Q&A from Licensing Information Sessions

Key Points/Information

- Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board can be found online at https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/behavioral-health-and-human-services-licensing-board/.
- Social Work licensing information, applications for LBSW, LSW and LCSW and more can be found online at: https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/behavioral-health-and-human-services-licensing-board/social-workers/.
  - Page 4 of the LCSW application has the form for reporting your supervision hours.
- Graduating students are encouraged to begin the application process PRIOR to graduation and request their conferred transcripts be sent to IPLA as soon as they are available to speed up the process. If a student is graduating in May, they might start the application in April. Note the criminal history background check is valid for a limited amount of time.
- Indiana does NOT require any prior work experience for the LBSW or LSW. You must have a BSW to apply for the LBSW. You must have your MSW to apply for the LSW.
- LSW and LBSW have 12-month temporary permits, the LCSW has a temporary permit that is good for 180 days.
- Indiana has title protection – if you have your BSW or MSW, you must be licensed to work unless you work in a position that is exempt from licensing. You can find information on the exemptions at IC 25-23.6-4-2.
- You will be required to complete a background check, information on the process and timing can be found online at https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/criminal-background-checks/.

Testing:

- You MUST submit your application to the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board prior to and have it approved before you can register with ASWB to take the test. The application fee is $50. You can request a temporary permit for $25.
- Once you receive approval from the BHHS licensing board, you can register with ASWB to take the test. The ASWB exam fee depends on the level of test you are taking. You can find out more information online at www.aswb.org.
- You can ask for an ADA accommodation for the licensing test. You MUST request the accommodation when you register on the ASWB website.

LCSW related questions:

- Indiana law requires supervision towards your LCSW be provided by an LCSW in Indiana.
- Supervision towards your LCSW can be provided in a group setting.
- Supervision requirement is 1 hour per week or 4 hours per month – a total of 96 hours over two years for full-time employment.
- Hours of supervision earned with a temporary permit can count towards the hours needed for your LCSW.
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. Is there a list of all the positions that have exemptions?
   A. Social Work licensing exemptions can be found in statute at IC 25-23.6-4-2.

Q. If a person did not pass and let their temporary license expire, are they able to practice?
   A. Indiana statute requires that you be licensed. Temporary permits are good for up to 12 months or until you pass the exam. If you do not pass the exam and your permit expires, you cannot legally work unless you are in an exempt position. (See above for information on exemptions).

Q. When getting supervision hours for your LCSW do you have to work full time?
   A. You can obtain the hours required for the LCSW by working part-time – it will just take longer. You can find more information on supervision, supervision hours, etc., in the Indiana Administrative Code – 839 IAC 1-3-2 Licensure by Examination for Social Workers and Clinical Social Workers.

Q. The IPLA just sent me an email saying that my supervision and work experience don’t count for my LCSW until post-temporary LSW license. The PLA website says post-degree?
   A. The statute outlines the parameters for LCSW experience, it can be found in the Indiana Code at IC 25-23.6-5-3.5 Clinical social work experience; requirements.

Q. How long can I wait after graduation to apply for licensing?
   A. You can start the application prior to graduation and complete it once your diploma has been conferred. You can find information on the BHHS website under application instructions.

Q. How do we show the CEUs for our license?
   A. Continuing education is reported every two years when you renew your license.

Q. Who can supervise me for my hours towards my LCSW
   A. All supervision towards your LCSW must be provided by someone who is licensed as an LCSW in Indiana.

Q. Are there plans to advocate for nationwide licensing since it’s the same test?
   A. There is work being done on an Interstate Compact for Social Work – a draft was released on July 8, 2022. There will be more information available through www.socialworkers.org or at https://compacts.csg.org/compact-updates/social-work/.

The full statute for Social Work Licensing as well as the rules can be found online under the resources tab on the Behavioral Health and Human Services Licensing Board website at https://www.in.gov/pla/professions/behavioral-health-and-human-services/behavioral-health-and-human-services-resources/