



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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Testimony on Assembly Bill 217 May 27, 2015

Mr. Chairman and committee members, thank you for the opportunity to speak to you today on behalf of Assembly Bill 217.

Earlier this year, the Assembly Committee on Family Law, which I chair, held a public hearing on Clearinghouse Rule 14-057, a rule promulgated by the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling and Social Work Examining Board (MPSW Board) that was intended to bring the education and experience requirements for clinical social workers into line with the statutory requirements. Most of the proposed changes were noncontroversial, but a number of social workers testified against the proposed deletion of the requirement that clinical social workers have experience with Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM) diagnosis and treatment of individuals. According to one of the speakers, the DSM is the gold standard in the field, and other speakers agreed that clinical social workers should have working knowledge of its content.

The DSM requirement is not in the statutes, but the MPSW Board added it to the Administrative Code in 2002. In the wake of 2011 Act 21, which reformed the rulemaking process, it was suggested by some that the MPSW Board no longer had the authority to enforce the DSM requirement, and a divided board approved CR 14-057, which deleted the requirement. (Before the board as a whole voted on the clearinghouse rule, the board's Social Worker Section had voted to *reject* the proposed deletion.)

A number of Family Law members indicated an interest in resolving this situation by incorporating the DSM requirement into the statutes, and the Board agreed to recall CR 14-057 while the Legislature looks at the issue.

Under current law, a person who wishes to be licensed as a clinical social worker must have engaged in at least 3,000 hours of clinical social work practice, including at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact. AB 217 simply requires that the 3,000 hours also include the diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on the applicable edition of the DSM. It does not set a minimum number of hours of DSM diagnosis and treatment because the current language in the Administrative Code does not do so, but I am aware that some stakeholders interpret the current code to mean that applicants must have at least 1,000 hours of DSM experience. I was not prepared to go that far during the initial drafting process, but I look forward to learning more from other speakers who will testify today.

Thank you for your consideration. I will be happy to answer any questions you may have.

Current language

ter January 2003 No. 565; CR 03-090: am. (2) Register June 2004 No. 582, eff. 7-1-04.



MPSW 3.09 Application for licensure as a clinical social worker. In addition to paying the fee under s. 440.05 (1), Stats., an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker shall submit the completed, signed application form and:

(1) A certificate of professional education, signed and sealed by the chancellor, dean or registrar of the school from which the applicant has graduated with a master's or doctoral degree in social work with a concentration in clinical social work, including completion of supervised clinical field training. In lieu of supervised clinical field training, applicants may submit an affidavit indicating that they have completed 1,500 hours of supervised clinical social work experience in not less than one year within a primary clinical setting, which includes at least 500 hours of face-to-face client contact and is supervised as provided in s. MPSW 4.01.

(2) Verification that the school or program which awarded the social work degree was accredited by, or a pre-accreditation program, of the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) at the time the applicant graduated from the program or school, or that a degree awarded by a foreign institution of higher learning has been determined by the CSWE to be equivalent to a program accredited by the CSWE. If the applicant's education was not received in English, the applicant must demonstrate proficiency in English by achieving a score of 550 (or 213 on the computer-based exam) or above on the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or an equivalent score on an equivalent examination.

(3) Except as provided in sub. (3m), an affidavit that the applicant, after receiving a master's or doctoral degree and after receiving certification as an advanced practice social worker or an independent social worker, has completed at least 3,000 hours of 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, under the supervision of a supervisor approved by the social worker section. Pre-licensed supervised practice shall meet the criteria under s. MPSW 4.01.

(3m) An applicant who after receiving a master's or doctoral degree in social work and completing any portion of the applicant's 3,000 hours of supervised clinical social work practice outside of Wisconsin in no less than 2 years may be given credit for those hours provided they included at least 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact, or a proportionate number thereof, and also included DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals, completed under the supervision of a supervisor acceptable to the social worker section.

(4) Verification of successful completion of the examination approved by the section, or verification that the applicant is a board certified diplomat (BCD) of the American Board of Examiners in clinical social work.

(5) Verification of the applicant's credential in all jurisdictions in which the applicant has ever been credentialed.

(6) All pertinent information relating to any convictions or pending charges for all crimes and any traffic offenses which did or could result in revocation or suspension of the applicant's driver's license.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; CR 01-153: am. (3), Register July 2002 No. 559, eff. 1-1-03; CR 02-105: am. (intro.), (3) and (5), Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11-1-02; reprinted to restore dropped copy in (3), Register January 2003 No. 565; CR 03-090: am. (2) Register June 2004 No. 582, eff. 7-1-04; CR 05-042: am. (1) Register December 2005 No. 600, eff. 1-1-06; CR 08-089: am. (3), cr. (3m) Register June 2009 No. 642, eff. 7-1-09.

MPSW 3.11 Temporary certificate or license.

(1) The social worker section may issue a temporary certificate permitting the use of the title "social worker" to an individual who pays the fee under s. 440.05 (6), Stats., and who meets all the qual-

ifications for the social worker certificate except for passing the required examination.

(2) The social worker section may issue a temporary certificate permitting the use of the title "advanced practice social worker" to an individual who pays the fee under s. 440.05 (6), Stats., and who meets all the qualifications for the advanced practice social worker certificate except for passing the required examination.

(3) The social worker section may issue a temporary certificate permitting the use of the title "independent social worker" to an individual who pays the fee under s. 440.05 (6), Stats., and who meets all the qualifications for the independent social worker certificate except for passing the required examination.

(4) The social worker section may issue a temporary license permitting the practice of clinical social work and the use of the title "clinical social worker" to an individual who pays the fee under s. 440.05 (6), Stats., and who meets all the qualifications for the clinical social worker license except for passing the required examination.

(5) The temporary credential expires upon notification of successful completion of the examination or expiration of the 9 month period, whichever is earlier. The temporary credential may be renewed once.

History: Cr. Register, November, 1993, No. 455, eff. 12-1-93; am. Register, December, 1995, No. 480, eff. 1-1-96; CR 01-095: am. Register March 2002 No. 555, eff. 4-1-02; CR 02-105: r. and recr., Register October 2002 No. 562, eff. 11-1-02; CR 05-041: am. (5) Register December 2005 No. 600, eff. 1-1-06; CR 13-094: am. (5) Register September 2014 No. 705, eff. 10-14.

MPSW 3.12 Reciprocal certificate or license.

(1) The social worker section shall grant a certificate as a social worker under s. 457.08 (1), Stats., to an applicant who pays the fee required by s. 440.05 (2), Stats., and provides evidence of all of the following to the section:

(a) The applicant has a current credential as a social worker or the substantial equivalent in good standing in another state or territory of the United States.

(b) The requirements for the grant of the credential in the other state or territory of the United States are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the grant of the certificate under s. 457.08 (1), Stats.

(c) The applicant has disclosed all discipline ever taken or currently pending against the applicant or any professional credential held by the applicant by any credentialing authority of any state or territory of the United States.

(d) If the applicant has been convicted of a crime, or of a traffic offense which did or could result in the suspension or revocation of the applicant's driver's license, or the applicant has such charges pending against the applicant, the applicant has disclosed all information necessary for the section to determine whether the circumstances of the pending charge or conviction are substantially related to the duties of practice under a social worker certificate.

(e) The applicant passes an examination approved by the social worker section that tests knowledge of state law relating to social work.

(2) The social worker section shall grant a certificate as an advanced practice social worker under s. 457.08 (1) and (2), Stats., to an applicant who pays the fee required by s. 440.05 (2), Stats., and provides evidence of all of the following to the section:

(a) The applicant has a current credential as an advanced practice social worker or the substantial equivalent in good standing in another state or territory of the United States.

(b) The requirements for the grant of the credential in the other state or territory of the United States are substantially equivalent to the requirements for the grant of a certificate under s. 457.08 (2), Stats.