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PERMANENT ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER

BLSW 5-2022

CHAPTER 877

BOARD OF LICENSED SOCIAL WORKERS

FILED

08/08/2022 1:42 PM
ARCHIVES DIVISION
SECRETARY OF STATE
& LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

FILING CAPTION: Amendments to rules regarding social work licensing - Continuing Education Requirements and Reporting

EFFECTIVE DATE: 08/09/2022

AGENCY APPROVED DATE: 04/15/2022

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RULES:

877-025-0001, 877-025-0006, 877-025-0011, 877-025-0021

AMEND: 877-025-0001

RULE TITLE: General

NOTICE FILED DATE: 01/20/2022

RULE SUMMARY: The amendment specifies that the continuing education requirements are located in Division 025 of this chapter.

RULE TEXT:

A regulated social worker must complete and report continuing education according to the requirements of OAR Chapter 877, Division 025. A certified social work associate is not required to complete or report continuing education.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675-510-675.600

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.510 - 675.600

AMEND: 877-025-0006

RULE TITLE: Types of Continuing Education

NOTICE FILED DATE: 01/20/2022

RULE SUMMARY: The amendments clarify the process for approving CE providers and courses; allows employer sponsored CE for all license types; and allows CE for practicum supervisors.

RULE TEXT:

To meet the requirements of OAR 877-025-0011, continuing education must be one of the following:

(1) A conference, seminar, book, journal article or workshop that:

- (a) Addresses subjects related to the regulated social worker's work practice;
- (b) Is attended (or read as applicable) by the regulated social worker in person or on-line; and
- (c) Is provided or approved by a credentialing body recognized and approved by the board. The board considers the following criteria and practices, among others, in determining whether to recognize and approve a credentialing body:
 - (A) Use of an established process for determining which training to provide or approve;
 - (B) Use of an established process for determining who will present the training;
 - (C) Provision of written materials that demonstrate the relevance of the training to the field of clinical social work;
 - (D) Establishment of an appropriate number of continuing education credits for the training;
 - (E) Verification of the credentials of the presenters of the training;
 - (F) Use of an established system for the evaluation of presenters; and
 - (G) Provision of a certificate of completion to those who attend, based on actual attendance.

(2) A conference, seminar, book, journal article, or workshop described in subsection (1) that is not provided or approved by a credentialing body recognized and approved by the board may be approved by the Board based on the regulated social worker's written application.

(a) The application must contain the following information:

- (A) Name and summary of the event including a brief description sufficient to show how the training applies to the applicant's practice and that it meets the requirements of section (1)(a) of this rule;
- (B) Date of the event;
- (C) Name and credentials of each presenter;
- (D) Number of continuing education units requested; and
- (E) Copy of the certificate of completion.

(b) The application must be received by the at least 60 days prior to the renewal deadline (the last day of the birth month of the regulated social worker).

(c) No more than 10 hours of continuing education described in OAR 877-025-0006(2) may be credited in a report.

(3) An in-service, agency-sponsored program that otherwise meets the requirements of subsection (2) of this rule section. CE credit from such a qualifying in-service can be used for up to half the applicable CE hours required for renewal.

(4) A course related to social work completed at an accredited college or university.

(5) A training video or audio recording approved by a credentialing body recognized and approved by the board using the standards provided in section (1)(c) of this rule. Successful completion is demonstrated by a document of completion awarded to the regulated social worker by the credentialing body.

(6) Participation in a study group, subject to the following limitations:

- (a) The group must contain a minimum of five and a maximum of ten — mental health professionals who meet for a minimum of an hour on a scheduled basis to discuss topics directly related to the field of social work;
- (b) The focus of the group's meeting must be a presentation or discussion of a book or article published by a professional body;
- (c) The topics of the group's discussion must be directly related to established mental health care and relevant to good practice;

- (d) A maximum of two hours may be credited for a single group meeting;
- (e) Credit for participation in a study group must be approved by the board. To apply for approval a regulated social worker must submit the names of the group members and discussion topics to the board. Continuing education credit for participation in a study group is limited to no more than one-half of the total number of hours required per renewal period.
- (7) Development and presentation of a course offered at a conference, workshop, or seminar that would be eligible for credit under section (1) or (2) of this rule, limited to the number of hours earned by participants in the course.
- (8) A language course taken and completed with a passing grade at an accredited college, community college or university for the purpose of improving the regulated social worker's capacity to serve clients with increased competency. No more than 25% of the continuing education credited in a report can originate from language credit as provided for in this subsection.
- (9) Supervision of social work practicum, internship or other field placement students enrolled in a social work education program accredited by or considered in candidacy status by a credentialing body recognized by the board, limited to no more than 6 hours per academic year. CE hours may be prorated based on completion of a partial academic year.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.510-675.600

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.510 - 675.600

AMEND: 877-025-0011

RULE TITLE: Required Hours of Continued Education

NOTICE FILED DATE: 01/20/2022

RULE SUMMARY: The amendments would allow CE carry-over for all license types; reduce ethics requirements for LMSE and RBSW to reflect total CE requirements for each license type; and require CE in cultural competence.

RULE TEXT:

- (1) A regulated social worker is required to report continuing education for all periods during which the person's registration or license is active except for the period covered by the initial certificate of registration or license, unless a waiver is granted under section (2) of this rule. An initial issuance is the first issuance of the board of a certificate of registration or license to the regulated social worker.
- (2) Following the first renewal of a certificate of registration or license, except when the regulated social worker is on inactive status, the regulated social worker must complete continuing education in each reporting period at the times described in OAR 877-025-0021. The holder of an inactive certificate of registration or license is not required to submit the biennial report.
- (3) A report covering a two-year period must include:
 - (a) For a registered baccalaureate social worker, a minimum of 20 hours of creditable continuing education, including a minimum of 3 hours of ethics and 3 hours in cultural competence.
 - (b) For a master's social worker, a minimum of 30 hours of creditable continuing education, including a minimum of 4 hours of ethics and 4 hours in cultural competence.
 - (c) For a licensed clinical social worker, a minimum of 40 hours of creditable continuing education, including a minimum of 6 hours of ethics and 6 hours in cultural competence.
- (4) A regulated social worker who reports more than the total hours required for a two-year reporting period may carry over the excess hours to the next required report. No more than 10 hours may be carried over to the next reporting period.
- (5) In a report that covers a shorter period than two years, as may happen in the case of the first report by a new regulated social worker or following the reactivation of a registration or license, the number of hours required by subsection (c) of this section is pro-rated.
- (6) Upon timely written request of a regulated social worker, made as soon as the regulated social worker is aware of the possible need for a waiver, the board may reduce the number of hours required by section (1) of this rule in the event the regulated social worker is unable, due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the regulated social worker, to complete the number of hours of continued education required by this division of rules.
- (7) A reduction authorized by the board would normally reflect the regulated social worker's ability to attend training during the time not affected by the adverse circumstances leading to the request. For instance, a regulated social worker unaffected by the adverse circumstance during the first year of a two-year reporting period would be expected to obtain 20 hours of credit.
- (8) Examples of circumstances that may justify a waiver are:
 - (a) A circumstance beyond the reasonable control of the regulated social worker makes it impracticable to attend training for an extended time.
 - (b) The health of the regulated social worker or of another person makes it impracticable to attend training for an extended time.
- (9) Continuing education in cultural competence must meet requirements established by the Oregon Health Authority under the provisions of ORS 413.450, 676.850 and OAR 943-090-0010(3).

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.510-675.600

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.510 - 675.600

AMEND: 877-025-0021

RULE TITLE: Reporting Requirements

NOTICE FILED DATE: 01/20/2022

RULE SUMMARY: The amendments would specify that CE be completed before the end of the licensee's renewal month to be considered for current renewal; delete odd-number/even-number license reference for CE reporting.

RULE TEXT:

(1) Regulated social workers must report the completion of continuing education every two years in a manner prescribed by the board. The report must be made at the time the regulated social worker submits an application to renew a certificate or license and must be submitted before the end of the licensee's birthday renewal month. Continuing education after the end of the licensee's birthday renewal month may not be accepted to meet the requirements of the prior renewal period, but may be accepted to meet the CE requirements for the new renewal period.

(2) The report is part of the renewal application and must contain information sufficient to demonstrate that the regulated social worker has met the requirements in this division of rules. A regulated social worker who fails to meet the requirements is subject to a denial of the application for renewal or to sanction by the board unless the failure was due to circumstances beyond the reasonable control of the regulated social worker and the regulated social worker agrees to a plan to compensate for the deficiency.

(3) The Board conducts routine, random audits of compliance with continuing education requirements. A regulated social worker must retain completion certificates, program information, and other documents needed to demonstrate compliance with the requirements of this division of rules for a minimum of 24 months after reporting completion of continuing education requirements to the board and must provide them to the Board upon request.

STATUTORY/OTHER AUTHORITY: ORS 675.510-675.600

STATUTES/OTHER IMPLEMENTED: ORS 675.510 - 675.600