



Fall Newsletter

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, there are 2 Public Board Member positions open. 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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POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Cultural Competency Definition
- Custodian of Record
- Letters from Executive Director and Board Chair

2025 BOARD MEETING



- February 21st, 2025
- April 25th, 2025
- June 27th, 2025
- September 19th, 2025
- October 4th, 2025
- December 5th, 2025



For information about the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers, visit the Oregon BLSW Website—<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/pages/index.aspx>. You will find information about renewals, continuing education, applications, and more!

CULTURAL COMPETENCY DEFINITION—**NEW**

For a course to be considered for the cultural competency requirement, it should teach attitudes, knowledge and/or skills that enable you as a health care professional to communicate and care for your patients from diverse cultures, groups, and communities effectively (as defined by OAR 950-040-0010(3)(b) below).

Examples of skills that would count include on or more of the following:

- applying linguistic skills to communicate effectively with patients
- using cultural information to establish a therapeutic relationship with a patient or patients
- and/or eliciting, understanding, or applying cultural/ethnic data while providing clinical care

For those interested in reading the rules that the Oregon BLSW Cultural Competency definition is created from, please use the following links:

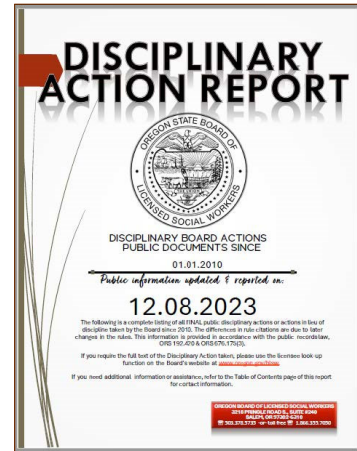
- OAR 950-040-0010(3)(b) - <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=301302>
- OAR 950-040-0020(6)(a-c) - <https://secure.sos.state.or.us/oard/viewSingleRule.action?ruleVrsnRsn=301045>

For the most up to date continuing education information—please use the Oregon BLSW Website: Continuing Education page - <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/ContinuingEducation.aspx>. If you have any additional questions, please contact the Oregon BLSW offices at oregon.blsw@blsw.oregon.gov or via phone at 503-378-5735. All of our staff are trained to help answer questions about continuing education.

COMPLIANCE CORNER

You can find a copy of the Oregon BLSW Disciplinary Action Report on the Oregon BLSW Website: Disciplinary Action Report page—
<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/DisciplinaryActionReport.aspx>

For compliance information, please visit the Oregon BLSW Website: File a Complaint page—
<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/FileAComplaint.aspx>



Disciplinary Report is updated following each Board meeting

LICENSING STATISTICS

LICENSE TYPES	ACTIVE	INACTIVE	SEMI-RETIRED	TOTAL
LCSW	6963	166	233	7,362
CSWA	1817	130	N/A	1947
LMSW	341	19	N/A	360
RBSW	34	2	N/A	36
GRAND TOTAL				9,705

Please note—all complete applications that have been submitted to the Oregon BLSW are reviewed and approved by the Board in approximately 30 days. To ensure an application is reviewed and approved within this time frame, please make sure to submit all required documentation located in the application and on the Oregon BLSW Website: Applications page—
<https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/Applications.aspx>

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LETTER ~~~~~

This is an exciting time for the Board of Licensed Social Workers. BLSW staff are dedicated to excellent customer service and are working hard to meet your needs. Most applications submitted with the correct documents are processed within 30 days. Phone and email response times are 2 business days. When you encounter excellent customer service, I ask that you please acknowledge BLSW staff for their hard work.

To speed up processing times, please check the email you gave to BLSW for any communications. Also, check the website. Most questions are answered on the website. BLSW asks that you use the website as the same staff who answers the phone or replies to an email also processes applications.

BLSW keeps you informed. Please watch your inbox for occasional mass emails BLSW sends to licensees. BLSW regularly observes trends that may ease the licensing process. BLSW releases this information in the form of occasional mass emails and this newsletter. There have been reminders to

supervisors, supervisees and the responsibilities of both along with other useful licensing information.

BLSW also conducted a Q and A session at Seaside, Oregon and, by the printing of this newsletter, BLSW will have hosted a Board meeting in Newport, Oregon on Saturday, October 4, 2025. BLSW will have also delivered a 2 credit Ethics CE during that meeting. BLSW encourages Board meeting attendance. Information on upcoming Board meetings is available on the BLSW website at <https://www.oregon.gov/blsw/Pages/index.aspx>.

I want to thank you all for your support. I also encourage you all to continue to support the AMAZING staff at BLSW who show up every day to give their all to deliver excellent customer service. In conclusion, feel free to contact me at ray.miller@blsw.oregon.gov.

Thank you all,

Ray Miller, Executive Director

BOARD CHAIR LETTER ~~~~~

Happy Fall!

The OBLSW is a place of constant energy and engagement. At the June board meeting, Stephanie Manriquez, board chair, retired. Stephanie provided our board with impactful leadership and a needed voice that reflects the public interest for a social work regulatory board. Thank you, Stephanie. At the same meeting, we welcomed new board members, Nicole Pantley, a public member, and Olivia Bormann, CSWA member. We look forward to the valuable perspectives Nicole and Olivia will bring to the board.

Some of you may remember that the Association for Social Work Boards (ASWB) funded a research study for a national social work workforce study. The study research was conducted in 2024, and in June 2025, the research was published. The unprecedented workforce study is a first step for the social work profession and regulators to have a better understanding of our workforce in terms of education, specialization, work settings, diversity, and experience levels. Regulators have inadequate

data pertaining to licensure rates or workforce breakdowns to determine standards, monitor accountability, and plan for future needs in our services. As a profession, this study showed that there is little to no data connecting licensure to social workers' job titles and salaries, and the profession continues to struggle to demonstrate how valuable licensure is. You can find this report at: <https://www.aswb.org/regulation/research/2024-social-work-workforce-study-series/>

Amy Ashton-Williams, 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.

- **Amy Ashton-Williams**, LCSW Member, Board Chair
- **Mollie Janssen**, LCSW Member, Vice Chair
- **Nicole Pantley**, Public Member
- **Paddy Far**, LCSW Member
- **Olivia Bormann**, CSWA Member
- **Vacancy**, Public Member
- **Vacancy**, 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
- **Angela Goodpaster-Hicks**, Licensing Assistant, Applications Intake
- **Cassie Kanaeholo**, Licensing Assistant (Part Time)
- **Lynette Nobel**, Licensing Assistant (Part-Time)
- **Mindy Tucker**, Sr. Compliance Specialist, Investigations
- **Abe Dedek**, Investigator
- **Wende Thatcher**, Investigator
- **Noelle Johnson**, Licensing Compliance Specialist (Full Time, Limited Duration)

