



Ohio Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

CSWMFT Board Spring 2024 Newsletter

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Art Therapy and Music Therapy

The rules necessary to issue the art and music therapy licenses, as well as other rule changes necessary for practicing art and music therapy, have been filed with the Joint Committee on Agency Rule Review (JCARR). Once JCARR completes its review, the rules can be finalized. These rules were issued for public comment twice and reflect the comments received during those comment periods. During this time when the rules are under review, Board staff members are working with the eLicense team to develop and implement the licensure applications. While it is our intention to open the applications for both license types as soon as possible and at the same time, we are prioritizing the Art Therapy license as there is a “grandparenting” provision that expires in October 2024.

What Happens If I Am Not Using My License? What About If I Want to Retire?

We hear from licensees who may not be working in an occupation that requires a license. They express concerns about maintaining their license. Is it a problem to hold a license but not be using it? No. Once licensed, one may continue to hold a license if the renewal requirements are met every two years. No State of Ohio law or rule requires a licensee to be actively practicing to keep their license.

What about retirement? The Board does not have a “retirement” status, nor does the Board have a means of “closing” a license when someone retires. Those who are leaving the workforce may choose to continue to renew their license; request inactive/escrow status; or allow their license to expire by not renewing it. Remember, if you are in private practice, you will need to retain any client records for at least seven years following the last session with the client.

Supervisors and Submitting Hours

Occasionally, a licensee will contact the Board indicating that a supervisor is refusing to submit training supervision hours to the Board. Licensee with Supervision designation (an “S”) cannot refuse to submit supervision hours to the Board upon a request by a licensee whom they provided training supervision. The supervisor must submit any hours of training supervision, and if appropriate, not provide a recommendation. If the supervisor is not recommending a supervisee, they should be sure to clearly explain why a recommendation is not appropriate. The reasons for not recommending a supervisee should be based on practice-related issues. Supervisors who fail to submit hours we requested to do so can be subject to an investigation and possible discipline.

New Board Members

On March 29, 2024, Governor Mike DeWine announced the appointment of new Members to the CSWMFT Board. These appointments are in response to the new art therapy and music therapy licenses.

- Nicole G. McCarthy (Public Member – Music Therapy) of Columbus (Franklin Co.), term beginning March 29, 2024, and ending October 10, 2026.
- Sarah A. McCullough (Music Therapist) of Zanesville (Muskingum Co.), term beginning March 29, 2024, and ending October 10, 2025.
- Rebecca D. Miller (Art Therapist) of Lakewood (Cuyahoga Co), term beginning March 29, 2024, and ending October 10, 2025.
- Erin K. Spring (Music Therapy) of Circleville (Pickaway Co.), term beginning March 29, 2024, and ending October 10, 2024.

Counseling Compact

The Counseling Compact took a positive step forward when it hired an Executive Director. Greg Searls assumed the role at the end of 2023. Greg served as the executive director of several licensure boards in Wyoming, including the board responsible for licensing counselors, social workers, and MFTs. The Counseling Compact Commission continues to work on rules necessary to implement the Compact. A data system developer has been selected and will begin working soon on the system necessary to manage the issuance of privileges among the Compact member states. More information can be found at <https://counselingcompact.org/>.

Social Work Compact

SB 90 reported out of the House Commerce and Labor Committee on January 10. At present, the bill is not yet scheduled for a vote by the House. Given the popularity of compacts, we could anticipate this bill passing into law relatively soon though. When it passes, Board Members and staff will be ready to work with other states to make the Compact a reality. You can find more details here: <https://swcompact.org/>.

Staff Updates

The Board has experienced some recent staff changes. We have wished happy retirement to two colleagues and welcomed several new ones. In the fall of 2023, Audit Coordinator Paula Broome retired and at the end of March, Deputy Director Bill Hegarty retired. Investigator Margaret-Ann Adorjan was promoted into the vacancy created by Bill’s retirement as the head of the investigations division. Joining Margaret-Ann in a management role, Kevin Fowler will be leading the licensing team. Kevin joined the Board in January. Other staff changes include the addition of Charla Robinson as a License Examiner and Whitney Caudill as an investigator. As of April, Maria Eaton has joined the Board. She will be responsible for MFT applications and license

renewals, a position previously held by Tiffany Coutts, who has transitioned into a compliance and audit role within the Board.

Board Emails

When we need to communicate with licensees and stakeholders, we rely on the emails provided by licensees to manage their licenses as well as the email addresses for stakeholders who have asked to receive emails. You can ensure you are hearing from the Board by signing up for the email lists here: <https://cswmft.ohio.gov/about-the-board/subscribe>. If you have previously unsubscribed from emails and are reading this because it was forwarded to you, please click on the link above and subscribe. We realize you, like us, receive more emails than you can process. We do our best to only send out communications when we have important information to share. Information that may be less critical is often shared via the Board's social media accounts, such as Facebook.

Ethics: Can I Do That?

By: Tracey Hosom, Investigator

"Can I write an ESA letter?"

"Can I complete an FMLA form?"

"Can I diagnose and treat autism spectrum disorders?"

When licensees get requests from clients to provide certain services it can be tricky to navigate while staying within your scope of practice. Which leads to the question: How do I develop a specific competency?

Responsible licensees want to provide an appropriate standard of care, while gaining new skills. However, It is all about protecting clients from possible harm, as noted in Ohio Administrative Code 4757-5-02 (see below).

If the board receives a complaint against a licensee that appears to relate to a specific competency to provide a specific treatment or service, we are going to ask: Is this a competency that you have developed? What training have you obtained? Have you completed coursework in the competency area? Have you received supervision? Do you have current or prior experience? For example, if you have taken a continuing education workshop on play therapy, it does not make you a play therapist, however, if you completed a college course and received some supervision, you may be qualified to provide play therapy. Be able to demonstrate your education, training, and supervised experience. Given the variety of areas of practice and competency, the Board does not have a prescribed list of training to "qualify" an area of competency. However, from time to time it has outlined guidance around specific issues such as emotional support animals. You can find a link below.

Additionally, if you are a supervisor, be aware of the competency level of the licensees you are supervising. You cannot delegate responsibilities to licensees if they are unqualified to provide them. Refer to OAC 4757-5-02 (C).

Board guidance regarding ESA letters: <https://cswmft.ohio.gov/wps/portal/gov/cswmft/for-professionals/resources-for-professionals/emotional-support-animal-guidance> .

*O.A. C.4757-5-02 (A) (2) Licensees and registrants shall practice only within the competency areas for which they are qualified by education and training. Licensees and registrants shall maintain appropriate standards of care based on their individual professional license. **Standards of care shall be defined as what an ordinary, reasonable professional with similar training would have done in a similar circumstance.***

And (3) While developing new skills in specialty areas, a counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist shall take steps to ensure the competence of their work to protect the clients

from possible harm. A counselor, social worker, or marriage and family therapist shall claim skills in specialty areas only after appropriate education, training, and while receiving appropriate peer consultation.

Questions or comments can be sent to Investigator Tracey Hosom at: Tracey.Hosom@cswb.ohio.gov.

Board Actions/Discipline

September 2023 Board Meeting

Social Workers:

Cinnamon Reiheld, LISW: Boundaries. Additional CEUs.

Counselors:

Shelley R. Mathias, LPCC: Felony conviction. Surrender of license.

Thomas Russell, LPCC: Improper Supervision. License suspension and additional training.

Stephanie Ryall, LPCC: Boundaries. License Restriction, personal counseling, supervision.

November 2023 Board Meeting

Social Workers:

Dan Pugsley, LISW: Boundary violations. Surrender of License.

January 2024 Board Meeting

Social Workers:

Joseph Loizzo, LISW: Scope of practice. Retirement of license.

Counselors:

Matthew Hollo, LPCC: Boundaries. License suspension, supervision, restriction.

Heather Thomas, LPCC: Failure to cooperate. License Revoked.

March 2024 Board Meeting

Social Workers:

Ashley Kolbe, LSW: Record keeping. Counseling and additional ethics

Charles Stokes, LSW: Sexual Relationship. Surrender of license.

Counselors:

Tiffany Drago, LPCC: Non-sexual boundaries. Reprimand, supervision designation restricted, additional CEUs.

Sarah Poppell, LPC: Non-sexual boundaries and documentation. License suspension and personal counseling.

Upcoming Board Meetings

Below are the dates when the Board will next meet. The Board usually meets on the 19th floor of the Riffe Office Tower in downtown Columbus. The second date is reserved in case the Board must hold a hearing.

- May 16/17
- July 18/19
- September 19/20
- November 21/22

Details, including Committee meeting times and agendas are available about one week prior to the meeting at <https://cswmft.ohio.gov/about-the-board/news-and-events/events>.



Ohio CSWMFT Board | 77 South High Street, 24th Floor Room 2468, Columbus, OH 43215
<https://cswmft.ohio.gov/home>