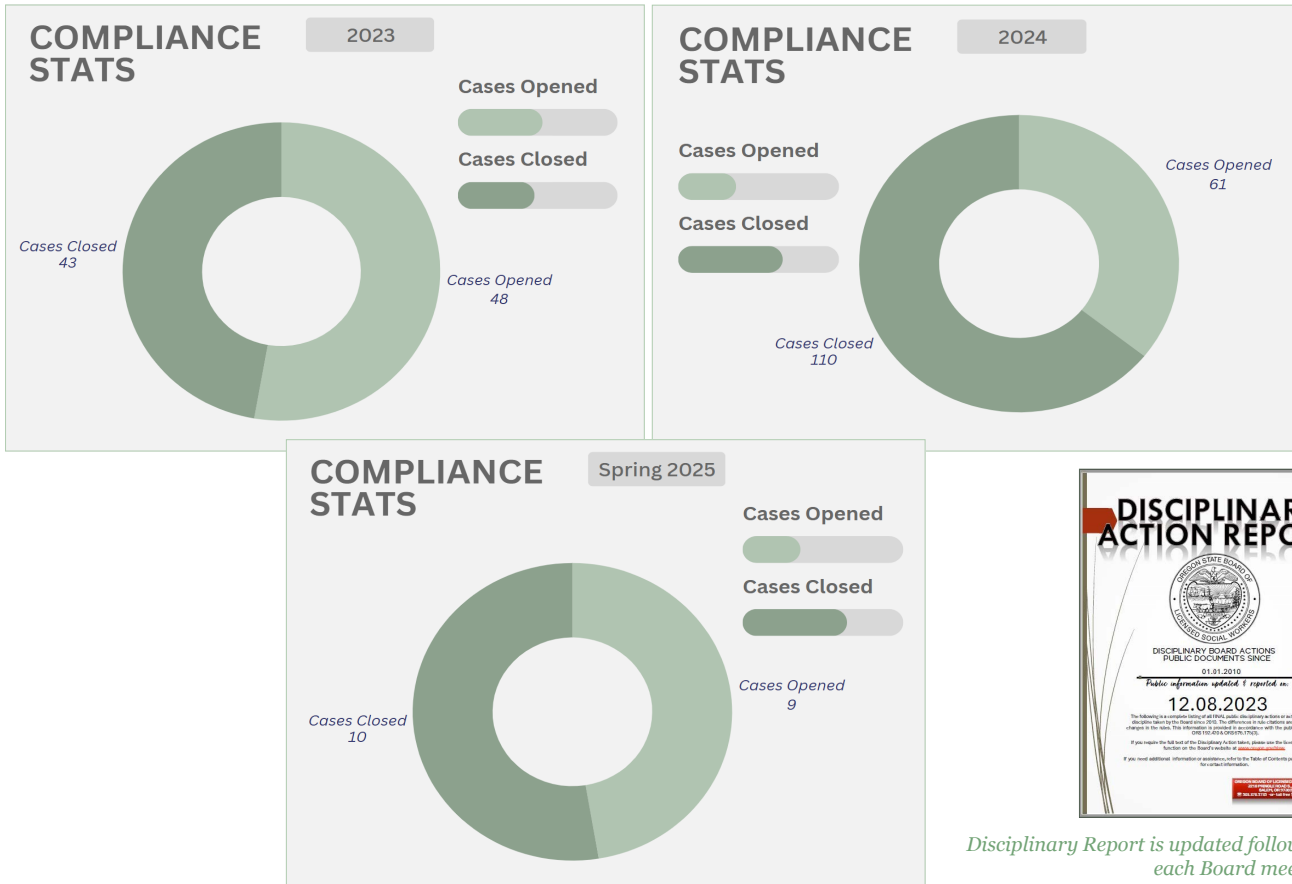
- Renewal Date—Last Day of Licensee's Birth Month
- Expiration Date—30 Days following Renewal Date
- Begin Renewal—up to 45 days prior to Renewal Date
- BLSW Website—<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/index.aspx>
- CE Information Page—<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/ContinuingEducation.aspx>
- All CEs due prior to Renewal Date
- If all CE is not met by renewal date, licensee must reapply for licensure
- CSWAs and New Licensees—No CE requirement

HELPFUL CE TIPS

When submitting your continuing education, you can make sure that your CE certificates will meet continuing education requirements by:

- Double checking your certificate is labeled with the type of credit it is (i.e.: Cultural Competency, Ethics, etc)
- Always double check if your CE has the approved credentialing body listed
- Make sure your certificates have clearly defined or identifiable number of credit hours
- Double check that the date of your certificate falls within your renewal period

COMPLIANCE STATISTICS



LICENSING STATISTICS				SPRING 2025
LICENSE TYPES	ACTIVE	INACTIVE	SEMI-RETIRED	TOTAL
LCSW	6,633	183	243	7,059
CSWA	1,935	123	N/A	2,053
LMSW	338	2	N/A	356
RBSW	32	2	N/A	34
GRAND TOTAL				9,502

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER

As spring approaches, the Board of Licensed Social Workers has been extremely busy since the last newsletter. I would just like to provide a few updates to everyone:

Public Member Openings:

The Oregon BLSW is recruiting for public members to be part of our board. Public members are Oregonians interested in serving on the Board of Licensed Social Workers who have no licenses or certifications from the BLSW. If you know someone who you believe would be willing to serve on the Board as a public member, please have them visit: <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/BoardMembers.aspx> or contact me or the Board directly.

Check Out our Website:

Another reminder, the BLSW and its staff are people dedicated to serving Oregonians. We encourage anyone interested in learning about the BLSW and services we provide, to visit our website at <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/pages/index.aspx>. If you have any questions, check out our contact information on the back of this newsletter. Most emails are responded to by 1 business day. Please note that voicemails may take longer.

BOARD CHAIR LETTER

I imagine everyone is happy to have more daylight and warmer weather! I know I am looking forward to many outdoor activities on my calendar.

The future of social worker licensing is front and center this year as the Social Workers Compact is moving across the country, with more than 24 states enacting legislation.

After the Compact's inaugural meeting on Sept 17, the Compact Commission will continue to work on operationalizing the Compact, including acquiring a data system. The data system is a foundational piece of compact operations, where member states communicate licensure information with each other and with the Compact Commission. Their third meeting in Feb included establishing bylaws that will govern the Commission.

Once the data system is operational and the commission has finalized all necessary rulemaking, applications will be made available for social workers to apply for a multistate license that will allow social work practice in all other member states of the compact without any further steps necessary.

Oregon has a current House Bill that is working its way through legislation.

If you are unfamiliar with the Social Workers Compact, visit its website at SWCOMPACT.ORG

Application Processing Times:

Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers and their staff are committed to issuing provider numbers for any application type in an efficient manner. We are excited to announce that all application types are being issued their provider number within 30 days from the date a complete application is submitted! When submitting your applications, please make sure that your contact information is up-to-date and as this is how we will communicate with you and send you your provider number information.

OHA Rule Change:

OHA has plans to change their rules which will impact how CSWA's are paid through Medicaid. For more information, please visit <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/HSD/OHP/Pages?BH-Licensing.aspx>. Additional information can be found at <https://www.oregon.gov/oha/OHPB/mtgDocs/6.1%20OHA%20BHAssociatesInterns%201.16.2025.pdf>

Ray Miller, BLSW Executive Director
ray.miller@blsw.oregon.gov

Share Your Feedback—we want to hear if you received excellent service or if our team exceeded your expectations. Please use our contact information above to reach out and let us know how we are doing!

I encourage every licensed social worker to understand the impact of this legislation.

There are a number of rules that are being reviewed by the Rules Advisory Committee and a public hearing will be scheduled when the committee and the board has completed their work. We look forward to the public's input on these rules updates and changes.

CSWA Supervisor education and responsibilities is another topic that is being discussed and we hope to have more information on this subject this year.

The BLSW STILL needs applicants for a public member seat on the board as I will be rotating off the board in June 2025. Public members give valuable input from a different perspective and are a valuable asset to our functioning BLSW board.

I wish to thank my fellow members I have worked with over my eight years on our board and the valuable staff that supports board work every day. Office staff are the unsung heroes that keep "the wheels on the bus" moving forward. And a special shout-out to Kim Coleman, our office manager, who keeps us all on track with a smile! Thanks, Kim for all your hard work and knowledge!

Stephanie Manriquez, BLSW Board Chair



OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS

The State Board of Licensed Social Workers was created in 1979 by the Legislature, and is authorized by ORS 675.510-675.600.

The Board of Licensed Social Workers (Board) is statutorily responsible to protect the citizens of Oregon through the regulations of social workers. This is accomplished through setting policy, establishing standards of practice and ethical conduct, establishing standards for certification and licensure, including renewals, and monitoring continuing education requirements.

ABOUT THE BOARD AND ITS MEMBERS

The Board is comprised of 7 members, appointed by the Governor, and confirmed by the Senate. Three members must be licensed clinical social workers, one must hold one of the other three social worker licenses, and other three must be members of the public and not be licensed social workers.

- **Stephanie Manriquez**, Public Member, Board Chair
- **Amy Ashton-Williams**, LCSW Member, Vice Chair
- **Mollie Janssen**, LCSW Member, CPC Chair
- **Paddy Far**, LCSW Member
- **Olivia Bormann**, CSWA Member
- **Julie Magers**, Public Member
- **Nicole Pantley**, Public Member

“Protecting the citizens of Oregon through the licensing and regulation of social workers.”
- Oregon BLSW Mission Statement



Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers

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BOARD STAFF MEMBERS

- **Ray Miller**, Executive Director
- **Kimberly Coleman**, Legislative and Licensing Analyst
- **Wende Thatcher**, Licensing Compliance Specialist, Website Maintenance
- **Angela Goodpaster-Hicks**, Licensing Assistant, Applications Intake
- **Cassie Kanaeholo**, Licensing Assistant (Part Time)
- **Noelle Johnson**, Office Specialist (Full Time, Limited Duration)
- **Mindy Tucker**, Sr. Compliance Specialist, Investigations
- **Abe Dedek**, Investigator

