

## Vickie James

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**From:** Glenna Sisk <GSisk@panhandlehomehealth.org>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Vickie James  
**Subject:** new rules

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

Hello, I know for me in this busy fast paced world we live in, not to mention the Social Work roles in general and the added stress, I feel the CEU's should be as simple and clear cut as possible. I know the eastern panhandle where I work has very few CEU opportunities, plus the costs that are associated with. I know my brain works on simple steps and sometimes I read the requirements and get confused. The 10 hrs of your own choice always makes me nervous that they won't be accepted for one reason or another. And this appears to be the area of change yet again. After reading the email and changes I again am left at my desk somewhat puzzled. So I guess its nos. 1 and 2 that I look at and think oh my.....maybe it is my age but I definitely like simple and black and white. You somewhat have to read between the lines and I know myself and co workers have then asked each other "what does that mean"? thanks for taking the time to read this. Have a great day. ☺

## Vickie James

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**From:** Vickie James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2016 5:21 PM  
**To:** 'Glenna Sisk'  
**Subject:** RE: new rules

Glenna,  
Thank you so much for taking the time to review and comment on the rule modifications for the 25CSR5 Continuing Education Requirements for Social Workers and Providers. As I understand your comments, you were more concerned about the 40 hours referenced as to the prescribed content changes.

Legislative rules are written legal documents which are not always clear or prescriptive as most of us in social work would like; if there is an opportunity in the upcoming months to be more clear in this language, we will certainly attempt to do so. However, you do point out a need for the Board to be more clear in its resultant written communication and policy following promulgation of these rules.

In clarification of the existing rules you referenced and the access challenges you face in your area of the state:

1. Only *ten contact hours need to be in a face to face situation* from an approved provider in WV. Also our social workers may physically attend a social work program in another state and count those hours if it has been approved by that state's social work board, the National Association of Social Workers, or the Association of Social Work Boards. A certificate of attendance verifying that approval is required.
2. The Board permits individuals to take ten hours of approved online coursework and attempted to clarify in these rules those courses which would be acceptable on a national level; courses offered by our instate approved providers would likewise be acceptable as long as there is a certificate of attendance provided.
3. The remaining 20 can be independent study hours which do not require prior approval and which can involve reading journal articles or books, researching topics related to one's practice or attending workshops that may not be approved for social work continuing education but which may relate to your individual area of practice. The choices are fairly broad, and at our licensees' discretion, but the Board does require that the activities either relate to social work or enhance your area of practice. Some topics may be required by an individual's employer-such as Defensive Driving or your agency's Compliance policy, but would not fit those aforementioned guidelines. Of course, if an individual is uncertain about a particular topic or activity and wants clarification, we are available to questions either by phone or email.

The first prescribed content change preceding those items you referenced related were necessitated as a result of 2014 legislation, HB 4318 and the resultant changes in WV Code 30-1-7a requiring we add those hours related to mental health disorders commonly encountered by veterans or family members. These rules were required in order for us to comply with the code, and is a requirement of most licensing boards now.

More importantly, social workers often have multiple opportunities to effect positive change on the front line or in their own communities, given our mission, the diversity of our practice and by virtue of our knowledge and skills in our workforce. With additional training and knowledge, it is an area that we can potentially be of service to our many veterans.

However, the Board of Social Work is cognizant of access issues that many areas of our state face. The Board purposefully did not specify the format of the training as there are a number of quality online courses available in addition to more traditional face to face offerings. We are also preparing a list of available online courses which will satisfy this 2-hour training requirement and will post these resources on our web page at the first beginning of 2017.

Likewise, we purposefully did not require the one hour of Ethics be in a face to face format and gave our licensees the opportunity to use their own judgement in meeting that requirement-online, independent study or face to face. Nonetheless, the Board does feel it is not unreasonable to require our licenses at a minimum reread the Code of Ethics on a biennial level.

This rule and accompanying comments to the rule will be reviewed by the Legislature during the upcoming session and we will keep interested parties apprised of its progress on our web page at [wvsocialworkboard.org](http://wvsocialworkboard.org). Again, we appreciate the time you took to review and provide meaningful comment on the proposed rules.

Vickie James, ACSW, LCSW  
Executive Director  
WV Board of Social Work  
PO Box 5459, 900 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 5B  
Charleston, WV 25361  
Phone: 304-400-4980  
Fax: 304-400-4976

**From:** Glenna Sisk [mailto:GSisk@panhandlehomehealth.org]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 03, 2016 12:31 PM  
**To:** Vickie James <admin@wvsocialworkboard.org>  
**Subject:** new rules

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**Vickie James**

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**From:** Mainmom52@aol.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 07, 2016 7:50 PM  
**To:** Vickie James  
**Subject:** Comment: Amend legislative rule 25CSR5

I have reviewed the proposed amendment to Legislative Rule 25CSR5 regarding changes in the continuing education requirements for social work licensing.

I find these changes to be very appropriate. These changes reflect the needs of our community, both clients/consumers and providers. Further, technological advancements are appropriately addressed in these much-needed changes.

I endorse and support these proposed changes.

Cheryl Peal, MSW, MA, LICSW  
License Number: DPE0454699

Date comment submitted: 8/7/2016

## **Vickie James**

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**From:** Vickie James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2016 12:04 PM  
**To:** 'Mainmom52@aol.com'  
**Subject:** RE: Comment: Amend legislative rule 25CSR5

Cheryl,  
Thank you so much for taking the time to review and comment on the rule modifications for the 25CSR5 Continuing Education Requirements for Social Workers and Providers. Your thoughtful feedback and support of the changes is very appreciated.

Vickie James, ACSW, LCSW  
Executive Director  
WV Board of Social Work  
PO Box 5459, 900 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 5B  
Charleston, WV 25361  
Phone: 304-400-4980  
Fax: 304-400-4976

**From:** Mainmom52@aol.com [mailto:Mainmom52@aol.com]  
**Sent:** Sunday, August 07, 2016 7:50 PM  
**To:** Vickie James <admin@wvsocialworkboard.org>  
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I endorse and support these proposed changes.

Cheryl Peal, MSW, MA, LICSW  
License Number: DPE0454699

Date comment submitted: 8/7/2016

## Vickie James

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**From:** Moore, Constance <mooreco@wvumedicine.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2016 3:41 PM  
**To:** Vickie James  
**Subject:** proposed changes

It's difficult enough to get the hours required without making them so specific. I live in an area where I have to travel two to three hours to attend a class that I only get 6 hours of credit. It's also very difficult to get time away from my job to attend a conference or CEU offering.

Dropping the hours from 50 to 40 was extremely helpful but I am very opposed to adding the listed requirements.

Thanks,

*Connie Moore, MSW, LGSW*  
*mooreco@wvumedicine.org*  
*304 597-3700*

 **WVU** Medicine

**POTOMAC VALLEY HOSPITAL**

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## Vickie James

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**From:** Vickie James  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2016 5:04 PM  
**To:** 'Moore, Constance'  
**Subject:** RE: proposed changes

Connie,  
Thank you so much for taking the time to review and comment on the rule modifications for the 25CSR5 Continuing Education Requirements for Social Workers and Providers. I hope the following information may address some of your concerns, and provide you additional information about our existing rules which may assist you now in more comfortably meeting the continuing education requirements of your licensure.

The prescribed content changes related to veterans were necessitated as a result of 2014 legislation, HB 4318 and the resultant changes in WV Code 30-1-7a requiring we add those hours related to mental health disorders commonly encountered by veterans or family members. These rules were required in order for us to comply with the code, and is a requirement of most licensing boards now.

More importantly, social workers often have multiple opportunities to effect positive change on the front line or in their own communities, given our mission, the diversity of our practice and by virtue of our knowledge and skills in our workforce. With additional training and knowledge, it is an area that we can potentially be of service to our many veterans.

However, the Board of Social Work is cognizant of access issues that many areas of our state face. The Board purposefully did not specify the format of the training as there are a number of quality online courses available in addition to more traditional face to face offerings. We are also preparing a list of available online courses which will satisfy this 2-hour training requirement and will post these resources on our web page at the first beginning of 2017.

Likewise, we purposefully did not require the one hour of Ethics be in a face to face format and gave our licensees the opportunity to use their own judgement in meeting that requirement-online, independent study or face to face. Nonetheless, the Board does feel it is not unreasonable to require our licensees at a minimum reread the Code of Ethics on a biennial level.

Also, in clarification of the required 40 hours you referenced and the access challenges you face in your area of the state:

1. Only *ten contact hours need to be in a face to face situation* from an approved provider in WV. Also our social workers may physically attend a social work program in another state and count those hours if it has been approved by that state's social work board, the National Association of Social Workers, or the Association of Social Work Boards. A certificate of attendance verifying that approval is required.
2. The Board permits individuals to take ten hours of approved online coursework and attempted to clarify in these rules those courses which would be acceptable on a national level; courses offered by our instate approved providers would likewise be acceptable as long as there is a certificate of attendance provided.
3. The remaining 20 can be independent study hours which do not require prior approval and which can involve reading journal articles or books, researching topics related to one's practice or attending workshops that may not be approved for social work continuing education but which may relate to your individual area of practice. The choices are fairly broad, and at our licensees' discretion, but the Board does require that the activities either relate to social work or enhance your area of practice. Some topics may be required by an individual's employer-such as Defensive Driving or your agency's Compliance policy, but would not fit those aforementioned guidelines. Of course, if an individual is uncertain about a particular topic or activity and wants clarification, we are available to questions either by phone or email.

I provide the above information only in hope that this may provide you additional options in meeting the current continuing education requirements,.

This rule and accompanying comments to the rule will be reviewed by the Legislature during the upcoming session and we will keep interested parties apprised of its progress on our web page at [wvsocialworkboard.org](http://wvsocialworkboard.org). Again, we appreciate the time you took to review and provide meaningful comment on the proposed rules.

Vickie James, ACSW, LCSW  
Executive Director  
WV Board of Social Work  
PO Box 5459, 900 Pennsylvania Ave, Suite 5B  
Charleston, WV 25361  
Phone: 304-400-4980  
Fax: 304-400-4976

**From:** Moore, Constance [mailto:mooreco@wvumedicine.org]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 09, 2016 3:41 PM  
**To:** Vickie James <admin@wvsocialworkboard.org>  
**Subject:** proposed changes

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Dropping the hours from 50 to 40 was extremely helpful but I am very opposed to adding the listed requirements.

Thanks,

**Connie Moore, MSW, LGSW**  
[mooreco@wvumedicine.org](mailto:mooreco@wvumedicine.org)  
304 597-3700

 **WVU**Medicine

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**Vickie James**

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**From:** Mandy Weirich <mweirich@rchawv.org>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 11:24 AM  
**To:** Vickie James  
**Subject:** Comments on new rule

In regards to the two hours of CEUs on mental health conditions common to veterans and family members of veterans: How will it be determined if the course meets the criteria. Does it have to say veteran in the title or in the description of the course? I could attend a suicide prevention workshop on children but they may not specifically say or use the words 'veteran families'. However it could be argued that military families deal with this particular issues. Same with PTSD—the flood victims may experience this but could also apply to veterans. So forth and so on. So how will we show that this requirement was met. Will just describing how it could also apply to veterans be enough? How will providers designate that there course will meet this requirement? Will any type of mental health training automatically qualify?

Thank you,

*Mandy Weirich, LSW, MSW*  
**Healthy Home Program Manager**

**Randolph County Housing Authority**  
**Wellness Collaborative**  
**P.O. Box 1579**  
**Elkins, WV 26241**

**(304) 636-6495 Ext. 12**

## **Vickie James**

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**From:** Vickie James  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 25, 2016 5:31 PM  
**To:** 'Mandy Weirich'  
**Subject:** RE: Comments on new rule

Mandy,  
Thank you so much for taking the time to review and comment on the rule modifications for the 25CSR5 Continuing Education Requirements for Social Workers and Providers. Legislative rules are written legal documents which are not always clear or prescriptive as most of us in social work would like, which your comments reflect; you have correctly identified many of the implementation issues that the Board has previously identified-areas that, as we move forward, require clarification through policy and ongoing work with our continuing education providers after the rules are promulgated.

Having said that, I do think I can address some of the content questions you have identified. We believe the needs of our military families are unique and often overlooked. I do not anticipate that any training on mental health or Post traumatic stress will suffice. While there may be an overlap, we anticipate policy will specifically require the target population to relate to veterans and military culture, which is unique compared to that experienced in civilian life, and which should be reflected in the title or the course description.

The Board also purposefully did not specify the format of the training as there are a number of quality online courses available in addition to more traditional face to face offerings. We are also preparing a list of available online courses which will satisfy this 2-hour training requirement and will post these resources on our web page at the first beginning of 2017.

This rule and accompanying comments to the rule will be reviewed by the Legislature during the upcoming session and we will keep interested parties apprised of its progress on our web page at [wvsocialworkboard.org](http://wvsocialworkboard.org). Again, we appreciate the time you took to review and provide meaningful comment on the proposed rules.

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Fax: 304-400-4976

**From:** Mandy Weirich [mailto:[mweirich@rchawv.org](mailto:mweirich@rchawv.org)]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 16, 2016 11:24 AM  
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