

Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners

Board Meeting Agenda for
Friday, July 8, 2022, 8:30 a.m.

The July 8, 2022 meeting of the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners will be held both in-person and by videoconference call, as authorized under Texas Government Code section 551.127. One or more board members may appear at the scheduled meeting via videoconference call, but the presiding member will be physically present at the Twin Towers Office Center, 1st Floor Public Meeting Room, Room #125E, 1106 Clayton Lane, Austin, Texas 78723. This location will be open to the public, but seating is limited to first come, first served.

Members of the public, who do not wish to provide public comment, may view this meeting by entering the URL address <https://youtu.be/EQUktc-4UbY> into their web browser. An electronic copy of the agenda and meeting materials will be made available at www.bhec.texas.gov before the meeting. A recording of the meeting will be made available on the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council's YouTube channel after the meeting is adjourned. To obtain a copy of the recording, please contact the Council's public information officer at Open.Records@bhec.texas.gov.

For members of the public, attending in-person and wishing to give public comment, after the meeting convenes and once the public comment item is reached on the agenda, the presiding member will allow those who are attending in person an opportunity to give public comment. You must attend in-person to provide public comment; public comment will not be taken via telephone or the internet at this meeting. Please note that public comment is not intended for a discussion or a question-and-answer session with the board members. Additionally, when making a public comment, please identify yourself and whether you are speaking individually or on behalf of an organization. All public comments will be limited to 3 minutes, unless otherwise directed by the presiding officer. In lieu of providing public comment during the meeting, you may submit written public comments via email to General@bhec.texas.gov in advance of the meeting. Please use the email subject line "Public Comment for (enter date of meeting here) Meeting" to ensure your comments are identified as such and directed accordingly. Only those written public comments received by 5 p.m. on the last business day before the meeting will be submitted to the board members for their consideration. No written comments received will be read aloud during the meeting.

Please note that the board may request input during the meeting from any interested parties or members of the public during its discussion of an agenda item.

If you are planning to attend this meeting and need auxiliary aids, services or materials in an alternate format, please contact the Council at least 5 working days before the meeting date. Phone: (512) 305-7700, E-MAIL: General@bhec.texas.gov, TTY/RELAY TEXAS: 711 or 1-800-RELAY TX.

The board may go into Executive Session to deliberate any item listed on this agenda if authorized under Texas Open Meetings Act, Government Code, Ch. 551.

The board may discuss and take action concerning any matter on the agenda and in a different order from what it appears herein.

SW BOARD MEETING AGENDA FOR FRIDAY, JULY 8, 2022, 8:30 A.M.

(Brumley, Andrade, Graham, Morris, Mosier, Ramsbacher, Rodgers, Saenz-Davila, Swords)

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Board review and possible action regarding appeals of application for licensure denials, including Aleida Chavez, Natoya Cook, Jerri Lyn Hayes, Vertanya Jack, Jessica Marquez, Virginia Mazariego, Lori McRight, Regina Moreno, and Carlota Willis.
3. Board review and possible action regarding agreed orders to be executed by the Board.

4. Board review and possible action regarding contested cases from the State Office of Administrative Hearings (SOAH).
5. Report of agreed orders executed by the Council's Executive Director.
6. Report of cases dismissed by the Council's Executive Director.
7. Status report of quarterly enforcement case activities.
8. Report of compliance with agreed orders.
9. Report from Committee Chairs:
 - A. Report from Ethics Committee Chair Mr. Brumley.
 - B. Report from Licensing Standards and Qualification Committee Chair Ms. Mosier.
 - C. Report from Professional Development Committee Chair Mr. Brumley.
 - D. Report from Rules Committee Chair Ms. Mosier.
10. Discussion and possible action concerning potential changes in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code (22 TAC) as recommended by the Rules Committee on May 13, 2022:
 - A. §781.303 *General Standards of Practice*: to better align this rule with the statutory rights and duties listed in Sections 151.001, 153.132, and 153.371 of the Family Code.
 - B. §781.404. *Recognition as a Council-approved Supervisor and the Supervision Process*: to provide details regarding minimum standards for the 40-hour training required to apply for supervisor status ; to delete duplicative language concerning the Council's ability to discipline a licensee who continues to provide supervision after the licensee no longer holds supervisor status; and to remove outdated subparagraph that required the 40-hour supervision training by January 1, 2014.
11. Discussion and possible action concerning public comment on the proposed rule (published in the April 22, 2022 *Texas Register* [47 TexReg 2088] and Office of the Governor, Regulatory Compliance Division's review of this proposed rule as well as recommendations to the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (Council) concerning adoption of proposed changes in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, §781.501 *Requirements for Continuing Education*: to consolidate all continuing education requirements into single section; to require all licensees to complete three hours of cultural diversity or competency each renewal period; to provide one hour of ethics credit to all licensees who complete the jurisprudence exam during the renewal period; to allow all licensees to claim one hour of self-study; and to increase supervisors' requirement to six hours of continuing education in supervision each renewal period.
12. Discussion and possible action concerning public comment on proposed rules (published in the April 22, 2022 *Texas Register* [47 TexReg 2085] and recommendations to the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council (Council) concerning adoption of proposed changes in 22 TAC:
 - A. §781.404 *Recognition as a Council-approved Supervisor and the Supervision Process*: to remove requirement for maintaining and renewing a licensee's supervisor status because similar requirements have been added to new §781.501 *Requirements for Continuing Education*.
 - B. §§781.508 – 781.510, and 781.514 *Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, Types of Acceptable Continuing Education, Activities Unacceptable as Continuing Education, and Credit Hours Granted*: to repeal provisions moved to new §781.501 *Requirements for Continuing Education*.
13. Discussion and possible action regarding jurisprudence exam:
 - A. Board review and possible action concerning the quarterly summary from the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners' Jurisprudence Exam vendor.
 - B. Discussion and possible action related to changes in the Board's Jurisprudence Exam.
14. Report from the Board Chair concerning current challenges and accomplishments; lawsuits; interaction with stakeholders, state officials, and staff; committee appointments and functions;

workload of Board members; conferences; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the Board.

15. Report from the Board's Delegates to the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council regarding the activities of the Executive Council, including
 - A. The Council's rulemaking actions taken at its May 18, 2022 meeting.
 - B. Other Council updates.
16. Report from the Board Administrator concerning operations, organization, and staffing; workload processing and statistical information; status of rulemaking; customer service accomplishments, inquiries, and challenges; media, legislative, and stakeholder contacts and concerns; special projects; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the program.
17. Discussion and possible action regarding future priorities and activities of the Board.
18. Public Comment.
19. Announcements and comments not requiring Board action, such as statements regarding conferences and other recent or upcoming events.
20. Adjournment.

CONTACT: Sarah Faszholz, Board Administrator
Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners
general@bhec.texas.gov

Relevant rules, found in Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code, include but may not be limited to:

Proposed rule published 10/1/2021 | **Effective February 27, 2022**

§781.401 Qualifications for Licensure

(a) Licensure. The following education and experience is required for licensure as designated...

(1) Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW).

(B) Has had 3000 hours of supervised professional clinical experience over a period of 24 to 48 months, or its equivalent if the experience was completed in another jurisdiction. Hours accrued in non-clinical settings may be used to satisfy the requirements of this rule if the applicant works at least 4 hours per week providing clinical social work as defined in §781.102 of this title (relating to Definitions). ~~[Supervised professional experience must comply with §781.404 of this title (relating to Recognition as a Council approved Supervisor and the Supervision Process) and all other applicable laws and rules.]~~

(C) Has had a minimum of 100 hours of supervision, over the course of the 3000 hours of supervised experience, with a Council-approved supervisor. ~~[Supervised experience must have occurred within the five calendar years immediately preceding the date of LCSW application.]~~ If the social worker completed supervision in another jurisdiction, the social worker shall have the supervision verified by the regulatory authority in the other jurisdiction. If such verification is impossible, the social worker may request that the Council accept alternate verification of supervision.

§781.406 Required Documentation of Qualifications for Licensure

(c) Experience verification.

(3) Supervised experience must have occurred within the five calendar years immediately preceding the date of an initial or upgrade application.

Rulemaking notes for 781.406(c)(3):

- 1/7/2022 SW Board requested Rules Committee review possible rule change to repeal 781.406(c)(3)
- 3/25/2022 SW Rules Committee reviewed and recommended repeal
- 4/22/2022 SW Board recommended publication of proposed rules
- 5/18/2022 BHEC voted to publish proposed rules
- Staff is working to complete procedures for Office of the Governor, Regulatory Compliance Division's review and preparation of proposed rules package for publication with 30-day public comment period.
- Next step: SW Board to review public comment and make recommendation to Council.
- Next step: BHEC to consider SW Board's recommendation
- Next step: IF SW Board recommends and BHEC approves adoption of repealed rule. Repeal becomes effective 20 days after date staff submits adoption rule package to Secretary of State
- Meeting dates currently scheduled:
 - Aug 23 – BHEC
 - Oct 7 - SW Board
 - Oct 25 - BHEC

STATUS REPORT 3rd Quarter		3Q FY22 Mar 1, 2022 to May 31, 2022	2Q FY22 Dec 1, 2021 to Feb 28, 2022	1Q FY22 Sep 1, 2021 to Nov 30, 2021	4Q FY21 Jun 1, 2021 to Aug 31, 2021
Number of Pending Complaints		532	594	579	634
Pending Complaints per Member Board		TSBEP-235 TSBSWE-181 TSBEMFT-43 TSBEP-73	TSBEP-291 TSBSWE-171 TSBEMFT-54 TSBEP-78	TSBEP-266 TSBSWE- 191 TSBEMFT-54 TSBEP-68	TSBEP-283 TSBSWE- 229 TSBEMFT-59 TSBEP-63
Number of New Complaints Received		164	105	148	128
Pending Priority 1 Cases (Imminent Physical Harm)		1 TSBEP-0 TSBSWE-1 TSBEMFT-0 TSBEP-0	4 TSBEP-2 TSBSWE-1 TSBEMFT-1 TSBEP-0	6 TSBEP-2 TSBSWE-3 TSBEMFT-1 TSBEP-0	18
Pending Priority 2 Cases (Sexual Misconduct)		57 TSBEP-28 TSBSWE-26 TSBEMFT-0 TSBEP-3	52 TSBEP-25 TSBSWE-24 TSBEMFT-1 TSBEP-3	52 TSBEP-24 TSBSWE-24 TSBEMFT-2 TSBEP-2	57
Pending Priority 3 Cases (Applicants)		12 TSBEP-4 TSBSWE-8 TSBEMFT-0 TSBEP-0	15 TSBEP-4 TSBSWE-8 TSBEMFT-1 TSBEP-2	11 TSBEP-1 TSBSWE-6 TSBEMFT-2 TSBEP-2	11
Cases Resolved this Quarter		228	89	197	308
Agreed Orders Signed		25	9	15	53
Cases Dismissed by Staff		203	80	182	255
Cases Dismissed by member Boards		0	0	0	0
Cases Reviewed at an ISC this Quarter		16	3	19	24
Pending Cases by Fiscal Year					
FY2015	0 going to SOAH	1	1	2	5
FY2016	3 going to SOAH	3	3	5	11
FY2017	1 going to SOAH	4	8	11	21
FY2018	1 going to SOAH	2	6	8	16
FY2019	3 going to SOAH	14	35	56	81
FY2020	5 going to SOAH	82	167	199	263
FY2021	6 going to SOAH	111	153	163	227
FY2022	0 going to SOAH	315	221	135	
Total		532	594	579	634

Rule: 781.303. General Standards of Practice.

Action: Proposed Amendment

Comment: This amendment is made to better align this rule with the statutory rights and duties listed in Sections 151.001, 153.132, and 153.371 of the Family Code.

§781.303. General Standards of Practice.

This section establishes standards of professional conduct required of a social worker. The licensee, following applicable statutes:

- (1) shall not knowingly offer or provide professional services to an individual concurrently receiving professional services from another mental health services provider except with that provider's knowledge. If a licensee learns of such concurrent professional services, the licensee shall take immediate and reasonable action to inform the other mental health services provider;
- (2) shall terminate a professional relationship when it is reasonably clear that the client is not benefiting from the relationship. If continued professional services are indicated, the licensee shall take reasonable steps to facilitate transferring the client by providing the client with the name and contact information of three sources of service;
- (3) shall not evaluate any individual's mental, emotional, or behavioral condition unless the licensee has personally interviewed the individual or the licensee discloses with the evaluation that the licensee has not personally interviewed the individual;
- (4) shall not persistently or flagrantly over treat a client;
- (5) shall not aid and abet the unlicensed practice of social work by a person required to be licensed under the Act;
- (6) shall not participate in any way in falsifying licensure applications or any other documents submitted to the Council;
- (7) shall ensure that, both before services commence and as services progress, the client knows the licensee's qualifications and any intent to delegate service provision; any restrictions the Council has placed on the licensee's license; the limits on confidentiality and privacy; and applicable fees and payment arrangements;
- (8) if the client must barter for services, it is the professional's responsibility to ensure that the client is in no way harmed. The value of the barter shall be agreed upon in advance and shall not exceed customary charges for the service or goods; and
- (9) shall ensure that the client or a legally authorized person representing the client has signed a consent for services~~[, when appropriate]. [Prior to commencement of social work services with a minor client who is~~

~~named in a Suit Affecting Parent Child Relationship (SAPCR), the licensee shall ensure that all legally authorized persons representing the client have signed a consent for services, if applicable.] A licensee shall~~
obtain and keep a copy of the relevant portions of any court order, divorce decree, power of attorney, or letters of guardianship authorizing the individual to provide substitute consent on behalf of the minor or ward ~~[maintain these documents in the client's record].~~

Rule: 781.404. Recognition as a Council-approved Supervisor and the Supervision Process.

Action: Proposed Amendment

Comment: The proposed amendment provides more specific details regarding the minimum standards for the 40-hour training required to apply for supervisor status. Additionally, the proposed change deletes some duplicative language regarding the Council's ability to discipline a licensee that continues to provide supervision after the licensee no longer holds supervisor status, and the outdated subparagraph that initially required the 40-hour supervision training back in 2014.

Currently Proposed Change - This amendment removes the requirements for maintaining and renewing a licensee's supervisor status from subsection (b) of this rule, because similar requirements have been added to new §781.501, pertaining to requirements for continuing education, where it is more appropriate.

§781.404. Recognition as a Council-approved Supervisor and the Supervision Process.

(a) Types of supervision include:

- (1) administrative or work-related supervision of an employee, contractor or volunteer that is not related to qualification for licensure, practice specialty recognition, a disciplinary order, or a condition of new or continued licensure;
- (2) clinical supervision of a Licensed Master Social Worker in a setting in which the LMSW is providing clinical services; the supervision may be provided by a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Psychologist, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Clinical Social Worker or Psychiatrist. This supervision is not related to qualification for licensure, practice specialty recognition, a disciplinary order, or a condition of new or continued licensure;
- (3) clinical supervision of a Licensed Master Social Worker, who is providing clinical services and is under a supervision plan to fulfill supervision requirements for achieving the LCSW; a Licensed Clinical Social Worker who is a Council-approved supervisor delivers this supervision;
- (4) non-clinical supervision of a Licensed Master Social Worker or Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker who is providing non-clinical social work service toward qualifications for independent non-clinical practice recognition; this supervision is delivered by a Council-approved supervisor; or

- (5) Council-ordered supervision of a licensee by a Council-approved supervisor pursuant to a disciplinary order or as a condition of new or continued licensure.
- (b) A person who wishes to be a Council-approved supervisor must file an application and pay the applicable fee.
 - (1) A Council-approved supervisor must be actively licensed in good standing by the Council as an LBSW, an LMSW, an LCSW, or be recognized as an Advanced Practitioner (LMSW-AP), or hold the equivalent social work license in another jurisdiction. The person applying for Council-approved status must have practiced at his/her category of licensure for two years. The Council-approved supervisor shall supervise only those supervisees who provide services that fall within the supervisor's own competency.
 - (2) The Council-approved supervisor is responsible for the social work services provided within the supervisory plan.
 - (3) The Council-approved supervisor must have completed a **40-hour** supervisor's training program acceptable to the Council.

(A) At a minimum, the 40-hour supervisor's training program must meet each of the following requirements:

- (i) the course must be taught by a licensed social worker holding both the appropriate license classification, and supervisor status issued by the Council;**
- (ii) all related coursework and assignments must be completed over a time period not to exceed 90 days; and**
- (iii) the 40-hour supervision training must include at least:**
 - (I) three (3) hours for defining and conceptualizing supervision and models of supervision;**
 - (II) three (3) hours for supervisory relationship and social worker development;**
 - (III) twelve (12) hours for supervision methods and techniques, covering roles, focus (process, conceptualization, and personalization), group supervision, multi-cultural supervision (race, ethnic, and gender issues), and evaluation methods;**

(IV) twelve (12) hours for supervision and standards of practice, codes of ethics, and legal and professional issues; and

(V) three (3) hours for executive and administrative tasks, covering supervision plan, supervision contract, time for supervision, record keeping, and reporting.

(B) Subparagraph (A) of this subsection is effective May 1, 2023.

~~[(4) The Council approved supervisor must complete three hours of continuing education every biennium in supervision theory, skills, strategies, and/or evaluation.]~~

~~[(5) The Council approved supervisor must designate at each license renewal that he/she wishes to continue Council approved supervisor status.]~~

~~(4)~~[(6)] The Council-approved supervisor must submit required documentation and fees to the Council.

~~(5)~~[(7)] When a licensee is designated Council-approved supervisor, he or she may perform the following supervisory functions:[:]

(A) An LCSW may supervise clinical experience toward the LCSW license, non-clinical experience toward the Independent Practice Recognition (non-clinical), and Council-ordered probated suspension.[:]

(B) An LMSW-AP may supervise non-clinical experience toward the non-clinical Independent Practice Recognition; and Council-ordered probated suspension for non-clinical practitioners.[:]

(C) An LMSW with the Independent Practice Recognition (non-clinical) who is a Council-approved supervisor may supervise an LBSW's or LMSW's non-clinical experience toward the non-clinical Independent Practice Recognition; and an LBSW or LMSW (non-clinical) under Council-ordered probated suspension.[:]

(D) An LBSW with the non-clinical Independent Practice Recognition who is a Council-approved supervisor may supervise an LBSW's non-clinical experience toward the non-clinical Independent Practice Recognition; and an LBSW under Council-ordered probated suspension.

~~(6)~~[(8)] The approved supervisor must renew the approved supervisor status in conjunction with the biennial license renewal. The approved supervisor may surrender supervisory status by documenting the choice

on the appropriate Council renewal form and subtracting the supervisory renewal fee from the renewal payment. If a licensee who has surrendered supervisory status desires to regain supervisory status, the licensee must reapply and meet the current requirements for approved supervisor status.

(7)~~(9)~~ A supervisor must maintain the qualifications described in this section while he or she is providing supervision.

(8)~~(10)~~ A Council-approved supervisor who wishes to provide any form of supervision or Council-ordered supervision must comply with the following:

- (A) The supervisor is obligated to keep legible, accurate, complete, signed supervision notes and must be able to produce such documentation for the Council if requested. The notes shall document the content, duration, and date of each supervision session.
- (B) A social worker may contract for supervision with written approval of the employing agency. A copy of the approval must accompany the supervisory plan submitted to the Council.
- (C) A Council-approved supervisor may not charge or collect a fee or anything of value from his or her employee or contract employee for the supervision services provided to the employee or contract employee.
- (D) Before entering into a supervisory plan, the supervisor shall be aware of all conditions of exchange with the clients served by her or his supervisee. The supervisor shall not provide supervision if the supervisee is practicing outside the authorized scope of the license. If the supervisor believes that a social worker is practicing outside the scope of the license, the supervisor shall make a report to the Council.
- (E) A supervisor shall not be employed by or under the employment supervision of the person who he or she is supervising.
- (F) A supervisor shall not be a family member of the person being supervised.
- (G) A supervisee must have a clearly defined job description and responsibilities.
- (H) A supervisee who provides client services for payment or reimbursement shall submit billing to the client or third-party payers which clearly indicates the services provided and who provided the services, and specifying the supervisee's licensure category and the fact that the licensee is under supervision.

- (I) If either the supervisor or supervisee has an expired license or a license that is revoked or suspended during supervision, supervision hours accumulated during that time will be accepted only if the licensee appeals to and receives approval from the Council.
- (J) A licensee must be a current Council-approved supervisor in order to provide professional development supervision toward licensure or specialty recognition, or to provide Council-ordered supervision to a licensee. Providing supervision without having met all requirements for current, valid Council-approved supervisor status may be grounds for disciplinary action against the supervisor.
- (K) The supervisor shall ensure that the supervisee knows and adheres to Subchapter B, Rules of Practice, of this Chapter.
- (L) The supervisor and supervisee shall avoid forming any relationship with each other that impairs the objective, professional judgment and prudent, ethical behavior of either.
- (M) Should a supervisor become subject to a Council disciplinary order, that person is no longer a Council-approved supervisor and must so inform all supervisees, helping them to find alternate supervision. The person may reapply for Council-approved supervisor status by meeting the terms of the disciplinary order and having their license in good standing, in addition to submitting an application for Council-approved supervisor, and proof of completion of a 40-hour Council-approved supervisor training course, taken no earlier than the date of execution of the Council order.
- (N) Providing supervision without Council-approved supervisor status is grounds for disciplinary action. [The Council may deny, revoke, or suspend Council-approved supervisory status for violation of the Act or rules. Continuing to supervise after the Council has denied, revoked, or suspended Council-approved supervisor status, or after the supervisor's supervisory status expires, may be grounds for disciplinary action against the supervisor.]
- (O) [If a supervisor's Council-approved status is expired, suspended, or revoked, the] A supervisor shall refund all supervisory fees the supervisee paid after the date the supervisor ceased to be Council-approved.
- (P) A supervisor is responsible for developing a well-conceptualized supervision plan with the supervisee, and for updating that plan whenever there is a change in agency of employment, job function, goals for supervision, or method by which supervision is provided.

~~[(Q) — All Council-approved supervisors shall have taken a Council-approved supervision training course by January 1, 2014 in order to renew Council-approved supervisor status. The Council recognizes that many licensees have had little, if any, formal education about supervision theories, strategies, problem-solving, and accountability, particularly LBSWs who may supervise licensees toward the IPR. Though some supervisors have functioned as employment supervisors for some time and have acquired practical knowledge, their practical supervision skills may be focused in one practice area, and may not include current skills in various supervision methods or familiarity with emerging supervisory theories, strategies, and regulations. Therefore, the Council values high-quality, contemporary, multi-modality supervision training to ensure that all supervisors have refreshed their supervisory skills and knowledge in order to help supervisees practice safely and effectively.]~~

(9)~~[(14)]~~ A Council-approved supervisor who wishes to provide supervision towards licensure as an LCSW or towards specialty recognition in Independent Practice (IPR) or Advanced Practitioner (LMSW-AP), which is supervision for professional growth, must comply with the following:

- (A) Supervision toward licensure or specialty recognition may occur in one-on-one sessions, in group sessions, or in a combination of one-on-one and group sessions. Session may transpire in the same geographic location, or via audio, web technology or other electronic supervision techniques that comply with HIPAA and Texas Health and Safety Code, Chapter 611, and/or other applicable state or federal statutes or rules.
- (B) Supervision groups shall have no fewer than two members and no more than six.
- (C) Supervision shall occur in proportion to the number of actual hours worked for the 3,000 hours of supervised experience. No more than 10 hours of supervision may be counted in any one month, or 30-day period, as appropriate, towards satisfying minimum requirements for licensure or specialty recognition.
- (D) The Council considers supervision toward licensure or specialty recognition to be supervision which promotes professional growth. Therefore, all supervision formats must encourage clear, accurate communication between the supervisor and the supervisee, including case-based communication that meets standards for confidentiality. Though the Council favors supervision formats in which the supervisor and supervisee are in the same geographical place for a

substantial part of the supervision time, the Council also recognizes that some current and future technology, such as using reliable, technologically-secure computer cameras and microphones, can allow personal face-to-face, though remote, interaction, and can support professional growth. Supervision formats must be clearly described in the supervision plan, explaining how the supervision strategies and methods of delivery meet the supervisee's professional growth needs and ensure that confidentiality is protected.

- (E) Supervision toward licensure or specialty recognition must extend over a full 3000 hours over a period of not less than 24 full months and a period of not more than 48 full months for LCSW or not more than 60 full months for Independent Practice Recognition (IPR). Even if the individual completes the minimum of 3000 hours of supervised experience and minimum of 100 hours of supervision prior to 24 months from the start date of supervision, supervision which meets the Council's minimum requirements shall extend to a minimum of 24 full months.
- (F) The supervisor and the supervisee bear professional responsibility for the supervisee's professional activities.
- (G) If the supervisor determines that the supervisee lacks the professional skills and competence to practice social work under a regular license, the supervisor shall develop and implement a written remediation plan for the supervisee.
- (H) Supervised professional experience required for licensure must comply with §781.401 of this title (relating to Qualifications for Licensure) and §781.402 of this title (relating to Clinical Supervision for LCSW and Non-Clinical Supervision for Independent Practice Recognition) of this title and all other applicable laws and rules.
- (11)~~(12)~~ A Council-approved supervisor who wishes to provide supervision required as a result of a Council order must comply with this title, all other applicable laws and rules, and/or the following.
 - (A) A licensee who is required to be supervised as a condition of initial licensure, continued licensure, or disciplinary action must:
 - (i) submit one supervisory plan for each practice location to the Council for approval by the Council or its designee within 30 days of initiating supervision;
 - (ii) submit a current job description from the agency in which the social worker is employed with a verification of authenticity from the agency director or his or her designee on agency letterhead or

submit a copy of the contract or appointment under which the licensee intends to work, along with a statement from the potential supervisor that the supervisor has reviewed the contract and is qualified to supervise the licensee in the setting;

- (iii) ensure that the supervisor submits reports to the Council on a schedule determined by the Council. In each report, the supervisor must address the supervisee's performance, how closely the supervisee adheres to statutes and rules, any special circumstances that led to the imposition of supervision, and recommend whether the supervisee should continue licensure. If the supervisor does not recommend the supervisee for continued licensure, the supervisor must provide specific reasons for not recommending the supervisee. The Council may consider the supervisor's reservations as it evaluates the supervision verification the supervisee submits; and
- (iv) notify the Council immediately if there is a disruption in the supervisory relationship or change in practice location and submit a new supervisory plan within 30 days of the break or change in practice location.

(B) The supervisor who agrees to provide Council-ordered supervision of a licensee who is under Council disciplinary action must understand the Council order and follow the supervision stipulations outlined in the order. The supervisor must address with the licensee those professional behaviors that led to Council discipline, and must help to remediate those concerns while assisting the licensee to develop strategies to avoid repeating illegal, substandard, or unethical behaviors.

(C) Council-ordered and mandated supervision timeframes are specified in the Council order

Comments on Proposed Rule Posted 4.22.2022

Brooks, Crystal [REDACTED]

Fri 5/20/2022 8:05 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Good morning,

I would like to submit the following comments related to the proposed rules posted on 4.22.2022 in the Texas Register.

Related to 781.501 Section F as stated below:

(f)Licensees must obtain at least fifty percent of their continuing education hours from one or more of the following providers:

(1)an international, national, regional, state, or local association of medical, mental, or behavioral health professionals;

(2)public school districts, charter schools, or education service centers;

(3)city, county, state, or federal governmental entities;

(4)an institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, or the United States Department of Education;

(5)religious or charitable organizations devoted to improving the mental or behavioral health of individuals; or

(6)any provider approved or endorsed by a provider listed herein.

Comment: The list of acceptable providers needs to include providers from the medical community such as teaching hospitals, or non-for profit hospital systems.

Related to 781.501 Section H (5) as stated below:

(5)Self-study. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 1 hour.

Comment: Please clarify with language that provides a definition of self-study

Thanks,

Crystal Brooks, LMSW, ACM-SW, CTP
Clinical Professional Development Specialist
Comprehensive Care Management
469-800-8364

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RE: Proposed rule changes

Jessica Stewart [REDACTED]

Tue 5/17/2022 4:12 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

I'd like to also add that we are a 501C3 non-profit, a current approved prof dev provider under Texas Psychological Association (TPA), and a previous SW/LPC/LMFT CE provider when there were providerships.

Kind regards,

Jessica Stewart, CHCP

From: Jessica Stewart**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 8:51 AM**To:** 'rules@bhec.texas.gov' <rules@bhec.texas.gov>**Subject:** Proposed rule changes

Hi Brenda,

Some of our Social Workers have concern regarding if the CEs they get from us (Cook Children's Health Care System) will be part of the 'at least 50 percent' provider rule. We are a health care system and have been following the CE rules in the Texas Administrative Code.

Additionally, we are a provider under the national Joint Accreditation system for CME, Pharmacy and Nursing Joint Accreditation for Interprofessional Continuing Education.

Can you confirm that our organization is included in the following provider list?

Licensees must obtain at least fifty percent of their continuing education hours from one or more of the following providers:

- (1)an international, national, regional, state, or local association of medical, mental, or behavioral health professionals;
- (2)public school districts, charter schools, or education service centers;
- (3)city, county, state, or federal governmental entities;
- (4)an institution of higher education accredited by a regional accrediting organization recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, or the United States Department of Education;
- (5)religious or charitable organizations devoted to improving the mental or behavioral health of individuals; or
- (6)any provider approved or endorsed by a provider listed herein.

-
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Kind regards,

Jessica Stewart, CHCP

Continuing Professional Education Coordinator

682-303-3758 Office

[REDACTED]
801 7th Avenue, Fort Worth, Tx 76104



Our Promise: Knowing that every child's life is sacred, it is the promise of Cook Children's to improve the health of every child in our region through the prevention and treatment of illness, disease and injury.

CEU Proposal Concerns for Individual Providers

Lori Vann [REDACTED]

Tue 5/17/2022 1:50 AM

To: general <general@bhec.texas.gov>; rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Greetings respected board members of the Behavioral Health Executive Council.

As a LPC-S who has supervised over 35 associates, had the privilege of being an ethics CEU provider for over five years, a NSSI trainer/presenter for over twenty years, and a practitioner since 2001, I would like to offer my praises and concerns regarding the proposed CEU recommendations.

Ethics is tantamount to keeping the community and providers safe from those who would dishonor our profession. I am in full agreement with increasing the ethics requirement to 6 hrs. In addition, while I am in support of removing the Jurisprudence exam for those renewing their license, it would be recommended that it still be required for those applying for licensure, either as an Associate or a transfer from another state. It is disheartening when I have provided ethics CEUs and I ask the audience of mixed license professionals when their Board Rules were last updated and at least half of any particular license could not provide an accurate answer.

One professional who used to take the phone calls for the LPC Board told the tales of counselors who stated either that they were unaware of the Rules or did not feel that they had to review them because they were already licensed. Indeed, when I have reviewed the posts on various counselor Facebook groups that have a high percentage of social workers, LPCs, or LMFTs, I am left shaking my head at some of the questions or statements being made by colleagues in the field; it is apparent that they have not been keeping up to date with the Rules and changes for at least two years. So while the increase in the number of ethics CEUs is a great step forward, I would ask of the Council to find a way to verify that counselors are reading the Rules, comprehending them, and not going through the motions of sitting in on a free Zoom event where they can turn off their cameras and be occupied with other matters. One possibility could be to require that at least 2 hrs of ethics take place in-person to increase the likelihood that attendees are paying attention.

As a supervisor, I do appreciate the ability to count the 6 hours of the required refresher course towards my 24 hours and the ability to count the ethics section towards the ethics CEU requirement.

My two concerns regarding the proposed changes are the number of CEUs required for multicultural/cultural diversity and the approved providers' list.

Regarding the 3 hours of cultural diversity, this is a graduate-level class that is required by the LPC Board to become licensed. However, classes that significantly impact clients and the community that are not dedicated classes in graduate school are not required CEUs. Trauma impacts every counselor and every client in some form or fashion, yet, our graduate schools do not have a dedicated trauma class nor is it a required class or licensure or a CEU.

If we are to take Human Trafficking it makes logical sense to also require a CEU on trauma awareness, education, and intervention. In addition, the statistics for suicide and Non-Suicidal Self-Injury have been at significantly high numbers for several years with no signs of a decrease. Yet, counselors are not required to take a CEU on either subject matter. We know that those who have been trafficked or

been subjected to discrimination have a significantly increased risk for suicidal ideation. If we are deeply concerned about counselors being prepared to serve clients, it would seem logical to require those CEUs.

It would be my proposal to reduce the cultural diversity to one hour and add one hour of trauma training and one hour of suicide awareness/intervention/prevention. These three important topics would then create a total of 3 hours of required CEUs and would be more in line with best practices and the already required Human Trafficking course.

The final concern that I have is regarding the Approved Providers category and its direct impact not only on myself as a provider of unique CEUs that no one else is offering, but also my professional colleagues who are also subject matter experts that provide a valuable service to counselors who would not fall under the description of Approved Providers. Since I am not an employee of a college or hospital, work at a government agency, school, or college, do not have approval from TCA or other national groups as a provider, nor am I a volunteer or employee of a religious group, counselors would be excluded from receiving CEU credits for the 3 hr Ethics workshops and 6 to 9 hr specialized NSSI training that I provide because why would they want to purchase a ticket for a CEU that they cannot count the credits for?

Other points of concern would be that school districts provide their own in-house CEUs, they do not offer those to the general public and the same applies to government agencies. Colleges do not typically offer CEU events. Regarding religious or charitable organizations, this would need to be better defined. Someone can be a member of CCT but that does not mean that CCT will be willing to sponsor a CEU event nor do many non-profits host CEU events. Becoming an approved provider with an international or national organization is not an easy process and there is often much behind-the-scenes wrangling and expense that goes into becoming approved. These hurdles are cumbersome and create fewer providers for counselors to choose from---it creates a strain on the CEU marketplace. In addition, I would add that I have attended "nationally-regionally-locally approved" CEU events by various groups and found providers offering outdated information or just reading off the PowerPoint with little to no audience engagement. Also, based on these guidelines, large CEU provider organizations, like PESI or NICBM, may or may not qualify as Approved Providers.

My recommendation for consideration would be if the "preferred providers" section goes through to also return to the application to be an approved provider through the State that was previously in place. Instead of a provider having to pay \$50 for each licensing Board, it would be a flat fee to be an approved individual provider for all of the BHEC licenses. This would be an additional category that the Council could offer to address all of the before-mentioned issues. The Council would create an application that states the requirements for a CEU provider and ask the applicant to attest that they will comply with said requirements. The provider would be someone who is either fully licensed or is an Associate who is not only under supervision but also has their Supervisor participating in the CEU presentation.

I thank you for the opportunity to convey these thoughts, insights, and recommendations.

Also, thank you for taking the time to review this material and for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lori Vann, MA, LPC-Supervisor



Authority on the Prevention and Treatment of Self-injury

International Speaker and Media Commentator

Author of: ***A Caregiver's Guide to Self-injury; A Practitioner's Guide to the Treatment of Self-injury: tips, techniques, activities, and debates; A Practitioner's Guide: The WORKBOOK; The Self-injury Prevention Activity Workbook;*** and **Book #5--Cause of Death: Political Correctness---***find out about its unintended consequences to creativity, productivity, mindset, and even our safety!*

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Check out www.VannAssociates.com for the many ways that we serve the community!

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22 TAC #781.501-510 Continuing Education Requirements Proposed Changes

Vicki Wiechern [REDACTED]

Thu 5/12/2022 7:06 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

TO: Brenda Skiff

Executive Assistant TBHEC

333 Guadalupe Ste 3-900

Austin, Tx 78701

I have been a Licensed Social Worker in Texas for the majority of my professional Career. Currently I am an LCSW who only works occasional jobs as a consultant as I am primarily retired. I take the renewal of my license every 2 years very seriously and work hard to maintain my required CEU's. I search out opportunities to be educated re: current legal,ethical, socio-economic issues, etc. I embrace the requirements for Ethics hours, and other hours re: Human Trafficking.

The proposed rule change, as I read it, requires 50 % of my education to come from Accredited agencies or providers **out in the community**. Often these workshops or training can be expensive as well as requiring time from work. Many agencies no longer reimburse these costs or even days off work.

They are equally expensive to me living on a fixed income. For me, the quality of education is no less because I view it at home via Zoom or equal way to communicate.

Many professional organizations, such as NASW (National Assos of Social Workers) or even Texas Health Steps or Texas Health and Human Services offer distant learning via Zoom or other means of online training. All are vetted for professional presentation and course content. I find it unacceptable that our Board is proposing these rules that will be hurtful to Social Work staff in this State. The rules requiring "outside vendors" provide our continuing education is really not beneficial to anyone . **I am not in support of these proposed rule changes.**

Mary Veronica Wiechern, LCSW

Proposed rule changes

Jessica Stewart [REDACTED]

Thu 5/12/2022 8:51 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hi Brenda,

Some of our Social Workers have concern regarding if the CEs they get from us (Cook Children's Health Care System) will be part of the 'at least 50 percent' provider rule. We are a health care system and have been following the CE rules in the Texas Administrative Code.

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Kind regards,

Jessica Stewart, CHCP

Continuing Professional Education Coordinator

682-303-3758 Office

[REDACTED]
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comment on 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Kasey Salyer [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 9:20 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello,

I am an LCSW, supervisor and EMDR therapist and consultant. I am writing to express concern related to the proposed changes in the CEU requirements in 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education.

I am an LCSW who has built a specialization in trauma work for clients with high needs and dissociation concerns. I also work with supervisees that desire to build competency in trauma work. I have grave concerns over the limiting of access to self-study courses. Many of the top trainers in these areas of specialization are very limited in the number of live trainings completed per year, limit seat capacities, and often resent in areas requiring travel. As a result, I myself, and many of my supervisees have benefited greatly from participation in pre recorded trainings to increase skill sets and specializations in needed therapy education. All social workers are limited in the times and funds they are able to allocate to CEUs and need to be able to apply the specialized training CEUS to the license requirements. Online courses are an area of equity and equality within the profession to increase access to knowledge at various compensation levels.

I feel that it will have grave impact on the quality of trained professionals in our state and the competency of the clinicians/ services provided if Texas based social workers cannot feasibly access the top quality of training in specialized areas due to the proposed imitations.

While I imagine the proposed rule is to limit people from not watching trainings, not paying attention, etc. My experience and the reports from my supervisees is that they are watching and rewatching sections that they may not have fully understood in the first hearing of the information and are actually retaining more as they are able to pause for notes, break information down into suitable bits to integrate and are able to refer back as needed for additional refreshers.

In summary, I believe the impact of this rule would ultimately make for less specialized therapists, less diversely trained LCSWs, more malpractice in client care if appropriate and best practice trainings are not accessible to all social workers.

Kasey Shaw Salyer, LCSW Supervisor

Certified EMDR Certified Therapist and EMDRIA Approved Consultant

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Proposed CEU Changes

Dakota Torres [REDACTED]

Mon 5/23/2022 11:43 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Good morning,

I wanted to reach out due to my concerns with the proposed CEU changes. Currently, as social workers, we are able to obtain our CEUs through online platforms. This has been beneficial in my training due to being trained in EMDR and other specialized therapies. The individuals that do the trainings I need to further my education in the areas I specialize in, generally provide trainings in other states. To travel to these places is possible, yet not feasible. When traveling, social workers are expected to take time off for trainings, pay for hotel stays and meals, and then do not have billable time due to needing to take the time off.

When social workers are able to do self studies, they do not need to take time off, can be present for their clients, continue to work their hours, be home with their children, and can use their vacation time to be with loved ones vs needing to take vacation time for trainings. It is understandable that these changes come from a place of wanting to ensure social workers are obtaining the best education and have those face-to-face experiences. However, this puts up more barriers in a profession that already has so many. What I mean is, gas prices are soaring and plane ticket prices are also becoming almost impossible to afford. Let's continue to say YES to our CEUs being able to be obtained through self-study.

Dakota Torres, LMSW
Supervised by Kasey Salyer, LCSW-S

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FW: BHEC Contact form Result #13364600

BHEC Social Work <socialwork@bhec.texas.gov>

Fri 5/20/2022 7:10 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

From: noreply@fs2.formsite.com <noreply@fs2.formsite.com>**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 9:03 AM**To:** BHEC Social Work <socialwork@bhec.texas.gov>**Subject:** BHEC Contact form Result #13364600

Reference #	13364600
Status	Complete
Select a Program or Topic	Social Work
Name	Margaret
Last	Lair
Email	
Phone Number	8067903136
License Number (If Applicable)	33019
Subject	Upcoming changes to the CEU requirements
Comment or Message	<p>I am very concerned the board plans to limit the number of CEU's that can be obtained through online, unattended sources. Especially with the Pandemic that has not been resolved. The growing number of clients served by the social work profession during this time of increased anxiety and depression and loss of employment and increased child abuse. makes it very difficult to attend scheduled trainings. Most social workers I know are doing their training on weekends an at night after they have done their workload. This restriction would put additional pressure on them and could reduce services to clients at need.</p> <p>Respectfully, Margaret S. Lair, LCSW-S</p>
Last Update	2022-05-12 09:03:02
Start Time	2022-05-12 08:55:19
Finish Time	2022-05-12 09:03:02
IP	75.28.52.42

Browser	Chrome
Device	Desktop
Referrer	N/A

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Comments on Proposed CE Rule Changes

Charlotte Cooper [REDACTED]

Wed 5/18/2022 3:48 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Please do not add additional CE requirements for license renewal. Licensed social workers are PROFESSIONALS. We are responsible for identifying learning gaps and taking action. We know best what we need to study.

Requiring CEs in a particular topic results in multiple CE provider groups quickly developing entry level over-priced courses.

However, well developed informative courses will attract social workers without requirements.

As an LCSW with over 50 years experience I have seen many changes from the days of no regulation to the situation today of over regulation. I haven't seen much improvement. However, being a social worker has become more complicated and expensive.

The result of more and more meaningless requirements and over regulation is not helpful and in fact is resulting in providers leaving to become coaches.

Let's find ways to make practice more attractive, not more expensive and complicated.

Thank you for this opportunity.

Charlotte B. Cooper, LCSW

Retired Director of the Clinical Reimbursement Project, NASW Texas

Public Comment

Mikaila Moore [REDACTED]

Wed 5/18/2022 2:50 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello,

I would like to make a public comment in regards to "RULE §781.501 - Requirements for Continuing Education: (h)(5)Self-study. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 1 hour", I would like to ask that you reconsider your stance on this rule.

For many social workers, our jobs do not provide free continuing education opportunities that are live or recorded live. In addition, with our salaries it is often hard to afford 2 day conferences with which to obtain all of our CEU hours in one go. I have found that doing self-study or self-paced continuing education tends to be more affordable and more accessible to more social workers. Please consider changing the number of hours allowed to 10 hours of self-study education as opposed to 1 hour.

Kind Regards,
Mikaila Ventura, LMSW

****Sent from my iPhone****

FW: Self-Study CEUs

Brackeen, Tina [REDACTED]

Wed 5/18/2022 11:09 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To Whom It May Concern,

I wanted to express my concern regarding only allowing 1 credit hour for Self-study CEUs. I feel this is most unreasonable at this time. There are so many of the on-line and self-study CEUs that very informative and educational. It also one to do studies when they are most able to take time to concentrate and focus on what subject is most helpful in their practice. If you have limiting that it would cause some just to have to choose for convenience not what would benefit them. Also, my concern after working in a hospital on a COVID unit during the most difficult time is there is not guarantee this will not rise again.

I do hope you will reconsider this proposal for the safety and well being of all Social Workers no matter what field they are working. If you have questions regarding my concerns feel free to reach out to me. My cell is 817-683-8423. My personal email is [REDACTED]

Tina Brackeen, LCSW | Care Transitions Manager/Social Worker Team LeadT 817.960.6309 | F 817.960.6313
[REDACTED]

Care Transitions Specialist [REDACTED] | T 817.960.6106

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Self-Study

Wed 5/18/2022 11:08 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

I am writing to voice my concerns regarding limiting CEUs to one hour of self study. In the age of moving forward with technology this is unreasonable and is setting up many social workers to fail. I am requesting to allow us to continue self study CEUs.

Regards,
Jennifer Godinez

CE Requirement Concerns

Jennifer Pearson [REDACTED]

Wed 5/18/2022 10:46 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Good morning,

I was incredibly discouraged to hear that the BHEC is considered limiting social work self-study continuing education. This is absolutely unacceptable and ableist for a number of reasons:

1. Social workers are not paid enough to afford the cost of in-person CEs
2. Social workers do not have adequate PTO to attend in-person CEs, if any
3. There is an ongoing pandemic, where in-person CEs are **severely** limited and the number of attendees are limited
4. A new wave of the pandemic is expected this fall, further limiting (if not indefinitely suspending) in-person opportunities
5. Not all locations where CEs are held are wheelchair accessible or are on bus routes – in fact, *most* are not along bus routes due to Texas' poor public transportation system. This is coming from someone in a major metropolitan area – what are my fellow social workers in San Angelo, Amarillo, Lubbock, etc. mean to go?

If you search for in-person CEs for social workers using the website directly linked by naswtx.org, there are a **total of three in-person CE opportunities** listed, all of which are in the state of Iowa, none of which would fulfill our CEU requirements. There are a minimum of **692 self-study opportunities** listed using this same search engine. If you do a quick Google search for in-person social work CEs in Texas, only self-study can easily be found.

CEUs often cost more money per hour than I make. On the same website I mentioned, there are currently **only five live webinars** listed, totaling 12 clock hours, and none of them are free. The NASW is more than happy to charge \$28.75/hour for non-NASW members, which is more than I make at my current job. Every single one of these opportunities are during the work day, during work hours.

The hospital where I work has a hard and fast rule that if your license lapses, you are suspended for 30 days. After those 30 days pass and your license is not reinstated, you are automatically **fired**. If the board does not change this single hour of "self-study", the hospital where I work will have to fire **every single social worker that works here**, as a license is required for employment.

Please reconsider these ableist and privileged self-study limitations, as they go against social work ethics. Please check your bias and realize that not everyone has the privilege to even afford the cost of in-person CEs, whether that cost is lost wages, transportation, cost of CEs themselves, or sheer lack of availability within the state. I know that I cannot afford to fly to Iowa, rent a car, and pay for a hotel for the in-person continuing education opportunities listed on the NASW website – can you?

Thank you,

Jennifer Pearson, LMSW
Palliative Care Social Worker
Phone: (682) 885-7885

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Please Reconsider the Revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Alejandra Carson [REDACTED]

Wed 5/18/2022 9:41 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

Enacting this revision will put a strain on social workers across the state and social workers that live out-of-state but continue to be licensed in Texas (I am speaking of myself), causing earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live.

Personally, I always have obtained my CEU credit hours by attending live events and through self-study hours. I personally believe that online live events and self-study hours provide me the flexibility that I need as I already work 40+ hours per week, and have limited PTO. Attending a live event has never benefited me more vs. a self-study and instead, I find self-study more beneficial as I am able to further research myself immediately regarding the subject that I am studying.

Again, I request that the **Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one**, as this would be very detrimental to social workers that are licensed for the state of Texas.

Thank you for considering my request,

Alejandra Carson, LMSW (License #: 63916)

Care Coach

She/Her/Ella

214.244.4007 | cariloop.com | [LinkedIn](#)

No one should go through caregiving alone



Comments on proposed rules regarding 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884

Ruth Caporello [REDACTED]

Wed 5/18/2022 9:16 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello,

As a practitioner, I wanted to comment on the proposal for Rule 781.501. I am grateful the State is requiring cultural competency in continuing education. I would also propose that continuing education pertaining to **addiction** and **trauma** be required in these CEU hours. Breaking research is presenting essential information to our profession and one's ability to effectively serve our communities. One's knowledge of what we are learning regarding the brain, and impact of addiction and trauma (including betrayal trauma) and the treatment thereof (for the client and their families) is easily outdated if one is not staying abreast of new findings. So, I think it is imperative that this stay at the forefront of therapists' knowledge base, keeping everyone engaged in the conversations.

Thank you for your consideration!

--

Ruth Caporello, MA, LPC-A, ASAT Candidate
Austin, TX

Self study cap

Summer Allan Wilson [REDACTED]

Mon 5/16/2022 6:26 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

As a rural East Texas LCSW-S, the limit of one "self study" CE will pose a burden to me financially as well as to my clients if I must travel for CE's. In my current self employed private practice position and in this economy, I respectfully suggest a more generous allowance of 10 "self study" hours per biennium.

Respectfully,

Summer Allan Wilson LCSW- Clinical Supervisor #22168

Pediatric Specialist-

Certified Trauma Focused Therapist-

Nationally Certified Family Case Manager-

903-880-2334 (c)

903-677-4803 (f)

www.summerallanwilson.com

BHEC Proposed Rules in 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884

Denise Gordon [REDACTED]

Mon 5/16/2022 5:15 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello BHEC:

As a LCSW-S in TX, License # 51257, I concur with the recommendations submitted by NASW-TX regarding the proposed Rules changes in 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884.

Please note I was not among the number of Social Workers referenced in NASW's feedback.

Thank you,
Denise Gordon, LCSW-S

Self-Study CEU - limit 1 hour

Marena Updegraff [REDACTED]

Mon 5/16/2022 4:01 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello,

I would like to reach out regarding the proposal to limit self-study ceu's to just one hour. That would cause a hardship on not just myself but all other social workers. Social workers work a hard job and have to work hard to maintain their license. This would cause one more hardship on dedicated social workers. Not only would one have to find time to leave their job, families, their home (gas money) but they would have to find a location to complete these ceu's. This would not be doing anyone justice.

Thank you for your time.

Marena Updegraff

Streamlined

Maegon Crader [REDACTED]

Fri 5/13/2022 6:31 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Interested in requirements please, thank you!

**Thank you,
Maegon Crader, MA, LPC-S, RPT-S
Licensed Professional Counselor
817-247-5737**

[REDACTED]

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I disagree with the proposed additional requirements for SW CEUs

LOFTIN, LAURA L GS-12 USAF AFRC 301 FW/CVS [REDACTED]

Thu 5/12/2022 3:45 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Attention Board,

I disagree with the proposed additional requirement for SW CEUs. This puts additional burdens on licensed Social Workers.

TITLE 22 EXAMINING BOARDS
PART 34 TEXAS STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS
CHAPTER 781 SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE
SUBCHAPTER C APPLICATION AND LICENSING
RULE §781.501 Requirements for Continuing Education
ISSUE 04/22/2022
ACTION Proposed

Laura Loftin, LCSW
Sexual Assault Response Coordinator
301 FW/CVS NAS Fort Worth JRB
D-SAAPC Level III Credentialed
301FW SAPR Hotline 24/7: 817-401-5046
iRest® Level 2 Teacher

STEP Forward
Prevent. Report. Advocate

Need to talk?
Survivors of sexual assault in the DoD community can access specialized support at SafeHelpline.org or by calling 877-995-5247

FW: BHEC Contact form Result #13364600

BHEC Social Work <socialwork@bhec.texas.gov>

Thu 5/12/2022 3:21 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Concern on CEU requirements

Thank you,

Joan Silva

Licensing Specialist

Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council

333 Guadalupe Street, STE. 3-900

Austin, TX 78701

www.bhec.texas.gov

This message contains thoughts and opinions of Joan Silva and does not represent official Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council policy.

From: noreply@fs2.formsite.com <noreply@fs2.formsite.com>**Sent:** Thursday, May 12, 2022 9:03 AM**To:** BHEC Social Work <socialwork@bhec.texas.gov>**Subject:** BHEC Contact form Result #13364600

Reference #	13364600
Status	Complete
Select a Program or Topic	Social Work
Name	Margaret
Last	Lair
Email	[REDACTED]
Phone Number	8067903136
License Number (If Applicable)	33019
Subject	Upcoming changes to the CEU requirements

**Comment
or
Message**

I am very concerned the board plans to limit the number of CEU's that can be obtained through online, unattended sources. Especially with the Pandemic that has not been resolved. The growing number of clients served by the social work profession during this time of increased anxiety and depression and loss of employment and increased child abuse. makes it very difficult to attend scheduled trainings. Most social workers I know are doing their training on weekends an at night after they have done their workload. This restriction would put additional pressure on them and could reduce services to clients at need.

Respectfully,
Margaret S. Lair, LCSW-S

**Last
Update**

2022-05-12 09:03:02

Start Time

2022-05-12 08:55:19

Finish Time

2022-05-12 09:03:02

IP

75.28.52.42

Browser

Chrome

Device

Desktop

Referrer

N/A

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22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Tiffany Damewood [REDACTED]

Wed 5/11/2022 8:14 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

It is unacceptable the board no longer wishes to consider CEUs valid if they are not completed in person. Social workers are already overworked and under paid. Implementing this rule change WILL cause substantial financial hardships, as in person CEU events are exponentially more expensive, require time off from work and allow little flexibility for the average social worker. Please reconsider the implementation of this rule.

Respectfully,

Tiffany Damewood, LMSW

Comments on Social Work CEU Updates

kaseybree@yahoo.com [REDACTED]

Wed 5/11/2022 9:26 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello Ms. Skiff,

I wanted to add a comment that I'm good with most of the changes including limiting CEU hours on self study and teaching, but I would vote to keep the jurisprudence exam hours at 3 ethics for Texas social workers and also keep the open-ended language for teaching credits. I work at a community college and while a social work class I could potentially teach is "lower level" it can be transferred into a bachelor's degree, so I would advocate that community college teaching hours count as CEUs. Also, the more exposure we can offer social work at the community college level will increase BSW and MSW access.

Thank you,
Kasey McKee, LCSW
TX licensee 51119

Objection to CEU proposal

KellyAnn Grace [REDACTED]

Wed 5/11/2022 8:05 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express an objection to the new CEU rules proposed in regards to the one hour maximum of self study credit for Social Workers.

Texas health steps provides a wide array of free continuing education to Social Workers across the state of Texas. This provider allows social workers in rural areas to obtain the required CEU hours. This is just one example of quality, educational and engaging online instruction Social Workers are able to obtain at their own pace.

Furthermore in a post-Covid world many in person options have been limited, as have many people's ability to travel.. This proposed rule would hinder the ability of Social Workers across the state to engage in thoughtful and meaningful CEU options.

I strongly object to this proposal as it is out of date with our Internet and online learning times. If this passes the board will hinder a wide array of learning options in order to keep highly trained and educated Licensed Social Workers in Texas.

Please do not pass this proposal as written:

TITLE 22 EXAMINING BOARDS
PART 34 TEXAS STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKER EXAMINERS
CHAPTER 781 SOCIAL WORKER LICENSURE
SUBCHAPTER C APPLICATION AND LICENSING
RULE §781.501 Requirements for Continuing Education

Thank you,

Kelly Grace

"non-live" or "self-study" CEUs

Catherine Contee Stansbury [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 8:43 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Members of the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council and Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners,

I respectfully submit this request as a "public comment" on the "proposed rules published April 22, 2022."

Please do not limit the number of "non-live" or "self-study" CEUs allowed per license renewal. I believe that this proposed rule should not pass. This proposed rule would limit access to high-quality training, particularly in specialized areas that are important for continuing education. Some of the best courses and top instructors are available only in a "non-live" or "self-study" format. This is particularly true of courses on advanced topics.

Thank you for considering my request.

Respectfully,

Catherine Contee Stansbury

Catherine C. Stansbury, LMSW

Social Worker and EMDR Trained Therapist

Supervised by Kasey Shaw Salyer, LCSW-S

Divine Mercy Counseling, PLLC

3432 Greystone Drive, Suite 110 (near Mopac and Far West)

Austin, Texas 78731-2357

Phone: (737) 289-0055

Fax: (833) 290-0021

[REDACTED]
divinemercycounseling.com

DIVINE MERCY
COUNSELING, PLLC

In case of crisis: Divine Mercy Counseling is an outpatient facility providing support through scheduled appointments only. If you or someone you love is having a mental health emergency or is experiencing a crisis, please call the Travis County 24/7 Crisis Hotline 512-472-HELP (4357) or proceed to your nearest emergency room.

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Continuing Education

Jennifer Occhipinti [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 4:31 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

There appears to be much confusion about the proposed rule change regarding "self study" CEU's being limited to one hour. Many people feel this means taking away access to pre-recorded webinars, asynchronous online courses, and the like. If that is the case, then I would vehemently oppose such a change given the time constraints of Social Workers. Many employers do not allow CEU's to be completed on the clock and this would force many to use precious PTO time for CEU's instead of for sick leave or vacation. Social Workers in more rural areas will be especially burdened to find in person events that are in a commutable range. If this is not the intent of the rule then I think it needs to be more well defined in order to alleviate this confusion.

Sincerely,

--

Jennifer Occhipinti (she/her), LMSW, LCDC

3611 Plaza East Court

Granbury, TX 76049

Direct 682-936-4835

Office: 817-579-6866

www.missiongranbury.org



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22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Alexia Eller [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 3:40 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello,

I received word that the SW board is trying to limit the amount of non-live trainings for CEUs which would be highly unbeneficial for all those included. I would have extremely limited access to quality trainings in different areas of specialization that might not be available to me if I am not able to go due to having to work my regular job, taking care of medical concerns, personal family time, etc. I have received several trainings that I could not attend in person that have been pertinent to my job experience as well as growth in my career. I am highly against this proposal of the limitations that it would cause for social workers all over.

--

Alexia Eller, LMSW

Please note that email is not confidential in nature. Please use email correspondence solely for scheduling purposes, otherwise, please contact me by phone or through your secure client portal any other questions or comments. **I try to reply to emails the same day, during business hours, Monday-Friday.**

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If you experience a psychiatric emergency outside of normal business hours, call 911. If you are in crisis but not experiencing an emergency, please attempt to contact my office by either texting or calling the office number listed above. If you are unable to reach an office staff member, please call the Tarrant County Psychiatric Helpline: 817-335-3022 or 1-800-866-2465.

Comments on proposed CE changes

Suzanne Camos [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 1:03 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Please see my comments on proposed CE changes for Licensed Clinical Social Workers in Texas:

Regarding 22 TAC §781.404 Recognition as a Council-approved Supervisor and the Supervision Process-

Specialized CE's, like ones offered for Supervision, are rarely offered at low or no cost. Increasing the amount required per renewal period of CE's related to Supervision is a potential financial burden to social workers.

Please keep this in mind when making adjustments to requirements.

Thank you,

Suzanne Camos, LCSW-S

The revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Celina Ruiz [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 1:03 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, as a social worker in a hospital emergency setting, it is difficult to be able to schedule time throughout the day to make live trainings when the needs of the patients can escalate at any given time.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Celina Ruiz, LMSW

Proposed rules change

Rob Novick [REDACTED]

Tue 5/10/2022 12:19 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live.

Incidentally, many of the courses that are required by the Board (human trafficking) are self study and are longer than 1 hour.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one.

Thank you for considering my request,

Rob

Rob Novick, LCSW
214.586.0066

[REDACTED]
www.robnovick.com

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Public comment

Yolanda Mathis [REDACTED]

Mon 5/9/2022 6:11 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, directed to be emailed to the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Yolanda Mathis

Protest to 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education section h

Bonnie Downing [REDACTED]

Mon 5/9/2022 8:51 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

As a full-time social worker and full-time parent, I am incredibly disappointed to see consideration of a limit to self-study hours for Continuing Education. I, like many other social workers, work unconventional hours and am unable to attend CE classes during my work hours, so asynchronous (aka self-study) CE courses are all I am able to do for my CE credits. Limiting my options so severely would jeopardize my ability to maintain my LMSW licensing. In my most charitable interpretation of this proposal, I wonder if there is confusion about the term "self-study" and the author was not aware that it does not refer to a self-directed course of study in this field but to asynchronous learning. If that is the case, I beg you to please issue a clarification so that the many, many social workers like myself who are only able to maintain our licenses due to asynchronous participation in CE courses can put our minds at ease.

--

Bonnie Downing

Veterinary Social Worker

Leader, Girl Scout Troop 7393 & Brother Scouts Navigators USA Chapter 324

Question on Self-Study CEU Rule

Amanda Steed [REDACTED]

Sun 5/8/2022 12:15 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To whom it may concern:

Rule proposal §781.501, section h, item 5 states "Self-study. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 1 hour."

There has been some discussion among licensed social workers in the past few days about the meaning of self study - can someone kindly reply with a definition of "self study" and if it refers to self-paced courses (Such as TX health steps).

Thank you so much,
Amanda Steed, LMSW
License Number 104068
Under Clinical Supervision of Linda Hamza, LCSW-S

Proposed CEU Self-study limitations

E S [REDACTED]

Sun 5/8/2022 11:03 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Best regards,

Erika Schat

--

Thank you,

Erika Schat

Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Julie Croom [REDACTED]

Sun 5/8/2022 7:56 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

I strongly oppose the new statute limiting self-study CEUs. There is no argument to support this change. The Texas government offers self-study CEUs to professionals in many areas, the NASW offers these courses, as well as multiple other reputable organizations.

Again, there is no justifiable reason for this change. This Board is supposed to look out for the best interest of those they serve and it does not seem that that is the priority at all.

Julie Croom, LCSW

restriction of self study for CEUs

Devan Kennedy [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 9:30 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,
Devan Kennedy

Comment On Proposed Rule 22 TAC 781.508

C M [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 4:23 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hi there,

I am writing today to express that the proposed revision of 22 TAC 781.508 to limit self-study CEU to 1 hour would have a negative impact on social workers in Texas for multiple reasons, and to ask the Council to reconsider this revision.

Enacting this revision would greatly increase the strain on social workers in the state of Texas and make it much more difficult to attain CEUs. Self-study hours provide accurate, helpful education for social workers in a manner that is flexible and allows us to not have to miss work or take off limited PTO that otherwise could be used for maintaining or recovering their health/wellbeing. It is not fair for the vast majority of social workers to have to complete their CEUs in a live format after work, with PTO, on weekends, with the proposed revision, since employers will likely not make allowances for completing them during work hours. Additionally, self-study CEUs are much more affordable for social workers who are already laden with low wages, student loans, miscellaneous fees, and the vast majority of us cannot afford to pay the high fees that these other CEUs charge. I would like to be able to use the small amount of valuable time not spent trying to help kids/teens with suicidal ideation, self-harm, and additional mental health concerns (for which I am paid very little as a master's degree holder from a top institution) with loved ones.

Please do not make it even harder to be a social worker in these times and reconsider the revision.

Respectfully,
Christine MacKenzie

--

Christine MacKenzie

Reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508

Sasha Flores [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 4:06 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Sincerely,

Sasha Flores, LCSW

Limiting Self-Study CEU

Deena Fowler [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 3:19 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Deena Freeman

[REDACTED]
682-583-6017

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

CEU Rule

Misty Midkiff [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:59 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

PLEASE DO NOT ADD TO OUR STRESS AND TAKE AWAY FROM THE LITTLE AMOUNT OF SELF CARE/FAMILY TIME WE HAVE BY MAKING CEUS IN PERSON.

Sincerely,

ALL OF THE ALREADY STRESSED OUT SOCIAL WORKERS IN HEALTHCARE

Misty Midkiff, LMSW

Sent from my MetroPCS 5G Android device
Get [Outlook for Android](#)

Revision of the 22 TAC §781.508

Kristy Kreymer VC [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:57 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Kristy Kreymer, LMSW
817-229-4093

Sent from my iPhone

Kristy Kreymer
Assistant to Vannetta Chapman
www.vannettachapman.com

Reconsider revision please

D M [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:47 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

As a full time LMSW social worker, this would cause strain and stress on myself and our social work community that is already struggling to care for the most vulnerable during a deadly pandemic.

The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Deanne Medina, LMSW
18038 Crescent Royale Way
Humble TX 77346
281-730-3333

Concerns regarding 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Melissa McVane [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:25 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Good Afternoon,

I am reaching out to express my deepest concerns regarding the newly proposed rule; 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, which would limit self-study CEUs to only one hour. I have great concerns regarding this proposal for many reasons. First off, many live streams/seminars are extremely costly; for 29 hours of CEUs, I cannot fathom the amount it would cost (hundreds, if not thousands of dollars) to complete this requirement, where there is no guarantee that we would get reimbursed for this from our employers. At this time, social workers can pay around fifty dollars or so, to complete all CEUs, which provides very informative and educational information (along with flexibility that is most often a necessity for families these days). Furthermore, what about the time that social workers will have to take off for these live seminars? What about the lack of childcare services/support that families are struggling with at this time? Social workers in the State of Texas are already most often, poorly compensated. The U.S. inflation rate is at 8.54% this year, and many families are already financially struggling, which is already having an effect on their mental health and raising many additional concerns. Additionally, BHEC has already increased the cost for our licensure renewals, etc. We are having to deal with the effects of COVID (cases on the rise again), the lack of mental health resources at this time (with suicide rates sky-rocketing), child mental health organizations declaring a state of emergency on children's mental health, social work/mental health professionals burning out and leaving the field, social workers already having a high burn-out rate (pre-covid), the lack of childcare support/services for those social workers working in the field and the lack of mental health professionals to sustain the ever-growing mental health support needed by society at this time...

I do not see the issues/concerns regarding self-study CEUs, when we have to complete exams identifying that we comprehended and completed the CEU course. This allows flexibility for those who work full-time, are caretakers, have financial and time constraints, among many others.

I ask you to please reconsider this proposal, as this rule will only add more stress to our profession during this ever-trying time.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Sincerely,

Melissa McVane, LMSW
License #: 69156

Self- study CEUs

Melissa Tijerina [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:04 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Warm regards,

Melissa Tijerina, LBSW

22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Serina Limon [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:03 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live.

In my personal experience, a lot of CEUs that I have been interested in that are relevant to my field are only available during business hours of 8-5. I have a job that does not allow much spare time and would not be able to attend live CEUs. This could lead to the issue of logging in for attendance but not actually paying attention due to needing to work.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Thank you,
Serina Limon, LMSW
512-484-3232

22 TAC 781.508 Request

jessica.schwen [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 2:02 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Allison Dufour

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Signed,
Jessica Schwen LMSW

22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education,

Nora V. Smith [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 1:47 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Thank you,

Nora V. Smith

22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education

Sara Ricketts [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 1:35 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Brenda Skiff and the Texas BHEC,

I am emailing today to request that you and the Council reconsider the revision of the 22 TAC §781.508 Hour Requirements for Continuing Education, more specifically, the revision to limiting the self-study CEU credit hours to one hour.

With enacting this revision, this will put a strain on social workers across the state and cause earning CEUs to be greatly more difficult. The self-study hours provide flexibility for social workers to get further education when it's convenient to them; instead of causing issues of missing work and/or loss of earned money and PTO time for the social worker. Self-study hours provide accurate education and learning to social workers, despite the need for it to be live. Personally, I have attended live events and asked questions. Due to time, my questions were not answered in the live setting but instead, I emailed the presenter and was able to have my questions answered in that format; the same style of a self-study.

Again, I request that the Texas Behavioral Health Executive Council does not enact this revision of limiting self-study hours for social workers to just one. Thank you for considering my request.

Sara Ricketts-Pierce
903-900-2623

Comment on 22 TAC 781.508

Sydney King [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 11:28 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Eliminating/limiting self study CEUs would be detrimental to many social workers that work full time 8 am -5 pm jobs and would force us to choose between adequately serving our clients or fulfilling our in-person/webinar requirements.

Please reconsider enacting the statute and advocate for those of us that advocate for others.

Thank you,

Proposed \$781.501

Kristina Taylor [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 11:11 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

As a social worker that juggles a very busy schedule, I find the limit of Self-Study CEU's to 1 hour to be an unfair and unnecessary burden. I, like so many others, cannot afford to take off work to attend live workshops. I must work through them at night and on weekends. This comes in the form of purchasing the digital version of the workshop and going through it at my own pace. The information is the same either way.

Going through the material at my own pace is actually much more beneficial because I can retain so much more of the content this way. On top of that, I have access to go back and rewatch any of it I want. I have created a great library of interesting and helpful workshops conducted by the top professionals in our field that I can turn to when I need a refresher.

The workshops are expensive already. This rule would place a financial burden of also missing work to attend them live. Those social workers that get PTO or vacation may not miss pay, but they would be using up their vacation days. This creates a poor work/life balance. Who would want to count work related workshops as a "vacation". I have had to do this myself in the past when my employer would not let me have the day off any other way. This is what led me into digital seminars to begin with.

Thank you for your time.

Krisitna Taylor, LCSW

CEUs

cathy runge [REDACTED]

Fri 4/29/2022 1:17 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Please do not limit self study CEUs to just one hour. It is difficult to obtain the hours in person while trying to carry a full case load. Thank you!

Catharine Runge
5046165616

Proposed Changes to CEU

Loretta Widmann [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 10:53 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I am adamantly opposed to changing the rules of obtaining CEU's. Obtaining the CEU's can be cost prohibitive for many Social Worker's already along with the required licensing fee but to add insult to injury and require in person, is an undue burden to place on Social Worker's! Many of us are already working two jobs just to support ourselves and our families - to lose a significant amount of unpaid time of work and pay additional fees is certainly not reasonable! The online, self study CEU's are more than sufficient considering that Social Worker's by their very nature are going to constantly research and learn about the communities and needs of the populations in which they work!

Please do NOT limit self study CEU's to one hour. The current code doesn't and shouldn't limit self study.

Thanks,

Loretta S Plunkett, LMSW, CCM
817-905-5233
4323 Windswept Lane
Grapevine TX 76051

Self study CEU

Cookie Johnson - [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 10:44 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Hello,

I have just read the proposed rule to limit self stud CEUs to one hour. I am writing to ask you to please not implement this rule! I am a mom of three small children and have a busy life! I work at a hospital and don't have extra daytime hours to attend seminars. My job offers us specific case management CEUs that we are able to complete during work hours. Please don't impose that undue extra burden on us!

Thank you,

Rachel Wells, LMSW

Sent from my iPhone

Continuing education

Michelle Wallace [REDACTED]

Sat 5/7/2022 10:16 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

It is important to me that continued education (CEU) be allowed to be self study and online. I work full time and am a parent. Being able to do continued education online and self study has allowed me to focus on exactly what I'm interested in and allows me to do my courses after work and when my children's needs are taken care of. Limiting CEU self study limits the type of education opportunities we can participate in. I have been able to find incredible educational opportunities focusing on topics that are specific to my professional needs through online options. More and more continuing education is being offered online and it's become more economical on my limited budget.

Thank you for considering my concerns.

Michelle Wallace, LCSW 27809

Sent from my iPhone

Comments on Proposed Rules

Samantha Bender [REDACTED]

Fri 5/6/2022 11:42 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Ms. Brenda Skiff,

I am writing due to concern regarding the proposed changes to rules regarding continuing education credits for social workers in the state of Texas. When I recently moved to Texas, I was thrilled to see that all required continuing education hours could be completed via self-study and could be asynchronous. Seeing the proposed changes to limit these hours is disheartening and alarming for myself and other social workers.

Social workers are often overworked, underpaid, and not provided with very generous benefits. The cost of live trainings is often much higher than asynchronous trainings and require time off requests not required by asynchronous trainings. As a Licensed Clinical Social Worker working with the military before and after deployment at Fort Bliss, it is a huge benefit for me to be able to complete asynchronous trainings. I am able to support our soldiers here full-time and not have to take time off for trainings. I am also able to complete military-related trainings that are not generally not offered in an in person or live format. I am just one of many military-affiliated social workers who would be negatively affected by these changes.

Additionally, there are MANY other social workers who would be severely negatively impacted by the proposed changes. Social workers who are in low-income positions. Social workers who do not have benefits in their jobs and cannot afford to take unpaid time off. Social workers who have family and other obligations that make live trainings difficult. Social workers who have disabilities. Social workers who would like to learn from other states and national trainings.

Social workers work too hard to continue to face barriers in their careers and in helping others. I am asking for these proposed changes to be reconsidered and for requirements for continuing education credits to remain asynchronous.

Thank you in advance for your time and your consideration.

Best,
Samantha Bender, LCSW

Proposed rule changes

Rebecca Cole [REDACTED]

Wed 5/4/2022 8:14 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Dear Board Members,

I am opposed to the proposed changes to RULE §781.501 Requirements for Continuing Education.

I am opposed to the limit on self-study education (h 5). I believe we should have the autonomy to decide what type of CEUs we are different learners and have different availability in our time. I'm opposed to (f). We should be able to exercise our discretion to take CEUs where we see appropriate supported by the current rules for continuing education.

I believe the Board taking this step creates undue inequities in our learning. It decreases our autonomy and decision making. I feel this is a major overreach of the Board's powers. Please do not change current CEU requirements. Thank you.

Respectfully,

Rebecca Cole, LCSW-S

www.rebeccacole.net

281/799-9416

Comment on: Proposed rules regarding 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884

Elena Taylor <[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/3/2022 2:02 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To Whom It May Concern:

I have been a social worker for almost twenty years I have seen the increase in the use of the internet to provide access to trainings and information that would otherwise be very difficult to attain.

The proposed rule " (5)Self-study. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 1 hour " would greatly limit the ability for providers to utilize resources outside of their geographical area to help them become educated and skilled. One hour is not within the realm of reason to provide quality care to our clients and patients. Many areas in Texas do not have access to quality programs and educators that can provide in person or live training.

In addition, as the mother of small children, self-study programs allow me the flexibility to fill in learning when there are quiet times that allow for my learning. Leaving the home can be difficult as I am the homeschool mother of 3 and a toddler. I greatly appreciate when Texas DSHS provides webinars for training, such as the rural healthcare webinar in April, however such opportunities are few and far between, especially with a low or no cost option.

Please reconsider the impact that this rule will have on social workers throughout the state and allow us our voice to be heard. We are the ones who will struggle to meet the demands of this change.

Thank you,
Elena Taylor, LMSW

CE rules

Nico Silva, LMSW <[REDACTED]>

Tue 5/3/2022 1:57 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Please vote for social workers to have all their CEU online and self paced. As a social worker with disabilities this is critical for me and others. Also another pandemic may happen. Thank you.

Nicolas Silva, LMSW

Self-Study

Alyssa Ray [REDACTED]

Sun 5/1/2022 6:44 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

I am contacting about the proposal to limit self study CEUs to only one hour. This proposal not only lacks an understanding of the kinds of self-study that are available, it will limit the ability of many to receive varied and quality educational experiences.

I have utilized self study to complete training courses on topics that were not discussed during my time in grad school. Through the VA, I was able to complete the training to understand and effectively utilize STAIR therapy, an approach I regularly use with my teenage clients as it touches on building healthy relationships after traumatic experiences. This information was all pre-recorded and I was able to do it at my own pace. If the proposal in question was pushed through, I would not have received the ten hours of credit I earned, I would have only received one. This would have discouraged me and possibly even stopped me from getting this valuable information that has been beneficial to many of the clients I serve.

Also, there are many CEU opportunities that are at odd hours. Not everyone can take time off during the workday or stay up late to watch or go to events live. When getting information from disparate areas the time changes can be a concern but these often allow for social workers to gather information that is unavailable within their local area. Without these types of trainings social workers are less educated on diverse issues.

Finally, many home-bound or immunocompromised social workers rely on these kinds of CEUs. We have many social workers that work from home for a variety of reasons, not least of which because they are unable to leave.

One of the ethical principles of the NASW code of ethics is social justice. As social workers we are obligated to connect people with the resources they need. Why, then, is our board considering limiting our access to trainings that are not only mandated, but make us better able to serve the communities around us. Do not allow the proposal to go through.

Thank you.

April 22 Registrar Proposed Rules Comment

Jazzmyne Aaron [REDACTED]

Fri 4/29/2022 8:42 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Good evening,

I would like to dispute the proposed rule of 1 hour for self-study in 22 TAC SS781.501 Requirements for Continuing Education. Although things are starting to reopen and many activities return to face-to-face operations, I think a more reasonable limit for self-study should be 10 hours per renewal period. Many social workers perform multiple duties/jobs within the profession and an allowance of 10 hours vs. 1 will allow for flexibility in obtaining the continuing education hours, maybe in a specialty area that is difficult to get to an in-person event. I know that this is my plan, as I would like to eventually seek certification for alternative therapies and some of the courses available are online, self-study courses. Though the program overall has set requirements for self-study, online study and in-person courses.

All in all, I'm asking that the board reconsiders the number of hours for self-study.

I am available for additional comments as needed.

Thank you,

Jazzmyne N. Aaron, LCSW-S, CCM

Sent from Outlook for iOS

Object to proposed rule change of limiting self-study to 1 hour for CEU's

Erica Harris [REDACTED]

Thu 4/28/2022 4:46 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

I oppose the proposed rule change to limit self-study to just 1 hour under §781.501 Requirements for Continuing Education, g. 5 (5) Self-study. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 1 hour.

It is difficult to attend in-person meetings. In today's culture, many CEU are offered via Webinars, and not in-person. It is already difficult trying to maintain an active license, and this is an unnecessary burden to an already struggling profession. Virtual meetings and online programs is the modern thing and why this board has decided that only 1 hour can be used is egregious. I can understand if it is talking about the programs where you just read a book, but to also include pre-recorded live webinars as not sufficient doesn't make any sense.

Many in-person CEUs are during the week and it is difficult to take off work to attend in-person. And there are not many in-person sessions either.

--

Erica Harris, LCSW-S

214.893.5181

www.hscericaharris.com**Licensed LCSW in Texas, Alabama, Arizona, and Colorado****Certified Trauma Therapist, Certified Personality Disorder Therapist, & Certified TeleHealth Provider****All Things Are Possible Through Jesus Christ!**

Changes in supervision objection

Suzanne Roberts [REDACTED]

Mon 4/25/2022 11:12 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

To Whom It may concern,

I am writing to object to registering supervisees without regard to the credit they deserve for the time they had for supervision under the previous rules. I am supervising 3 LMSW's who will lose their hours under this rule without regard to their expenses and time given to the endeavor. On record, I am recording the supervisees as Jacqueline Greene, LMSW, Courtney Keith, LMSW, and Theresa Cayton, LMSW all who have current licensure and supervision plans since 9/14/2021 and 11/23/2021 with payment receipts and documented content. Please reconsider and revise the rule to provide an equitable resolution for individuals who have been in supervision prior to this proposal. Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Suzanne Roberts, LCSW-S | Clinical Social Worker Supervisor | VillageMD

Phone: 713-838-2766 | [REDACTED]



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Proposed rules for social workers

Michelle Zadrozny <[REDACTED]>

Sun 4/24/2022 3:40 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

The 3 hours of continuing education for supervisors has been revoked. I would like to see this reinstated as continuing education specific to supervisors is ESSENTIAL. Thank you.

The Council-approved supervisor must have completed a supervisor's training program acceptable to the Council.

~~{(4)The Council-approved supervisor must complete three hours of continuing education every biennium in supervision theory, skills, strategies, and/or evaluation.}~~

~~{(5)The Council-approved supervisor must designate at each license renewal that he/she wishes to continue Council-approved supervisor status.}~~

~~(4)~~[(6)] The Council-approved supervisor must submit required documentation and fees to the Council.

Michelle Zadrozny, LCSW-S, EAS-C

Pronouns: She/Hers

Clinical Director, Plumeria Counseling Center

512-799-9348 Cell

www.plumeriacounseling.com

www.transformationalworkplace.com

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Public Comment for Proposed Rules Texas SW BHEC

Zahara Williams [REDACTED]

Fri 4/22/2022 5:40 AM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Greetings,

With regard to proposed rules, I suggest the following:

- 781.404 Clinical Supervision

[4] Supervisors requirement to take 3 CEUs on supervision theory and practice should clearly identify new requirement of 781.501 [2] (b) (1) Requirement for 6 hours of supervision CEUs under section 781.404 vs removing it

781.404

[8] Revised A. The Council identifies specific time frame that supervisors are required to maintain supervision records (i.e. until supervision is finished; up to 1 year after completion of supervision)

Zahara Williams

--

Z. Williams, LCSW-S

Proposed Rule Comments

Cynthia Welch [REDACTED]

Fri 4/22/2022 5:19 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Ms. Skiff

I would like to submit the following comments for the proposed rules to 22 TAC Chapter 781.

781.05

Section (h) (4), Only graduate level courses are lists. I would request that teaching an undergraduate course also be included on the list of activities for continuing education.

Section (h): I would like to request that working as a field instructor for a social work intern will be included in the list of approved activities as it similarly was listed in 781.514 (4).

Thank you,
Cynthia Welch, LCSW-S
Licensed Clinical Social Worker -Supervisor
EMDR Certified Therapist

[REDACTED]
254-335-0330

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Comments on Proposed Rules April 2022

Czerw, Danielle J. [REDACTED]

Fri 4/22/2022 1:47 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Cc: Czerw, Danielle J. [REDACTED]

Good Morning!

I have reviewed the proposed rules and have comments regarding the following:

781.501:

(2) A licensee may carry forward to the next renewal period, a maximum of 10 hours accrued during the current renewal period if those hours are not needed for renewal.

(1) All continuing education hours must have been received during the renewal period and be directly related to the practice of social work;

There seems to be a contradiction with these statements. How will one be able to transfer 10 credit hours to the next renewal period if they all need to be received during current renewal period? Will there be a process of requesting the transfer of excess credits, or will one be able to keep track of credits they did not use towards renewal and use them towards the next renewal?

Acceptable cultural diversity or competency hours include, but are not limited to continuing education regarding age, disability, ethnicity, gender, gender identity, language, national origin, race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, and socio-economic status.

Please clarify how to identify completion of cultural diversity hours.

(4) Teaching or attending a graduate level course. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 5 hours.

Does Field Instructor credit hours fall under this category?

Thank you,

Danielle J. Czerw, LCSW

Social Worker, Community Living Center

Department of Veterans Affairs

7400 Merton Minter Blvd. (122)

San Antonio, TX 78229

Office: 210-617-5300 Ext. 16927

Fax: 210-617-5337

Email: [REDACTED]



THE TIME IS RIGHT
FOR SOCIAL WORK

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Comments on Proposed Rules 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884

Francis, Will [REDACTED]

Mon 5/16/2022 3:45 PM

To: rules <rules@bhec.texas.gov>

Attached are comments from NASW-TX regarding the proposed rule changes to 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884.

Will Francis, LMSW

He/Him/His

Executive Director

National Association of Social Workers –

Texas Chapter

810 W. 11th Street

Austin, Texas 78701

Office: (512) 474-1454, EXT 17

Direct: (512) 474-4206

@socialworkwill
[REDACTED]



Get involved: check out our Advocacy Toolkit and take action on our Advocacy Alerts!

Advocacy toolkit link: https://bit.ly/Advocacy_Toolkit

Advocacy alerts: https://bit.ly/NASWTX_TakeAction



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NASW/TX Comments on the PROPOSED RULES PUBLISHED APRIL 22, 2022

Subject line: Comments on Proposed Rules 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884

The National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter (NASW-TX) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments to the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC) regarding the proposed rules in 22 TAC, Chapters 781, 882, and 884. NASW-TX held a webinar for social workers in Texas on May 10, and followed up with an open survey in order to obtain input on the new rules. Over 150 people attended the webinar and responded to a set of polling questions. We subsequently received over 175 additional survey responses on those exact same questions. Our comments reflect the feedback obtained from the over 325 social workers that shared their input on these rules.

If you have any questions or need any clarifying information please contact Will Francis, NASW-TX Executive Director at [REDACTED] or (512) 474-1454.

22 TAC §781.501 - Requirements for Continuing Education

§781.50. Cultural Competency and Diversity

NASW-TX supports the addition of three hours of Cultural Competency and Diversity education requirements for social workers. However, there were questions about whether a training could count as both ethics and cultural competency. The new rules would benefit from clarifying language, such as: “The 30 hours of continuing education must include 6 hours in ethics and 3 hours in cultural diversity or competency. CE hours may satisfy both requirements simultaneously.”

- **Rationale:** There may be CE opportunities that combine or cover both topics, and the rules are unclear as to whether a person may claim both hours at the same time. If this was not intended by the rules then similar, but opposite language (i.e. - “CE hours may not satisfy both requirements simultaneously”) would be beneficial. NASW-TX supports allowing for concurrent requirements.

§781.50. Supervision CE's

The survey results indicate that a narrow margin of social workers support increasing the CE hour requirements from three to six. However, there was support for adding language clarifying the subjects related to the CE's. NASW-TX recommends carrying the old language into the new rules by proposing that a person: “must complete 6 hours of continuing education in supervision every biennium in supervision theory, skills, strategies, and/or evaluation.”

- **Rationale:** Some broad guidance will help both CE providers as well as supervisors ensure that their continuing education activities are covering topics that increase their knowledge in this subject area.

§781.50. CE providers

The results from both the live polls during the webinar and from the online survey indicate support for the new rules that require that 50% of a licensee's CE's must come from an approved provider list. This was still a polarizing issue, and it brought our persuasive arguments both in support of and opposed to the new rule. Overall, the majority of respondents do support establishing a specific group of providers for a set amount of CE's, while still recognizing that additional CE's can come from a much broader group. Some commentary reflected the prior authorization process for CE providers in place when the Texas State Board of Social

Worker Examiners was housed at the Health and Human Services Commission. While there was an understanding that process was not effective or feasible, a diverse approved list resonated among respondents as an attempt to identify groups or organizations with a connection to social work.

§781.50. Jurisprudence Exam

NASW-TX recommends that the language around the jurisprudence exam be modified to indicate that each exam hour equals one CE credit hour. We are suggesting that the language be amended to read: "Licensees who pass the jurisprudence examination may claim 1 hour of continuing education in ethics per exam hour completed."

- **Rationale:** The social work jurisprudence exam is currently a three hour exam. Dropping the CE's for that exam to one hour would negatively impact test takers, especially in light of the updated rules that specifically state: "Licensees shall receive credit for continuing education activities according to the number of hours designated by the provider, or if no such designation, on a one-for-one basis with one credit hour for each hour spent in the continuing education activity."

§781.50. Self Study

There was a fair amount of confusion around the new rules regarding self-study. The intent of the rules appears to be clear that self-study only refers to an activity completed by a licensee independent of any third party or external provider. But many online CE's are defined as "self-study" when a person completes an asynchronous course and tests on their own. Clarifying language would be helpful here, and NASW-TX proposes that the rule be amended to read: "Self-study, which is defined as any activity a person does on their own without any third party or external provider. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 1 hour."

- **Rationale:** This rule change generated a lot of heated discussion, and many licensees utilize online providers that define their courses as "self-study." In order to cut down on confusion and outreach to the licensing board and BHEC, clarifying language will help define the intent of this rule.

§781.50. Teaching

Social work is unique among the four professional boards housed at BHEC in a variety of ways, but one prominent distinction is that it offers a bachelor's level license. Every other board requires at least a master's degree; social work is the only one where a person can obtain a licensee with just a bachelor's degree. Because of this, many faculty members teach at universities that offer only a bachelor's degree in social work, or cover classes at this level alone.

In addition, the new rules indicate that any university level course would qualify as CE hours. We would like to see some restrictions that limit the course to one that is under the heading of social work or provided by a social work program. NASW-TX proposes the following clarification: "Teaching or attending a graduate or bachelors level course in the discipline of social work or offered by a social work program. The maximum number of hours that may be claimed for this activity is 5 hours."

- **Rationale:** Faculty who teach bachelor's level courses must be recognized by the rules, as they are a unique part of the profession and they support applicants who seek the corresponding license. In addition, the rules are overly broad, and would encompass any course at the university level.

§781.50. Field Instruction

A major part of a social work education involves a field internship. Every successful degree holder must complete this obligation. The former rules provided up to 20 hours of CE credit for supervising interns. The

new rules provide none. Most survey respondents supported keeping CE hours in the rules for supervising interns. While understanding that the cap may be too high, there was support for compromise language that moved the total allowable amount to five hours. NASW-TX recommends adding this language to the rules: "A field instructor for a social work intern will be granted five credit hours total per biennium for supervision."

- **Rationale:** Supervising interns is an educational experience, and a field instructor grows in professional development through this process. CE hours for this activity also support the recruitment of field instructors and help ensure that social work interns have a variety of available placements as resources.

15. Summary of Council's Activities

A. The Council's rulemaking actions taken at its May 18, 2022 meeting:

1. Withdrawn rules: Affecting Title 22 of the Texas Administrative Code (22 TAC), §781.805 *Schedule of Sanctions* proposed rules were published in the April 22, 2022 *Texas Register* and voted by the Council to be withdrawn and republished with simplified chart. [Withdrawal of the proposed rules was completed June 6, 2022.](#)
2. Proposed rules: Affecting 22 TAC, were approved for publication. A copy of the proposed rules is in the [Council's May 18, 2022 Agenda and Public Meeting Materials.pdf](#), available from the Council's [Meeting Dates, Agendas, and Minutes webpage](#). Staff is working through procedures and preparing the following rules for publication in *Texas Register* with call for public comment. Staff will post notice on the [Board News webpage](#) when the proposed rules have been published, and staff will send an email message to those who subscribe to [Email Updates](#).
 - a. §781.304 *Relationships with Clients*: to remove redundant language that currently stated in §781.310 *Billing and Financial Relationships*.
 - b. §781.405 *Application for Licensure*: to fix typo in rule citation.
 - c. §781.406 *Required Documentation of Qualifications for Licensure*: to remove the requirements that supervised experience must be obtained within five years immediately preceding the date application is received. [Similar provision was repealed in §781.401 *Qualifications for Licensure*, effective February 27, 2022.]
 - d. §781.803 *Severity Levels*: to clarify and simplify the guide by combining Level Two and Level Three into a single level for suspension of a license for any amount of time and to increase the possible administrative penalty to the maximum amount allowed by law.
 - e. §885.1 *Executive Council Fees*: to establish fees effective through August 31, 2021 and fees effective on September 1, 2023.

B. Other Council updates include but may not be limited to:

1. Effective July 11, the Council's physical and mailing address will be George H.W. Bush State Office Building, 1801 Congress Avenue, Suite. 7.300, Austin, Texas 78701.
 - a. **Beginning at 4 p.m., July 6, staff will not have access to the Council's network or internet connection or phone system:**
 - **The Council's website, including the Contact Us webpage will be inaccessible.**
 - **Staff will not be able to respond to emails.**
 - **Staff will not be able to receive or make phone calls.**
 - b. **This planned outage will extend through Monday, July 11, but may extend through Wednesday, July 13 if difficulties are encountered.**
2. The Council's [2023-27 Strategic Plan](#) (6/1/2022) posted to the [Council's Forms and Publications webpage](#):

<https://www.aswb.org/highlights-of-key-policy-manual-changes-section-ii-the-examinations/>

May 12 2022 ASWB Association Update

Highlights of key policy manual changes, Section II: The examinations

Approved April 28, 2022 by the ASWB Board of Directors - Effective May 1, 2022

Policy 2.1, Procedures

Items #9, related to the 90-day waiting period, and #12, related to candidate requirements for testing, were changed as follows:

#9 Candidates may be granted two waivers per year in specified cases, including when the candidate's score is within 10 points (formerly 5 points) of passing. Candidates no longer have to provide evidence of job jeopardy to apply for a waiver.

Takeaway: Policy revisions increase candidate opportunity to retest and potentially enter the workforce more quickly.

#12 With member board approval, candidates may sit for the exam as follows:

- Candidates for the Bachelors or Masters exam may sit for the exam in the final semester of their degree program.
- Candidates for the Advanced Generalist or Clinical exam who are within six months of completing supervised experience requirements may sit for the exam before completing supervision.

Takeaway: These policy additions codify previous exceptions that required approval from the ASWB Board, eliminating waiver requests, providing greater regulatory consistency, and reducing barriers to entry to workforce.

Policy 2.7, Nonstandard testing arrangements

ASWB will make all necessary determinations of reasonable and appropriate arrangements for individuals with disabilities, health conditions, or other needs, including those provided under applicable law related to individuals with disabilities in the United States and human rights legislation in Canada.

Takeaway: Policy revision removes the burden of the member board reviewing all applications for nonstandard arrangements, allowing ASWB as the owner of the exams to manage the process and expedite candidate requests.

Policy 2.9, English language learners

Where member boards permit, ASWB will make arrangements for English language learners in accordance with the laws and statutes of the individual jurisdiction, including receiving extra time and the use of up to two dictionaries.

Takeaway: The policy revision removes the burden of the member board reviewing all applications for ELL arrangements, allowing ASWB as the owner of the exams to manage the process and expedite candidate requests.

Exam administration staff will be contacting individual boards to confirm/collect positions on 90-day waivers and ELL arrangements. If you have questions, please contact [Felicia Dennison](#) about exam

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procedures and the waiver of the 90-day wait between exams or [Tanya Carpenter](#) about nonstandard testing arrangements and access for English language learners.