

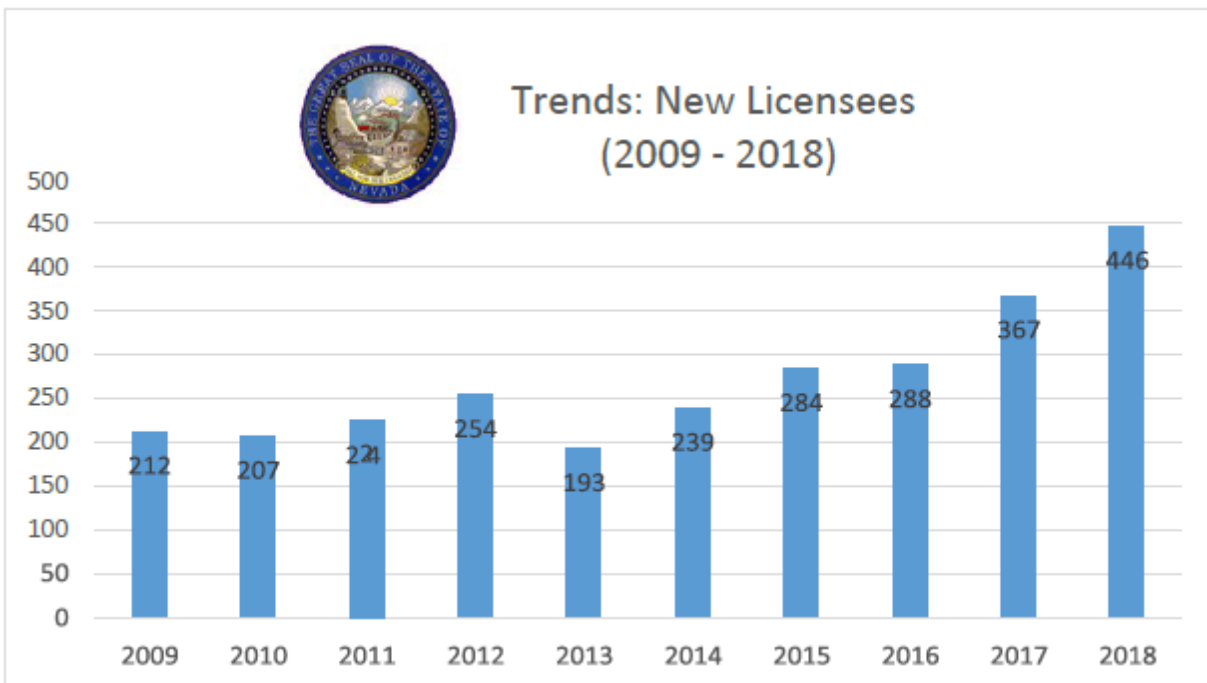
Greetings from Karen Oppenlander, LISW, Executive Director

On April 2nd, 2018, I became the Executive Director for the State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Social Workers (BESW). While I brought the experience of being a licensee to the Board, it has taken me the past year to learn about the various processes and procedures that were put in place by the Board and Board Staff over the past 3 decades.

Fortunately, I joined the organization at a time when the Board was improving and streamlining its processes. We are pleased to let you know that in 2018 BESW hit a milestone of 3000 licensees and began accepting credit card payments in addition to the checks and money orders we have always accepted.

In early 2019, BESW continued to minimize procedural burdens of licensing. We have implemented a brand new, 24/7 online license renewal system with multiple features to assist you. Additionally, the public can utilize real time license verification now!

Below are BESW trend lines for the past 10 years. Besides issuing licenses to those social workers who have met BESW's professional standards and keeping track of all the facets of the application process, there are other things that go hand in hand with these upward trend lines e.g. more potential licensees asking questions about the process; more background checks; more renewals every year; additional CEU approvals; additional site approvals for the additional clinical social worker interns, that need more supervisors, that need training; more exam approvals; additional public protection queries/ complaints; additional disciplinary cases; more license verification; additional legislative requests and mandates; and more.



And just in case you haven't heard, you can get all of your CEUs online. Like many of you, I wish that this had been available years ago. Thankfully, BESW increased licensee access to pre-approved continuing education units through agreements with our professional association – the National Association of Social Workers and with the Association of Social Work Boards. BESW also has a number of state approved CEU vendors that you can access online as well as in-person classes – a great way to meet your colleagues.

Next, we are working to update NRS 641B (Nevada Revised Statutes) in order to raise BESW fee ceilings. A fee ceiling is a government-imposed limit on how high a price can be charged for a social work license. Raising the fee ceilings is different than raising fees. If you hear about the BESW bill draft request this session, please know that it has taken BESW nearly 25 years to utilize fee ceilings that were last set in 1995.

Fee ceilings are set to protect licensees from conditions that could make licenses prohibitively expensive in years to come. To meet future expectations, we expect that new fee ceilings will help the Board to continue to serve licensees and the public for many years. As always, when the Board makes a determination that it must raise license fees (using a portion of the capped fee ceiling), we will contact you so that you are kept in the loop.

Please contact me if you have any questions or suggestions. My phone number is: 775-688-2555 and my email is: KOppenlander@besw.nv.gov.

Thank you!