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BOARD BULLETIN

MINNESOTA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK NEWSLETTER



MESSAGE FROM BOARD CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the Board Bulletin!

We are excited to launch new Board communication strategies including the **GovDelivery Service**, a digital communications platform used exclusively by over 1,800 government agencies, the new **Board Bulletin quarterly newsletter**, and a “new and improved” **website**. These new strategies demonstrate the Board’s commitment to be responsive, better engage our customers and stakeholders, and improve access to Board information. With over 15,000 currently licensed social workers, and numerous stakeholders, the *Board Bulletin* is a new way to stay connected with licensing requirements, educational innovations, and important topics concerning social work regulation and practice in Minnesota. Please continue to visit the Board website for [online services](#), [resources](#), and [public Board data](#).

The Board’s public safety mission creates the foundation for the Board’s work. Fifteen volunteer [Board Members](#), including five public members and ten licensed members, provide oversight to make certain we meet the needs of citizens and promote a diverse and qualified workforce. The demand for our services has grown in response to a significant increase in the number of applicants, licensees, and complaints. Core services provided to meet our mission include **1) licensing qualified social workers, 2) investigating and resolving complaints when services do not meet standards, and 3) providing outreach and education**.

The Board’s current [Strategic Plan](#) guides our work to set outcome-based priorities and results, and promotes efficient and accountable services as we carry out our mission. We work collaboratively with state and federal agencies to monitor state, national and international issues, and to respond effectively to emerging policy and social work practice issues. The Board is engaged in the following priority initiatives:

- **Biennial budget planning:** Budget planning is underway for fiscal years 2020-2021 (July 1, 2019- June 30, 2021). As you may know, the Board is entirely fee supported. This new budget proposal will likely include a fee increase based on critical need and budget projections. Visit the [Budget Reports](#) page at the Board’s website for more information. [Click here](#) to manage your subscription preferences and subscribe to email updates about the budget process.
- **Social work license mobility and portability:** As the use of technology in practice expands and social workers and clients become more mobile, the need to improve the ability to become licensed in multiple states has become a national priority. We are working with the [Association of Social Work Boards \(ASWB\)](#) and other social work licensing agencies across the US and Canada to explore and improve license mobility.
- **Expanded education and outreach:** We are developing an online jurisprudence exam by late 2019, and online educational modules to provide easy access to free training opportunities for licensees and applicants.
- **A “deep dive” of the Board’s Practice Act:** The Board’s Legislation and Rules Committee has begun a review of the Board’s Practice Act (MS 148E) to ensure relevant regulation, including licensure mobility and workforce issues, and to create operational efficiencies where possible.

In closing, there is much exciting work to do. It is our privilege to serve the Board, and Minnesotans, as Chair and Executive Director. We look forward to keeping you informed of the important work of the Board. Thanks to Board Members for their countless hours of volunteer service, expertise, leadership, and passion, and to our extremely competent Board Staff, who are committed to carrying out the Board’s mission of protecting the public and serving the residents of Minnesota. We must also recognize the critical work provided by licensed social workers as you serve individuals, families, and communities in need. Thank you for your dedication, professionalism, and service to the profession!

Best regards,

Angie Hirsch, LICSW Board Chair & Kate Zacher-Pate, LSW, Executive Director