

As you know, we began the journey to update our Administrative Code in October 2023. Today, we crossed the finish line as the Legislative Commission approved our NAC changes. It will be several weeks before we receive our final, approved copy which we will upload into the "Laws and Regulations" area of our website. It will be months before the approved language is blended into our existing NACs so that they are "codified." That said, the changes go into effect now.

Below is a summary of the approved changes in what we believe is the order of importance to our licensees -

Continuing Education Units (CEUs): As you know, there are already a number of automatically approved CEU options. These include CEUs that are approved by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) Ace program or have been approved by any chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). Now we will have additional "automatically approved" options for you. We hope this will make getting your CEUs much easier. Remember it is your responsibility to ensure that the approval is clearly listed on the CEU certificates you submit.

- **The Board will automatically accept CEUs from the three (3) OTHER NEVADA BEHAVIORAL BOARDS.** This means that if your CEUs are approved by the Nevada MFT / CPC Board, the Nevada Psychology Board, or the Nevada Board for Alcohol, Drug and Gambling Counselors, they will automatically be approved by us.
- **The Board will automatically accept CEUs from any other STATE BEHAVIORAL BOARD.** For example, it means that if your CEUs were approved by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences, the Ohio Counselor and Social Work Board, or the Florida Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy and Mental Health Counseling Board, then we will accept them. **Any state, any behavioral board, we will approve them.**
- **The Board will automatically accept CEUs from ANY NATIONAL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION.** This includes NASW, the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT), the American Psychological Association (APA), and the National Association for Addictions Professionals (NAADAC), etc. **Any national behavioral association, we will approve them.**

Standard of Practice: There were several changes in this area of our NACs.

- A licensee must notify the board within thirty (30) days of any of the following -
- An action is taken against their license issued in any state.
- Has a sanction, restriction or disciplinary action filed against him/her by an insurance carrier, other third party, or regulatory entity.
- Has been arrested, charged with or convicted of a criminal offense, other than a minor traffic violation.
- Defined "impaired practice."

Exam Waiver: We are pleased to report that NV applicants can now request an Exam Waiver if you fail the exam. ASWB has also agreed to allow us to extend the Exam Waiver option to any of you with an existing open exam approval. If you failed the exam, prior to 06/18/2024, and still have an open approval, you may also request an Exam Waiver.

Exam Waivers are granted by ASWB and not by the Board. To request an Exam Waiver, your exam score must be within ten correct answers of a passing score. You can only request two waivers in a 12-month period. You must apply to ASWB directly for the Exam Waiver and they

will approve or deny the it. The Board has no role in this, and we will not even know if you have requested a waiver.

Inactive Status: At the time of your renewal, you will have several choices -

- Renew your license (which is required to do annually, if you are working and calling yourself a social worker);
- Renew your license if you are "retired" and no longer working in social work. The age for this has dropped to sixty (60). Being retired and not working exempts you from needing all but the legislatively required CEUs; or
- Placing your license on "inactive status." If you are not working or calling yourself a social worker in Nevada, you will now have the option to place your license on "inactive status" versus letting it expire for a period of up to five (5) years. If you place your license on inactive status, you will no longer receive any communication from the Board. If you do not request to "reactivate" it before the end of the fifth year, it will be automatically expired. Reactivating your license will require new fingerprints, a collection cycle's worth of CEUs, an application and renewal fees. We will have more information about this on the website, next week. It will go into effect for those individuals who have a July renewal month.

Post-Graduate Internships: In accordance with our telehealth laws, an intern may not practice outside of Nevada. This brings internships in line with licensed practice. Additionally, language was added which specifies that if a licensee has an active post-graduate internship in Nevada, they cannot simultaneously have a post-graduate internship in another state.

Miscellaneous Changes:

- A licensee shall not provide services through telehealth to a client located outside of the state of Nevada, unless the licensee holds a license in the state where the client is located.
- You no longer have to carry a copy of your license with you.
- We solidified that the Board will not release personal addresses or personal emails. These are considered confidential records. Although we have never released this information, we wanted language to prevent any future requests. We do release employment addresses when a mailing list is requested. Our website does not have your personal information visible.