

August 18, 2023

Announcement on Student Temporary Addiction Counselor Licenses, Community-Based Licenses, and Temporary Candidacy Social Work Licenses

Beginning on Friday, August 18, 2023, the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board is accepting applications for several new license types offered by the agency.

Student Temporary Addiction Counselor – 2023 Sub. for SB 131 created a new license type for individuals who intend to pursue an addiction counselor license in the state of Kansas, who have completed at least 60 semester credit hours, or the academic equivalent, of coursework from an institution of higher education with an emphasis in addiction counseling or a related field. More information on this new license type can be found by clicking the “Forms” section of the BSRB website and selecting “LAC Student Temporary Application” under the “Addiction Counselor Forms” header.

Community-Based Licenses – 2023 Sub. for SB 131 created new license types which are alternatives to traditional temporary licenses. These new Community-Based Licenses are only available to individuals who will be employed at a Community Mental Health Center as defined in K.S.A. 39-2002, a Federally Qualified Health Center as defined in K.S.A. 65-7402, a Psychiatric Residential Treatment Facility as defined in K.S.A. 39-2002, or a Private Treatment Facility as defined in K.S.A. 59-29b46. Note: If you obtain a Community-Based License, you cannot obtain a temporary license. If you have held a temporary license at this level of license, you cannot obtain a Community-Based License. Community-Based Licenses are available only to applicants for Licensed Bachelor Social Work (LBSW), Licensed Master’s Social Work (LMSW), Licensed Psychology (LP), Licensed Master’s Level Psychology (LMLP), Licensed Marriage and Family Therapy (LMFT), and Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC). More information on Community-Based Licenses can be found by clicking the “Forms” section of the BSRB website and accessing relevant forms to apply for each of the permanent licenses listed above.

Temporary Candidacy Social Work Licenses – 2023 Sub. for SB 131 created an additional pathway for licensure for applicants from social work programs that are not accredited by the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE), the national accrediting body for the social work profession. Applicants who obtained their education from social work programs that are in “Candidacy” for CSWE accreditation may be approved by the BSRB to take the relevant licensing examinations if those individuals meet the other requirements. If these applicants pass the licensing examinations, but their programs remain in “Candidacy,” the BSRB can offer a new Temporary Candidacy Social Work License to allow these individuals to practice for up to two years. These Temporary Candidacy Social Work Licenses may be extended once. Once these social work programs reach fully accreditation, the BSRB will be able to offer a permanent license to these applicants. There is not a separate application for this process, but applicants for a Licensed Bachelor Social Work license or Licensed Master’s Social Work license will be evaluated using this new criteria when they apply for a license.

If you have any questions, please send an e-mail to the BSRB inbox at bsrb@ks.gov

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David Fye".

David B. Fye, J.D.
Executive Director
Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board