

**MEMORANDUM**

TO: James Rough, Counselor, Social Worker, and Marriage and Family Therapist Board

FROM: Jeffrey R. Kasler

DATE: September 14, 2012

RE: **CSI Review – Counselor Licensure**

On behalf of Lt. Governor Mary Taylor, and pursuant to the authority granted to the Common Sense Initiative (CSI) Office under Ohio Revised Code (ORC) section 107.54, the CSI Office has reviewed the abovementioned administrative rule package and associated Business Impact Analysis (BIA). This memo represents the CSI Office's comments to the Agency as provided for in ORC 107.54.

Analysis

The proposed rule package consists of thirteen rules. Twelve are subject to a five-year review under ORC 119.032 and one is a new rule. The regulations are in place to guide the Board in efficiently and effectively carrying out its mission of licensing professional counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists in Ohio. The Board must ensure that applicants for licensure meet established statutory requirements and also must maintain oversight of continuing education requirements needed for license renewal.

Regulatory Intent

The proposed rules provide guidance for internal records management of investigation files and hearing procedures. They also provide the guidelines for an individual to obtain a counselor license as either a professional counselor (PC) or a professional clinical counselor (PCC). Most of the rules are either unchanged or incorporate clarification changes.

Proposed rule 4757-13-04 is a new rule and pertains to professional counselor licensure applications for individuals who hold doctoral degrees in counselor education. Rule 4757-13-07

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changes the way counselor trainees are supervised to comply with Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) standards.

Development of the Regulation

The Board sent the rules to all representatives on its Listserv via email. It also sent separate emails to all associations that have expressed an interest in Board issues over the years and, finally, it emailed the rules to all counselor, social worker, and marriage and family therapist education programs offered at Ohio's colleges and universities.

The Board received feedback and made minor changes to the rules in accordance with that feedback. According to its Business Impact Analysis, the Board did not hear any serious level of disagreement with the proposed rules.

Adverse Impact

The regulated community consists of the following: licensed counselors, social workers, and marriage and family therapists.

To become a licensed counselor and according to state law, applicants must pay application fees, have acceptable degrees, have supervised experience for the PCC license, a criminal records check, and passing scores on a licensure examination. The approximate cost of the aforementioned elements is as follows:

- Licensure fees: \$60 (PC) and \$75 (PCC)
- Master's degree: \$30,000 to \$75,000, depending on the school
- Licensure examination: \$180 (PC) and \$170 (PCC)
- Criminal records check: \$46 (\$22 to the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Investigation and \$24 to the Federal Bureau of Investigation)
- Out-of-state applicants: If additional coursework is needed, it may range from three to twelve semester hours at a cost of \$450 to \$750 per credit hour.

All of the above costs are, again, associated with licensure requirements defined in statute. As such, the Board is justified in proposing these rules.

Recommendations

The CSI Office has no recommendations regarding this rule package.

Conclusion

Based on its review of the proposed rule package, the CSI Office recommends the Board should proceed in filing the proposed rules with JCARR.