

STATEMENT OF SCOPE

MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

Rule No.: MPSW 3

Relating to: Practice Requirement for Licensure as a Clinical Social Worker

Rule Type: Permanent

1. Finding/nature of emergency (Emergency Rule only): N/A

2. Detailed description of the objective of the proposed rule:

The objective of the rule is to remove the licensure requirement for clinical social workers to complete the 3,000 hours of supervised practice within 2 years and to establish the number of face-to-face hours required for diagnosis and treatment of individuals based upon the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) or its equivalent.

3. Description of the existing policies relevant to the rule, new policies proposed to be included in the rule, and an analysis of policy alternatives:

The current rule contains a requirement that an applicant for a clinical social worker license must complete their 3,000 hours supervised clinical social work practice in no less than 2 years, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact and including DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals.

The Legislature enacted 2001 Act 80 which removed the 2 year requirement and inserted the 3,000 hours requirement. This rule would remove the 2 year requirement to be consistent with the statutory threshold.

2017 Act 356 created a statutory requirement for the 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact to include the diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on the applicable edition of the DSM or its equivalent. The Act also authorizes the Board to establish how many of the 1,000 hours, not to exceed 600 hours, are required for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on DSM to qualify for licensure.

4. Detailed explanation of statutory authority for the rule (including the statutory citation and language):

15.08 (5) (b) Each examining board shall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession.

457.03 (1) Upon the advice of the social worker section, marriage and family therapist section, and professional counselor section, promulgate rules establishing minimum standards for educational programs that must be completed for certification or licensure under this chapter and for supervised clinical training that must be completed for licensure as a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or professional counselor under this chapter and approve educational programs and supervised clinical training programs in accordance with those standards.

457.03 (3) Upon the advice of the social worker section, promulgate rules establishing levels of social work practice for individuals with master's or doctoral degrees in social work, in addition to the levels of practice for which certificates are granted under s. 457.08 (2) and (3), and establishing appropriate educational, training, experience, examination, and continuing education requirements for certification and renewal of a certificate at each level of practice established in rules promulgated under this subsection.

457.08 (5) In its discretion, the examining board may establish a number of hours required for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on the applicable edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or its equivalent for purposes of s. 457.08 (4) (c). The number of hours required under this subsection may not exceed 600.

5. Estimate of amount of time that state employees will spend developing the rule and of other resources necessary to develop the rule:

125 hours

6. List with description of all entities that may be affected by the proposed rule:

Applicants for the clinical social worker license.

7. Summary and preliminary comparison with any existing or proposed federal regulation that is intended to address the activities to be regulated by the proposed rule:

None

8. Anticipated economic impact of implementing the rule (note if the rule is likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses):

Minimal to none. It is not likely to have a significant economic impact on small businesses.

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Authorized Signature

Date Submitted