

OREGON BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS

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BLSW BOARD MEMBER UPDATES

ADDITION OF PADDY FARR, LCSW:

We are pleased to announce the addition of our newest Board member, Patrick “Paddy” Farr, LCSW. Here is a little information about Paddy:

Paddy Farr (they/them) joined the BLSW to advocate for changes to systemic racial injustices within the social work profession. Paddy joined BLSW in February 2024 and is the newest Board member.

They are a queer nonbinary licensed clinical social worker, researcher, and activist. They are currently Chair of the Committee for Alternative Pathways to Social Work Licensure. In their day job, they work in community mental health as a psychotherapist treating people with “serious and persistent mental illness.” At this agency, they are additionally a union steward with AFSCME and trainer for trauma informed care and critical social work practice.

They are also an adjunct professor at Portland State University currently teaching Social Justice in Social Work and Research Methods. Outside of their employment, Paddy is an Outreach representative with the USA-Palestine Mental Health Network. They are an active social work researcher with sixteen peer reviewed publications.

Their most recent work includes “End the Exploitation of Social Work Student Interns” in the Journal of Social Work Education, “A Case of Traumatophilia Through Transgender Embodiment” in Psychoanalytic Social Work, and “Becoming again a War Machine: Deleuze and Guattari’s Theory of State Violence Applied to Hate Crime and Domestic Violence” in Subjectivity. Welcome Paddy Farr to BLSW!!

Welcome to our Team!

WE SAY GOODBYE TO SCOTT WILSON, LCSW:

We want to send a heartfelt FAREWELL and CONGRATULATIONS to Scott Wilson! Scott joined the BLSW in October 2023 filling the CSWA board member position. He hit the board room floor running and has been an active and important contributor to every conversation, committee meeting, and board initiative. We enjoyed his friendly outlook and his ability to break things down in terms that helped us all to look at both the big picture and the small details in our decisions.

CONGRATULATIONS on moving from CSWA to LCSW in June 2024! As an LCSW, Scott is no longer eligible to fill the CSWA board position, and we will miss his smiling face and his attention to details. He is committed to improving the social worker profession and will continue to serve as an active member of the Board’s Alternative Pathways to Licensure Committee.

Scott remains a member of the Board’s Rules Advisory Committee.



CELEBRATING BLSW'S LICENSING PORTAL'S 4TH YEAR!

By Wende Thatcher
Licensing Compliance Specialist

The Portal went live in July 2020, during a hugely transitional year where online accessibility was more important than ever. By now most licensees have completed several processes through the online Portal, but we wanted to share a few tips to help users utilize the system to its fullest potential.

Logging in to the Portal:

Remember your login email address. To login, the email address used must match the data in our system. If your email address changes for any reason, it is imperative that you log in to the Portal and update it as soon as possible, but no more than 30 days after the change per OAR 877-001-0009.



Remember your password. The Portal will automatically lock a user out after 3 unsuccessful login attempts. To avoid this, we recommend using the 'forgot password' option after 2 failed login attempts. It is the responsibility of users to retain their login information. There are no exceptions to renewal dates or deadlines due to unsuccessful logins. The Board office responds to calls and emails in the order they are received and cannot guarantee a timeline for lockout assistance. In the event of password reset or security question issues, please visit the BLSW website's [Portal and Logon Instructions page](#) for helpful information.

Consider adding a secondary email address in the Portal. Often a licensee uses their employment email address for their Portal login. Employment changes are common, and in most cases, access to a previous employment email address is lost. Password reset emails are only sent to the email address listed in the Portal, so it is very important to keep email addresses updated. While secondary email addresses are not able to be used for login purposes, they do help streamline the process for unlocking accounts.

Routinely login to the Portal. Ensuring Portal access assists in avoiding future login emergencies. We recommend regularly verifying that personal information listed in the Portal is accurate and current. Take special note of renewal dates, expiration dates, and any other applicable licensure requirements.

Keeping Portal Information Accurate and Up to Date:

If your place of practice, mailing address, email address, or legal name changes, **update the information in the Portal within 30 days of the change per OAR 877-001-0009.**

For CSWAs, it is important to closely monitor supervision hour totals and Plans of Supervision in the Portal. Work directly with supervisor(s) on any Plans of Supervision pending supervisor approval.

For any license that requires Continuing Education (CE), we recommend entering CE into the Portal as it's completed. This method assists in keeping CE organized, think of the Portal as your personal CE filing system. It also assists licensees in tracking progress toward CE requirements. Having CE entered ahead of time greatly streamlines the renewal process when the time comes. Nobody wants to enter all of their CE at once, especially not at the last minute. Entering CE in a timely manner allows adequate time to make any corrections to remain in compliance with CE requirements and avoid renewal issues that could result in late fees.

SIX MONTH REPORT FORM REVISION UPDATE

By Kim Coleman
Licensing Manager

Thank you for your input!

Recently the Board invited supervisors and CSWAs to provide feedback on proposed revisions to the Six Month Report form. This form is used for documenting and submitting CSWA supervision and experience hours. The Board would like to express our gratitude to everyone who took the time to provide feedback.

We received an overwhelming number of responses that surpassed our expectations. The Board has reviewed each of your comments and suggestions and have incorporated them into the form revisions. Thank you for your expertise and contributions!



When will the new form be ready for use?

The new form is not yet finalized, so please continue to use the standard form provided on the Board website and in the Portal. The Board's goal is for the Six Month Report to be an embedded process within the Portal, and eliminate the need to upload a form altogether.

We are currently working with our system developers on a Portal upgrade which would include a fully online submission process for Six Month Reports. An estimated timeline for the upgrade is not yet available. We appreciate your patience!

HOW TO OBSERVE BOARD MEETINGS LIVE

Members of the public are able to observe the public portions of the Board's meetings by visiting the Board's website at:

<https://www.Oregon.gov/BLSW>

1. On our website under "**BOARD**," click "**MEETING INFORMATION**" and a link will be provided for you to view the meeting live via your web browser.
2. Scroll down to "**AGENDA**" to review the upcoming agenda for board meeting.
3. Scroll down to **PUBLIC NOTICE** to review the start times for the Committees and Full Board meeting.



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MARK YOUR CALENDARS

2024 Remaining Scheduled CPC & Board Meetings

All BLSW meetings utilize Microsoft Teams™ to conduct live video feeds for the meetings. The link will allow you to view the public portion of the Board meeting in your web browser. The Board does not provide any IT technical support for the meetings.

÷ **August 2024**.....**No Meetings**
 ÷ **Friday, September 20th, 2024**.....Meeting
 ÷ **Friday, October 25th, 2024**.....Meeting
 ÷ **November 2024**.....**No Meetings**
 ÷ **Friday, December 6th, 2024**.....Meeting

REMINDER OF CSWA REQUIREMENTS

By Wende Thatcher
Licensing Compliance Specialist

CSWAs are required to meet with their Board approved supervisors at least twice per month for no less than one hour each meeting. This requirement is not met by a single two-hour meeting. There is no supervision maximum as long as the supervision meets the criteria set out in Division 20 of the Board's rules. Not meeting the minimum requirement of supervision may result in Board action or loss of hours. It is recommended to schedule more than two supervision meetings per month in the case of a cancellation.

Ensure that supervision meetings are in compliance with OAR 877-001-0006: "Clinical supervision" means an interactional professional relationship between a supervisor and a social worker that provides evaluation and direction over the supervisee's practice of clinical social work and promotes continued development of the social worker's knowledge, skills, and abilities to engage in the practice of clinical social work in an ethical and competent manner.

To reach the goals of supervision, per OAR 877-020-0012 supervisors and CSWAs are expected to discuss cases with each other based on case notes, charts, records, and audio or visual tapes of clients, if available. CSWAs must present to their supervisor their assessments, diagnoses, and treatment plans of clients seen by the CSWA. The treatment plans presented by the CSWA must be appropriate, and supervisors must focus on the therapeutic skill of the CSWA in promoting change in the client

What qualifies as direct client contact? Is a question the Board office frequently receives. "Direct contact" for purposes of meeting the requirements of a Plan of Supervision, as set out in Division 20 of the Board's rules, means clinical social work practice hours by a licensee that are in-person or via live video-conferencing or tele-conferencing with a client per OAR 877-001-0006.

We encourage CSWAs and supervisors to regularly discuss and incorporate Board rules into their supervision meetings.

OAR 877-020-0009 Requirements for CSWA
OAR 877-020-0010 Plan of Practice and Supervision
OAR 877-020-0012 Requirements of Supervision

Many answers to questions regarding supervision, reports, and processes can be found on the Board's [CSWA Information](#) and [FAQs](#) pages.



CURRENT LICENSING NUMBERS

By Kim Coleman
Licensing Manager**Current Licensed Numbers by Licensure Type & the increase since the March 2024 Newsletter:**LCSW— **6,616** (Active: 6,205, Semi-Retired: 238; Inactive: 173) Increase of + 206 licensees (3.2% +)CSWA— **1,880** (Active: 1,792, Inactive: 88) Decrease of - 45 licensees (-2.33% -)LMSW— **353** (Active: 337; Inactive: 16) Increase of + 13 licensees (3.8% +)RBSW— **32** (Active: 31; Inactive: 1) Decrease of -1 licensee (-3% -)**Total licensees for the BLSW =....****8,881**

→ That represents a total increase of +173 added licensees since
March 2024, which is a 2% growth.

APPLICATION APPROVALS

Did you know applicants do not need to wait for Board meetings to receive approval? Outside of Board meetings, applications are also approved on an interim basis by the Board Chair. Interim Approvals occur approximately every two weeks; there are no set dates for Interim Approvals.

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.

AS A REMINDER: If you have submitted it, or requested it, we most likely have it. Your application will be updated with the received documents when Board staff review the application. Applications are reviewed in the order they are received.

BLSW NEW HIRE FOR OFFICE SPECIALIST POSITION*Welcome to our Team!*

The Board of Licensed Social Workers recently hired NOELLE JOHNSON as our newest staff member. Noelle comes to us with an early childhood education background and has been a fast learner! Noelle's first day was Monday, July 15th, 2024, and a more detailed bio will be published in the Fall 2024 Board Newsletter. We are happy she is part of the team!

COMPLIANCE INVESTIGATIONS UPDATES

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:

2023:

(48) Cases Opened

(43) Cases Closed

(4) Application investigations with background disclosures for Board approval

2024: (to date)

(35) Cases Opened as of 07.19.2024

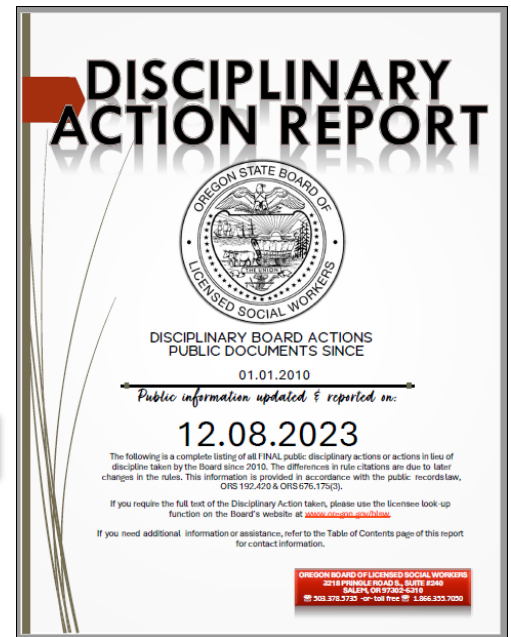
(82) Cases Closed as of 07.19.2024

Compliance staff are working at reducing the Board's backlog of cases. At our current rate of closure for 2024, we have set a goal to close 100+ cases for 2024.

To date, the Board has adjudicated 82 cases as of the July 2024 meeting.

We have (3) remaining board meetings after July!

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 the following:



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)
- **Noelle Johnson**, Office Specialist (full-time, limited duration)
- **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
- **Paddy Farr**, LCSW Position
- ****Vacant****, CSWA, LMSW or RBSW Position
- ****Vacant****, Public Member