STATE OF WISCONSIN
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF RULEMAKING PROCEEDINGS BEFORE THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD	PROPOSED ORDER OF THE MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY, PROFESSIONAL COUNSELING, AND SOCIAL WORK EXAMINING BOARD ADOPTING RULES (CLEARINGHOUSE RULE 19-138)

PROPOSED ORDER

An order of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board to amend MPSW 3.09 (3) relating to the practice requirement for licensure as a clinical social worker.

Analysis prepared by the Department of Safety and Professional Services.

ANALYSIS

Statutes interpreted: Sections 457.08 (4) (c) and (5), Stats.

2017 Wisconsin Act 356 amended s. 457, Stats. to clarify that the MPSW board has the authority to require up to 600 of the 1,000 face-to-face client contact hours include DSM diagnosis and treatment.

Statutory authority: Sections 15.08 (5) (b), 457.03 (1) and (3), and 457.08 (5), Stats.

Explanation of agency authority:

"Each examining board [s]hall promulgate rules for its own guidance and for the guidance of the trade or profession to which it pertains, and define and enforce professional conduct and unethical practices not inconsistent with the law relating to the particular trade or profession." [s. 15.08 (5) (b), Stats.]

"Upon the advice of the social worker section…promulgate rules establishing minimum standards for educational programs that must be completed for certification or licensure under this chapter and for supervised clinical training that must be completed for licensure as a clinical social worker…under this chapter and approve educational programs and supervised clinical training programs in accordance with those standards." [s. 457.03 (1), Stats.]

"Upon the advice of the social worker section, promulgate rules establishing levels of social work practice for individuals with master's or doctoral degrees in social work, in

addition to the levels of practice for which certificates are granted under s. 457.08 (2) and (3), and establishing appropriate educational, training, experience, examination, and continuing education requirements for certification and renewal of a certificate at each level of practice established in rules promulgated under this subsection." [s. 457.03 (3), Stats.]

"In its discretion, the examining board may establish a number of hours required for the diagnosis and treatment of individuals based on the applicable edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders or its equivalent for purposes of sub. (4) (c). The number of hours required under this subsection may not exceed 600." [s. 457.08 (5), Stats.]

Related statute or rule: None.

Plain language analysis:

This rule removes the requirement that an applicant for licensure as a clinical social worker must complete the required 3,000 hours of supervised practice in no less than 2 years. Further, the rule establishes the number of face-to-face hours required for diagnosis and treatment of individuals based upon the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM), or its equivalent, at 600 hours.

Summary of, and comparison with, existing or proposed federal regulation: None.

Summary of public comments received on statement of scope and a description of how and to what extent those comments and feedback were taken into account in drafting the proposed rule:

The board held a preliminary hearing on statement of scope at its March 18, 2019 meeting. No comments were received.

Comparison with rules in adjacent states:

Illinois:

Applicants for licensure as a clinical social worker must complete 3,000 hours of satisfactory, supervised professional experience if they hold a master's degree, and 2,000 hours of satisfactory, supervised professional experience if they hold a doctorate degree. Illinois does not specify that a portion of the required hours involve face-to-face client contact or DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals. (Ill. Admin Code s. 1470.20)

Iowa:

Applicants for licensure as a licensed independent social worker, the Iowa equivalent to a clinical social worker, must complete at least 4,000 hours of supervised social work practice, which shall include psychosocial assessments, including evaluation of

symptoms and behaviors and he effects of the environment on behavior, as well as diagnostic practice and treatment using the current edition of the DSM. The rules do not specify how many hours must involve diagnostic practice and treatment. (Iowa Admin Code s. 645-280.6(154C))

Michigan:
Applicants for licensure as a clinical social worker must complete at least 4,000 hours of post-degree social work experience accrued over not less than 2 years. Qualifying experience must include one or more of the following activities: assessment, treatment, and intervention methods that utilize a specialized and formal interaction between a social worker and an individual, a couple, a family, or a group in which a professional relationship is established; advocating for care; protecting the vulnerable; providing forensic practice functions; increasing social well-being; providing education, and resources; providing psychotherapy; providing case management for complex and high-risk cases; serving on community committees; and, providing clinical supervision or direction of clinical programs. The rules do not specify how many hours must involve diagnostic practice and treatment. (Mich. Admin Code R338.2953)

Minnesota:

Applicants for licensure as a licensed independent clinical social worker must have accrued at least 4,000 hours of postgraduate clinical practice, including at least 1,800 hours of direct clinical client contact. There are no specific requirements as to how many hours must involve diagnostic practice and treatment. (Minn. Stats. 148E.115)

Summary of factual data and analytical methodologies:

In setting the required hours of DSM diagnosis and treatment at 600 hours and removing the requirement that the 3,000 supervised training hours be completed in no less than two years, the Board balanced the need for portability of the clinical social work credential across state lines, along with the need to ensure clinical social workers are competent to treat Wisconsin clients.

Analysis and supporting documents used to determine effect on small business or in preparation of economic impact analysis:

The rule was posted for 14 days on the Department's website to solicit comments on potential economic impact. No comments were received.

Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis:

The Fiscal Estimate and Economic Impact Analysis are attached.

Effect on small business:

These proposed rules do not have an economic impact on small businesses, as defined in s. 227.114 (1), Stats. The Department's Regulatory Review Coordinator may be contacted by email at Daniel.Hereth@wisconsin.gov, or by calling (608) 267-2435.

Agency contact person:

Jon Derenne, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, Wisconsin 53708; telephone 608-266-0955; email at DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov.

Place where comments are to be submitted and deadline for submission:

Comments may be submitted to Jon Derenne, Administrative Rules Coordinator, Department of Safety and Professional Services, Division of Policy Development, 4822 Madison Yards Way, P.O. Box 8366, Madison, WI 53708-8366, or by email to DSPSAdminRules@wisconsin.gov. Comments must be received on or before the hearing scheduled for 1:00 PM on December 10, 2019 to be included in the record of rule-making proceedings.

TEXT OF RULE

SECTION 1. MPSW 3.09 (3) is amended to read:

MPSW 3.09 (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~~. At least 600 hours of the required 1,000 hours of face-to-face client contact must involve DSM diagnosis and treatment of individuals~~,~~. All hours must be accumulated 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.

SECTION 2. Initial Applicability. This rule first applies to license applications that are submitted three months after the effective date of this rule.

SECTION 3. EFFECTIVE DATE. The rules adopted in this order shall take effect on the first day of the month following publication in the Wisconsin Administrative Register, pursuant to s. 227.22 (2) (intro.), Stats.

(END OF TEXT OF RULE)

This Proposed Order of the Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board is approved for submission to the Governor and Legislature.

Dated _____ Agency _____

Chair
Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counseling, and Social Work Examining Board