



# NORTH CAROLINA SOCIAL WORK CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE BOARD

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## **ANNUAL REPORT**

July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2019

The NCSWCLB Administrative office is located at 1207 S. Cox Street, Suite F in Asheboro, NC. The Board met 8 times in regular business session over the course of the year to complete the duties and functions as assigned by Chapter 90B, Social Worker Certification and Licensure Act, North Carolina General Statutes.

### 1. **Board Members:**

**Garlande Powell**, MSW, LCSW, LCAS, CCS, Chair, Professional Member – Private Sector

**S. Kelley Ryan, Jr.**, MSW, LCSW, Vice-Chair, Professional Member - Private Sector

**John L. Blevins**, MPA, Secretary-Treasurer, Public Member [Appointed 7/23/18]

**Veronica Hardy**, PhD, MSW, LCSW, Professional Member – Educator

**Anne Johnson**, BA, CSW: Professional Member – Public Sector

**Laurie C. Ray**, MSW, CMSW: Professional Member – Private Sector

**G. Mathias Bishop**, BS, Public Member

1a.	Number of licensees supervised by the board: .....	11,450
2.	Applicants for examination: .....	1597
3.	Applicants denied examination (ineligible): .....	03
4.	Applicants sitting for examination (any level):.....	1446
5.	Applicants issued initial certification/licensure: .....	1844
5a.	Number who failed the exam:	
	• Applicants failed Bachelors level exam:.....	04
	• Applicants failed Masters level exam:.....	07
	• Applicants failed Advanced Generalist level exam:.....	00
	• Applicants failed Clinical level exam:.....	719
6.	Number of applicants applying for comity (substantial equivalency).....	200
7.	Applicants issued certification/licensure by substantial equivalency.....	199

- 7a. Number of official complaints received involving licensed and unlicensed activities:..... 46
- 7b. Number of disciplinary/adverse actions taken against certificants/licensees, or other actions taken against non-licensees, including injunctive relief: ..... 09
8. Certificates/licenses suspended or revoked through disciplinary action: ..... 03
9. Number of certificates/licenses terminated for any reason other than failure to renew (Voluntary Surrender): ..... 01
10. The Board has introduced legislation to amend N.C.G.S. § 90B to address the following:
- a) In order to be licensed as a clinical social worker in North Carolina, an applicant must pass a nationally administered examination. The national examination recognized and utilized by all states is administered by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB). In 2016, ASWB adopted policy which requires member boards to comply with the ASWB exam use policies which require candidates sitting for the clinical exam to have a MSW degree from the appropriate accrediting body and two years of post MSW clinical experience. NC General Statute § 90B-7(f) currently allows examination prior to obtaining two years of post MSW clinical experience. The Board has revised language in NC General Statute § 90B-7(f) to address the exam mandate for the associate licensee in order to continue participating in the recognized national exam.
  - b) In order to be issued the Certified Social Work Manager credential an applicant currently may hold a BSW, MSW or DSW degree. ASWB’s policy for use of the Advanced Generalist exam requires the MSW degree. The Board has revised language in NC General Statute § 90B-7(e) to address the degree requirement for the CSWM credential in order to continue utilizing the Advanced Generalist exam.
  - c) Current statutory requirements for board composition include at least two members be “certified,” three members be licensed, and two members represent the public at large. As the “certified” credentials are voluntary, the board has witnessed a decrease in the number of individuals seeking and maintaining the certified credential, and therefore not available for appointment. As the number of licensees has steadily increased, and the number of certified social workers has steadily decreased the Board has revised language in NC General Statute § 90B-5 to allow for the same number of appointees but to reflect the current balance of certified and licensed practitioners to ensure adequate representation and avoid lack of quorum for conducting the business of the state.
  - d) Currently all licenses shall be renewed on or before June 30, causing an influx of renewals and substantial administrative activity during the month of June. Due to the increasing number of licensees in the state and the limited number of Board Staff, the Board has revised language in NC General Statute § 90B-9 to change the expiration date to two years from the date of issuance, in an effort to spread renewals throughout the year, rather than only the month of June.

11. The Board completed the process of amending and readopting the Rules classified as “necessary with substantive public impact” in 2017. The board anticipates the need to revise rules related to the amended Statute once it becomes law. This will include revisions to the examination section 21 NCAC .0301, as there is language that addresses taking and passing the examination within two years. There is also language that is not consistent with the ASWB exam use policy that will need to be revised. Additionally, 21 NCAC 63 .0401(a) will need to be revised once the statute is passed, because all licenses will be issued for two years, so we no longer need to address if a certification or licensure is issued for less than a full two-year period. Lastly, the Board would like to remove gender specific pronouns within the rules. The Board anticipates submitting corrections to these Rules if the pending legislation is passed in the coming year.