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James H. Andrews, LCSW, BCD  
President

Jenna Mehnert, MSW  
Executive Director

October 23, 2007

Beth Michlovitz, Counsel  
State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists  
And Professional Counselors  
PO Box 2649  
Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649

Dear Ms. Michlovitz:

The National Association of Social Workers, PA Chapter (NASW-PA) would like to provide comments on proposed rulemaking regarding biennial renewal fees.

The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors proposes by this rulemaking to raise the fees for social workers and clinical social workers renewing their licenses from \$45 every two years to \$75 every two years. This increase is in anticipation of increased expenses through the year 2017.

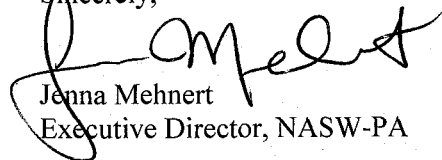
NASW-PA recognizes the need to raise fees to meet anticipated expenses of the Board. As the Board does not receive revenue from the general fund, fees must be increased to meet Board expenses.

The increase of \$30 in one licensure period is a large increase. NASW-PA would prefer to see a gradual increase in the next three licensure periods.

Many licensed social workers and clinical social workers providing services to clients relying on private insurance, Medicaid or other government funding streams are facing level salaries or even a decrease in salary from the previous year. Requesting these professional to pay an increase in licensing fees, when their salaries have not kept up with inflation could be problematic.

Thank you for your time and consideration to this matter.

Sincerely,

  
Jenna Mehnert  
Executive Director, NASW-PA

Cc: Arthur Coccodrilli, Chairman, IRRC  
Kim Kaufman, Executive Director, IRRC

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