

# BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD

MARCH 2012

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## RENEWAL TIME!

The renewal period for all Behavioral Health and Human Services licenses is already underway. Please be aware that any license that has not been renewed will expire on **April 1, 2012**. If you have not already done so, please make sure that the board has your current address and email address on file. The cost to renew your license is \$50. If you fail to renew by April 1, 2012, there will be a \$50 late fee assessed to your license.

**You may not continue to practice on an expired license and it is both a disciplinary offense and a crime if you choose to do so.**

You can renew on-line at [www.in.gov/pla/](http://www.in.gov/pla/). Your login ID is your full license number and your password is the last 4 digits of your social security number. Paper renewals can be found at our website: [www.in.gov/pla/social.htm](http://www.in.gov/pla/social.htm). In order to verify that your license has been renewed, you can go to [www.in.gov/pla/](http://www.in.gov/pla/) and do a free search and verify.

Please note that only the professional renewing his or her license is to complete the renewal process both online or on paper. Anyone else completing the renewal for the practitioner is committing fraud. If a mistake is made or a question is

not correctly answered, the professional responsible for the renewal could face disciplinary action.



**All Licenses Expire  
on April 1, 2012**

## UPDATE FOR LAC, LCAC, AND LMHCA LICENSURE

The board has completed drafting the rules and regulations required for licensing addiction counselors, clinical addiction counselors, and mental health counselor associates. The completed rules are currently under administrative review with the Office of Management and Budget.

Upon approval from the Office of Management and Budget, the board will hold a formal hearing on the rule at which

public comment will be taken both in person and in writing. It is currently anticipated that this public hearing will occur during the May 21, 2012 board meeting, but the board must receive approval before it can proceed. After the rules have received final approval from the board, they will need approval from the Office of the Attorney General and the governor before they will officially be in place.

In addition, the board will also need to select licensure examinations for all three license types before it can begin issuing these licenses. The board hopes to have everything in place to begin licensing applicants as early as July 2012, however, please be aware that there are no guarantees as there are many factors beyond the board's control which could result in delaying the licensure process.

## UPCOMING BOARD MEETINGS

- April 2, 2012
- May 21, 2012
- July 23, 2012
- September 24, 2012
- November 26, 2012

All meetings are held in Room W064 of the Indiana Government Center South, 402 West Washington Street in Indianapolis.

## Q&amp;A WITH A BOARD MEMBER: KIMBLE RICHARDSON

**Tell me how you first got involved in with the mental healthcare field?**

In 7th grade health class I had an assignment to interview a person who had a career I was interested in. I always thought psychology was a fascinating subject and I ended up speaking with a clinical psychologist who had a private practice. He was very nice and accommodating and took the time to answer my questions. That really made an impression on me and, as a result, I try to be available to students who have questions about projects, papers, or careers.

**What has surprised you most about working in the mental healthcare field?**

I have been most surprised at my interest in the medical aspects of counseling. My first position after graduate school was in a hospital emergency room. I had no prior hospital experience but I really loved the environment and the opportunity to work with so many different professions. I also really enjoyed the "detective" aspect of doing evaluations on an emergency basis. I liked resolving unusual and puzzling situations.

**What do you find most challenging about the mental healthcare field?**

In my opinion, one of the most challenging aspects of our field is the paperwork and insurance authorizations. This can be very time consuming. Having said that, of course, I believe it's important that professional counselors take good notes and do good evaluations. I understand it's also necessary that most patients utilize their healthcare insurance to pay for mental health sessions and programs. Even so, the quality time spent in session with a patient and seeing progress made toward therapeutic goals is the best reward.

**What is the best and worst thing to happen since you started since you have been appointed to the board?**

Two "best things" stand out in my mind. One has been the opportunity to have a voice in making decisions about our profession on a state and national level. The other has been helping practitioners get back on track after a licensure violation. We had one counselor several years ago whose license was revoked. She sent me a letter three years after the original hearing thanking me for the professional way her case was handled. She understood that, as a board, we had to be firm with our decision but, we didn't come across as judgmental or demeaning. Probably one of the worst things has been knowing that there are professionals who take advantage of clients during one of the most vulnerable times of their lives. These counselors tend not to get their own psychological help or supervision and this makes them vulnerable to ethical violations.

**What do you wish other people knew about the mental healthcare field or the board?**

I wish they knew how important it is to know what's going on with our statutes and rules. I also wish that each licensee would make it a point to attend at least one board meeting so they could see the process of personal appearances, hearings, disciplinary actions, rule making, etc. Board meetings are open to the public and our schedule is listed on the website usually a year in advance.

**What might someone be surprised to know about you?**

One of my favorite ways to relax and have fun is to play the drums and I've been lucky enough to be a drummer in two bands; the Circle City Sidewalk Stompers ([www.clownband.com](http://www.clownband.com)) as well as Charlie's Pocket ([www.charliespocket.com](http://www.charliespocket.com)). Usually, I'm playing in one of the bands at least weekly. The Charlie's Pocket band typically plays around Central Indiana, but the clown band travels throughout the US, Europe

and China, is the official pep band for the Indianapolis Colts and the Indiana Pacers. When I was at IU, I played in the Marching 100 and the basketball pep band. I got to play in Madison Square Garden for the NIT championship game and was in the Super Dome in New Orleans in 1987 when IU won the NCAA final game against Syracuse in a last second shot by Keith Smart.

**What would you tell someone who is thinking about going into the mental healthcare field?**

"Go for it!" We need smart, energetic, caring people interested in a career in the mental health field.

**As a professional, what sorts of trends do you see in the mental healthcare field?**

It's a field that is open to creativity and consultation work. Personally, the past few years I've spent more time working closely with law enforcement and first responders. It's been very rewarding to be part of new programs that reach out to the community at large as well as to the emergency response community in particular.

**What do you do when you aren't working?**

I love to spend time with my wife and our two children. Since they're teenagers I'm thankful whenever they "allow me" to spend time with them. I also love to go dancing and enjoy playing as hard as I work!

**Kimble Richardson received his Masters degree with honors in Counseling and Counselor Education from Indiana University in 1987. Currently, he is the coordinator for outreach and behavioral health and a physician and referral liaison with St. Vincent Stress Center. He holds an appointment by the governor to the board and is currently serving as the president of the board. He is also a former president of the Indiana Mental Health Counselors Association and in 1996 was named "Mental Health Counselor of the Year".**

### BE AWARE: ADDRESSES ARE PUBLIC RECORDS

It is important to be aware that all addresses that are listed with the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board or any other board under the Indiana Professional Licensing Agency are considered to be public record under Indiana law and can be obtained by any member of the public by contacting the board.

Your address of record for your license can either be a home address, practice address or PO Box. You may change your address

anytime by logging on at [www.pla.in.gov](http://www.pla.in.gov), or you may email your change of address to the board at [pla5@pla.in.gov](mailto:pla5@pla.in.gov).

Although all addresses are a public record, an online license verification search will only display the city, state, and zip code of the address that the board has on a licensee's record

If you have not already renewed your license, you will also have an opportunity during the renewal process to change your address.



Online searches will only display the city, state, and zip code of the address on file with the board, but a licensee's entire address is available upon request.

### LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

The Indiana General Assembly is currently considering Senate Bill 24. This bill, if passed into law, will result in several changes for all of our professions. First, all new applicants for licensure as a social worker, clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, marriage and family therapy associate, mental health counselor, mental health counselor associate, addiction counselor, and clinical addiction counselor will be required to undergo a state and federal criminal

background check as a part of the licensure process. A criminal background check will only be required for new applicants, and will not be required during the renewal process.

Second, the bill proposes to reopen the grandfathering period for addiction counselors and clinical addiction counselors through the end of 2012, or the time at which the post-grandfathering licensure process for addiction counselors and clinical addiction counselors is in place. If

you believe that you may qualify for grandfathering, please keep an eye on our website for updates.

Finally, this bill proposes to modify the experience requirements for marriage and family therapists by allowing the two years of required post-graduate experience to begin accruing after the date of graduation, rather than the date that marriage and family therapy associate licensure is obtained.

**“All new applicants for licensure...will be required to undergo a state and federal criminal background check”**

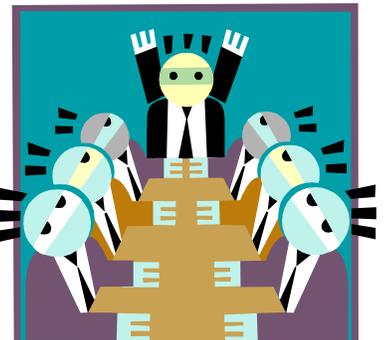
### WE WANT YOU: BOARD VACANCIES

There are currently several vacancies on the board which need filled. Currently, we have openings for a clinical social worker, a marriage and family therapist, a physician with training in psychiatric medicine, and two consumer members. If you, or someone you know, would like to apply for one of these positions,

please submit a resume and a letter explaining your interest in the position to the Governor's Office to the attention of Michael Chartier by e-mail at [mchartier@gov.in.gov](mailto:mchartier@gov.in.gov).

The commitment for serving on the board is to be present for all of our bi-monthly board meetings which occur on the fourth Monday of

January, March, May, July, September, and November. These meetings typically take the entire day and can even go into the evening. Board members may also be called upon to review applications between board meetings and attend occasional additional meetings as needed.



## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

With the publication of the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board's first newsletter, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself as the board director. The board director is not a member of the board, but is instead responsible for the day-to-day operations of the licensing, regulation, discipline, and administration of the over 11,000 individuals licensed by the board. I am a licensed attorney in the State of Indiana and served for four years as a Deputy Attorney General in the Consumer Protection Division of the Office of the Attorney General before taking this position.

Our board staff is currently composed of four individuals including an Assistant Director and two Case Managers. Our staff works hard to quickly process the over 2,000 applications we receive each year, while also answering all inquiries over the phone and through e-mail, processing renewal applications, auditing continuing education, planning board meetings, handling legislative changes, and a myriad of other duties. In addition, our

board staff is responsible not only for this board, but four additional boards and committees as well. Despite the numerous duties and small size of our staff, we will endeavor to serve you in the excellent manner you expect.

I would welcome all who are interested in learning more about the board to attend one of our board meetings and see all the hard work we do to keep your chosen profession running both smoothly and safely. I would also encourage any educators to consider bringing your class to attend one of our meetings. It would be quite an educational experience to see the various types of disciplinary and licensure actions our board hears at each meeting. We look forward to seeing you there!

Sincerely,

*Thomas McGee, Board Director*

## Did you know?

The Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board consists of 11 members who are appointed by the Governor:

- 2 Clinical Social Workers,
- 2 Mental Health Counselors,
- 2 Marriage and Family Therapists,
- 2 Addiction Counselors,
- 2 Consumer Members, and
- 1 Physician.



## BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES LICENSING BOARD MEMBERS

**Kimble L. Richardson, M.S., L.M.H.C., L.C.S.W., L.M.F.T., L.C.A.C. - Board Chair**

**George Brenner, M.S., L.C.S.W., L.M.F.T., L.C.A.C. - Board Vice Chair**

**Andrew Harner, M.S.W., L.C.S.W. - Social Work Section Chair**

**Geneva Osawe, M.S.W., L.M.F.T., L.C.S.W., L.C.A.C. - Marriage and Family Therapy Section Chair**

**Rex Stockton, Ed.D., L.M.H.C., L.C.S.W., L.M.F.T., - Mental Health Counseling Section Chair**

**Carla Gaff-Clark, Ed.D., L.M.H.C., L.C.A.C. - Addiction Counseling Section Chair**

## Board Staff

**Board Director:**

Thomas McGee

**Assistant Director:**

Ronnie Saunders

**Case Managers:**

Crystal Smith

Danielle Winstead

facebook

Name:  
Indiana Behavioral  
Health and Human  
Services Licensing  
Board



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