

From: [Vickie James](#)
To: [Felicia Bush](#)
Subject: RE: Comment on rule change
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 1:09:00 PM

Felicia,

Thank you for taking time to review the proposed rule revisions for 25CSR5, Continuing Education for Social Workers and Providers and 25CR1, Qualification for the Profession of Social Work

In total, the Board received 4 comments on the rule changes to continuing education and 3 comments to the proposals to telehealth. They were all supportive of the proposed rule changes and made no substantial recommendations for change.

Now that the Public Comment Period is over, the Board will make the final filing today without changes. 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 www.wvsocialworkboard.org. Again, we appreciate the time you took to review and provide feedback on the proposed rule and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Vickie James, ACSW, LCSW
Executive Director
WV Board of Social Work
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Charleston, WV 25361
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From: Felicia Bush <felicia@harmonymh.org>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 9:06 AM
To: Vickie James <admin@wvsocialworkboard.org>
Cc: Amber Davis <amber@harmonymh.org>
Subject: Comment on rule change

As a social worker and an agency leader, I agree and approve of the changes that the board is considering. These changes expand our opportunity to help clients in and outside of West Virginia. As a primarily child/youth serving agency this addresses the continuum of care issues we face as our WV student clients go, or return, to college out of state.

I commend the WV Board of Social Work for recognizing the needs of the field and its efforts to meet those needs while assuring quality of care.

Sincerely,
Felicia Bush, MA, MSW, LGSW
Founder, CEO

From: Vickie James
To: Debbie Royalty
Subject: RE: The WV Board of Social Work has proposed revisions to Legislative Rules 25CSR1, Qualifications for the Profession of Social Work.
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 1:10:00 PM

Debbie,

Thank you for taking time to review the proposed rule revisions for 25CSR5, Continuing Education for Social Workers and Providers and 25CR1, Qualification for the Profession of Social Work

In total, the Board received 4 comments on the rule changes to continuing education and 3 comments to the proposals to telehealth. They were all supportive of the proposed rule changes and made no substantial recommendations for change.

Now that the Public Comment Period is over, the Board will make the final filing today without changes. 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 www.wvsocialworkboard.org. Again, we appreciate the time you took to review and provide feedback on the proposed rule and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Vickie James, ACSW, LCSW
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From: Debbie Royalty <dar.royalty@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 8, 2021 5:15 PM
To: Vickie James <admin@wvsocialworkboard.org>
Subject: The WV Board of Social Work has proposed revisions to Legislative Rules 25CSR1, Qualifications for the Profession of Social Work.

Just a quick note to say I have reviewed all of the changes and am in agreement with all. Each change, especially in regards to provisional licensing, are a positive change for the profession.

Thank you,
Deborah Royalty, LICSW

From: Vickie James
To: Robbin Durham
Subject: Comments on Rule Changes
Date: Friday, July 30, 2021 1:59:00 PM

Robbin,

Thank you so much for taking time to review the proposed rule revisions for 25CR1, Qualification for the Profession of Social Work and for your letter on July 8, 2021

In total, the Board 3 comments to the proposals to telehealth. They were all supportive of the proposed rule changes

In reviewing your letter, you suggested that 5.1 was not clear for social workers or clients travelling out of state. Clinical social workers travelling to another state may provide services where ever they are located, as long as the client is in WV since the location of the client is considered where the service occurs. It is less clear for clients leaving WV temporarily to another state, as WV has no jurisdiction beyond what is noted in 5.2

5.3 requires the licensee acquire competency, presumably through training, in the technology and skills required in telehealth. It is the Board's assumption (and expectation) that they would learn why the identification and location of the client is attained at the beginning of each session if they have in fact acquired that competence.

5.7 addresses the primacy of the client's needs in the decision making in using telehealth as a service vehicle. While telehealth can be convenient and cost effective, providers have the burden in assuring the client's needs are prime. While some clients may flourish in teletherapy sessions as opposed other means of service, others may not and it is the provider's responsibility to provide alternatives.

Finally, the Board did utilize the Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice as resource when developing the proposed rule changes, and will direct individuals to it as a resource However, from a regulatory standpoint, this document assists more in the interpretation of the sections of the NASW Code of Ethics that were adopted in the revisions in 2017, which is why it was not included in the proposed rule changes.

Now that the Public Comment Period is over, the Board will make the final filing today without changes. 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 www.wvsocialworkboard.org Again, we appreciate the time you took to review and provide feedback on the proposed rule and please do not hesitate to contact me if you have additional questions.

Vickie James, ACSW, LCSW
Executive Director
WV Board of Social Work
Mailing Address: PO Box 5459

July 8, 2021

WV Board of Social Work
1124 Smith St., Suite B 200
Charleston WV 25301

Re: Revision to Legislative Rule 25CSR1

To Whom It May Concern;

I wanted to provide feedback on the proposed changes. I understand that Covid has forced many practitioners to utilize telehealth to provide services to their clients and am appreciative that the Board of Social Work is working to address this change. While I can appreciate the convenience that using telehealth affords us- just because we can use it does not mean that we should. Clients should continue to be a priority in all services that social workers provide. That being said, I have made some specific comments below.

I am glad to see the proposal of 2.7, 2.8 and 2.9. This is not just an issue post Covid, but as more and more online therapy providers pop up, I am glad to see a registration process and a definition of telehealth services. Section 5.1 addresses service provision and something I am concerned about here is that folks need to recognize that even though they are licensed and providing services in WV, traveling to another state or commonwealth by the social worker or the client means that they would need to get permission to provide services. This was addressed in 5.2 but not in terms of the client or the social worker temporarily being out of state. 5.4.1 asks that location be determined but now why which may be confusing to some social workers. I am also concerned that for providers and companies, telehealth has been very convenient and possibly cost effective which may decrease the importance of focusing on the areas as stated in 5.7. I wonder, in addition to the NASW Code of Ethics, if using the NASW, ASWB, CSWE, & CSWA Standards for Technology in Social Work Practice for guidance might be appropriate as it provides specific discussion on issues of technology use. Finally, I appreciate that in order to provide clinical services, that the social worker needs to be licensed at that level (5.1.2)

Thank you for your work on this issue and the continues protection of clients and upholding of professional practice standards.

Robbin Durham