

ARC 8374B

PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE DIVISION[645]

Notice of Intended Action

Twenty-five interested persons, a governmental subdivision, an agency or association of 25 or more persons may demand an oral presentation hereon as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.4(1)“b.” Notice is also given to the public that the Administrative Rules Review Committee may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this proposed action under section 17A.8(6) at a regular or special meeting where the public or interested persons may be heard.

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 147.76, the Board of Social Work hereby gives Notice of Intended Action to amend Chapter 280, “Licensure of Social Workers,” Iowa Administrative Code.

The proposed amendment clarifies the requirements for the supervised professional practice for the licensed independent social worker (LISW) candidate to ensure that the candidate has performed diagnosis and treatment of mental and emotional disorders or conditions and provided psychosocial therapy, in preparation for independent licensure as a private practice (Iowa Code chapter 154C).

The Board previously proposed a definition of “diagnosis” in which the term was defined as “the determination and identification of a specific mental or emotional disorder or condition based in whole or in part on the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (current edition) of the American Psychiatric Association.” Notice of Intended Action containing that proposed definition was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 9, 2009, as **ARC 8101B**. The Board received a significant amount of public comment regarding the proposed definition, the bulk of which was in opposition to the definition. The Board, its staff, and the Board’s Assistant Attorney General thoroughly reviewed the public comments, and in response to the comments the Board decided not to adopt the proposed definition of “diagnosis” and instead to proceed with noticing this proposed amendment to the requirements for supervised professional practice of the LISW candidate.

The decision not to adopt the proposed definition of “diagnosis” and to move the DSM requirement to the LISW candidate supervised practice section is responsive to the public comments in two significant ways. First, the proposed amendment will not globally define “diagnosis” for the social work profession as synonymous with DSM-IV; rather, it clarifies that one component of diagnosis at the master’s level in preparation for private practice must be utilization of the DSM. Secondly, the new language clarifies that master level social workers seeking their LISW may utilize diagnostic tools and methods other than the DSM in their practice, but that one component of their diagnostic practice must involve utilization of the DSM.

Any interested person may make written comments on the proposed amendment no later than January 5, 2010, addressed to Roxanne Sparks, Professional Licensure Division, Department of Public Health, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319-0075; E-mail rsparks@idph.state.ia.us.

A public hearing will be held on January 5, 2010, from 9:30 to 10 a.m. in the Fifth Floor Board Room 526, Lucas State Office Building, at which time persons may present their views either orally or in writing. At the hearing, persons will be asked to give their names and addresses for the record and to confine their remarks to the subject of the proposed amendments.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code chapters 21, 147, 154C and 272C.

The following amendment is proposed.

Adopt the following **new** paragraphs **280.6(1)“e”** and **“f”**:

- e. Include as at least one component of the diagnostic practice the identification of specific mental or emotional disorders or conditions utilizing the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders of the American Psychiatric Association (DSM), the current edition.
- f. Include the provision of psychosocial therapy.