



BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

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Pilot Program Note

a message from the Executive Director

Consideration for reducing LMFT intern hours

Oregon Revised Statutes currently set minimum required time for registered interns to practice under supervision. For LPC Interns, under ORS 675.715 (3), the language allows the Board to interpret a two year minimum length for internship; for LMFT interns under ORS 675.715 (4), the language can only be interpreted as three years for the minimum. The Legislature recently opened the door to change that discrepancy. A new law gives the Board authority to set an "equivalent" time that LMFT interns must practice under supervision. The law will take effect in January of 2014.

Once the law takes effect, the Board hopes to have an administrative rule in place that would allow the minimum years for LMFT interns to 2 years. The change will affect only those who apply for internships after the law takes effect. Those who are already LMFT interns will need to complete at least 3 years under supervision.

During the last few years we have heard discussions about the possibility of combining state licensing boards in some form. Several actions during the last year have increased the interest in this issue, including an audit by the Secretary of State, interest from the Governor, and legislative proposals to create one large licensing agency.

In the meantime, we have had ongoing discussions with the Governor's office that moved the Board of Psychologist Examiners and the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists to participate in a pilot project to institute a new governance model shared between the two boards.

Members of both boards view this pilot project as an opportunity to shape the future of behavioral health licensing boards and to benefit from the Boards' ability to influence the way the agencies are combined, rather than having a structure imposed by others. The pilot project would **not** consolidate the boards, but would consolidate some administrative tasks associated with both boards. The two boards will remain separate and keep their existing functions and authority.

Under the pilot project, the Boards have hired one director with a second person to support the director's functions. The Executive Director is Becky Eklund, who has served as the director since 2008; Janelle Houston will provide additional support to both boards. Other Board staff members will continue in their current roles. The impact to licensees will be minimal although there may be some process changes to support the new structure.

The project will not change licensing requirements; existing staff will conduct investigations of complaints; the respective boards will continue to review complaints; budgets will remain separate although there will be some cost sharing, e.g., director salary; and licensee and applicant information will continue to be kept confidential.

The Boards will review the pilot project in July of 2015 to identify lessons and evaluate the success. The Boards are excited to support this unique opportunity designed to bridge gaps in service efforts for our communities, our long-term effectiveness, and look forward to continuing to improve our service to constituents.

~Becky Eklund, Executive Director

Modification to Professional Disclosure Statement

The Board has recently modified the sample professional disclosure statement (PDS). An updated version for licensees and registered interns may be found on the Board’s website (www.oregon.gov/oblpcct). Select the “Forms” link on the left side of the Board’s webpage and refer to Form 5 for a PDS example. All licensees and interns should be aware that the law and administration rule require you to distribute a PDS to each of your clients. A waiver for distributing a PDS is available to licensees and interns whose circumstances do not apply. Please contact the Board office if you have any questions.

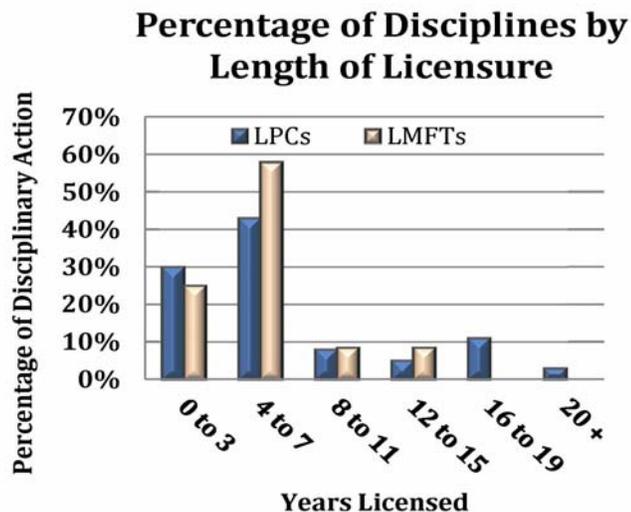
Age Limitation Legislation: Treating Minors Without Parental Consent, Effective January 2014

Senate Bill 491, passed by the Oregon Legislature during the 2013 regular session, amends state law, to allow LPCs and LMFTs to treat minors 14 years of age and older without parental consent or knowledge. The change in law puts LPCs and LMFTs on par with psychologists, social workers, nurses, and physicians in terms of treating minors without parental consent. The law change also exempts health and mental health care providers from civil liability for advising parents without consent of the minor or for diagnosing or treating the minor without parental consent.

The law requires that the person providing treatment must involve the parents of the minor before the end of treatment unless the parents refuse or there are clear indications to the contrary. A therapist who decides not to involve the parents must document that fact in the treatment record. This part of the law does not apply to a minor who has been sexually abused by a parent or if the minor is emancipated.

Discipline Statistics

The graph below shows the percentage of disciplinary action taken on LPCs and LMFTs for the past five years, broken down by the length of time the licensee has held their Oregon license.



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