



# ASWB

Association of Social Work Boards

# Examination Program 2014 Yearbook

The success of the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) social work licensure examination program depends on the hard work of volunteers, consultants, and contracted item writers committed to public protection. Together, this diverse group of social workers sees to it that the ASWB examinations remain valid and reliable.

## Examination Committee, 2014

Appointed by ASWB's president, this group of subject matter experts meets up to four times a year to review and approve test questions for use on the ASWB social work licensing examinations. Examination Committee members are appointed from among ASWB item writers.



**Greg Winkler, co-chair (WI)**  
M/Caucasian

**Clinical examination**

Greg Winkler is a supervisor and an LCSW who manages a mental health clinic for Rock County Department of Human Services. He also is an adjunct faculty member in the social work program at George Williams College. His areas of expertise include evidence-based treatment, behavioral health regulations, trauma, quality improvement, and ethics/boundaries.



**Adolpha Bassett (NC)**  
M/African American

**Masters examination**

Adolpha Bassett is a hospital liaison for Johnston County Mental Health Center in partnership with a nonprofit managed care organization. Adolpha holds a BA in psychology and an MSW. Licensed as a clinical social worker in 2012, his areas of expertise include hospital and community mental health practice with children and adults in crisis.



**Brent Meyer, co-chair (GA)**  
M/Caucasian

**Masters examination**

Brent Meyer is an assistant director and a direct service provider in a university counseling center. He holds clinical licenses in Georgia and Florida. He has past experience in private practice and health care settings, with areas of expertise that include trauma, chronic mental health issues, anxiety/depression, relationships, and sports psychology.



**Marlienne Christian (NY)**  
F/African American

**Clinical examination**

Marlienne Christian is a licensed clinical social work supervisor/manager at an alcohol and substance abuse treatment clinic. She holds master's degrees in both social work and public health, and her areas of expertise include family and child welfare, adult behavioral health, and chemical dependency. She has worked as an adjunct professor, an administrator in community-based programs, a field supervisor, a therapist, and also in direct practice. Marlienne also serves as a professional member of the New York State Education Department, Office of the Professions, State Board for Social Work.



**Stacey Owens, co-chair (MD)**  
F/African American

**Bachelors examination**

Stacey Owens is a health care social worker with ten years of post-MSW experience. She holds a BSW and an MSW and is certified in health care social work. Her areas of expertise include mental health and work with military veterans.



**Emily Honken (MN)**  
F/Caucasian

**Clinical examination**

Emily Honken is a clinical supervisor in an autism specialty clinic. She holds an MSW and an independent clinical license in Minnesota. She has 11 years of post-MSW experience and specializes in the assessment and treatment of autism as well as parent-child interaction therapy.



**Miriam Balen (BC)**  
F/Caucasian

**Bachelors examination**

Miriam Balen is a Registered Clinical Social Worker in Vancouver, British Columbia, with 14 years of post-MSW experience. Currently a mental health social worker, her areas of expertise include hospital and community mental health practice with children, adolescents, and adults.



**Liz Johnston (CA)**  
F/Caucasian

**Clinical examination**

Liz Johnston is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker in private practice. She specializes in treating addiction and trauma, and teaches undergraduates in social science at Cal Poly University. She recently received her Ph.D. from Smith College School for Social Work; her dissertation research focused on psychological coping in older adults who survive critical illness.



**Nikki Barfield (FL)**  
F/African American

**Bachelors examination**

Nikki Barfield is the network homeless coordinator with the Department of Veterans Affairs. She holds a BSW and an MSW and is licensed in the state of Florida. Her areas of expertise include policy, administration, health care management, and clinical services with children and adults.



**Sujata Pai (NY)**  
F/South Asian

**Bachelors examination**

Sujata Pai is a conference facilitator with New York City Children's Services and has more than two decades of experience in administrative, supervisory, and direct care capacities in child welfare. She holds an MSW and an MPA. She has served as a consultant reviewer for the Children's Bureau and is a grant reviewer for several federal agencies. She has also participated as a peer reviewer for the Council on Accreditation (COA).



**Bora Sunseri (LA)**  
F/Asian

**Clinical examination**

Bora Sunseri is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 23 years of post-MSW experience. Bora is a manager in child welfare continuous quality improvement for the state of Louisiana. Her areas of expertise include child welfare, military, and corrections.



**Amanda Duffy Randall (NE)**  
F/Caucasian

**Masters examination**

Amanda Duffy Randall is the director of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska Omaha. She has a private practice working with adolescents, couples, families, and LGBT families. She holds an MSW and a Ph.D., and has more than 25 years of teaching and practice experience. Her areas of expertise



**Karen Tamminga (OR)**  
F/Caucasian

**Masters examination**

Karen Tamminga is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and clinical supervisor in a rural community mental health clinic in central Oregon. She has more than 25 years of clinical expertise in the treatment of addictions, dual diagnoses, trauma, and community mental health social work.

include sexuality and mental health practice for adolescents and adults. Amanda is a past president of ASWB.



**Stephanie D. Washington (TX)**  
F/African American

**Masters examination**

Stephanie D. Washington, Ed.D., LCSW, has been a school social worker for 29 years. She has worked with a number of populations, including pre-kindergarten, pregnant teens, adjudicated juveniles, and children receiving special education services. She has been an adjunct professor in curriculum and instruction at the University

of Houston and Lone Star College and currently provides clinical social work supervision while maintaining a small private practice.



**Trish Smith (AB)**  
F/Caucasian

**Clinical examination**

Trish Smith is an instructor and field coordinator with the University of Calgary. She also is a clinical social worker in private practice and a certified clinical supervisor. Trish has 25 years of practice experience. Her interests include mental health, child protection, and social work practice in rural and northern communities.



**June Yee (AB)**  
F/Chinese Canadian

**Masters examination**

June Yee is a Registered Clinical Social Worker working in outpatient heart health. She holds a BSW and an MSW and has 34 years of post-MSW experience. June's areas of expertise include psychosocial aspects of adult congenital heart defects, mental health, stress management, anxiety, depression, cardiac wellness, program planning, and research.



**Mary Stebbins (VA)**  
F/Caucasian

**Bachelors Examination**

Mary Stebbins is the program coordinator and director of field education for the undergraduate social work program at Longwood University, located in Farmville, Virginia. She holds an MSW and is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 12 years of practice experience, primarily working in children's mental health and child welfare.

## Item Development Consultants, 2014

The association contracts with experienced social workers who work directly with item writers in the creation of the questions that are presented to the Examination Committee. These consultants also attend Examination Committee meetings to gather feedback from the committee on the work of writers.



**David Aiken (FL)**  
M/Caucasian

**Clinical examination**

David Aiken holds an MSW from Barry College in North Miami Shores, Florida. David has worked as a social worker in the Air Force and for various community mental health centers in Ohio, with adults, children, and adolescents. He also has considerable experience working with court-ordered forensic clients and on crisis intervention teams. David now does volunteer work with the Lee County Sheriff's Office.

and Diversity Department at the University of Wisconsin, Superior, and coordinator of the social work program. Monica became an item writer for ASWB in 2007, joined the Masters examination committee in 2010, and served as Masters exam co-chair in 2013.



**Monica Roth Day (MN)**  
F/Caucasian

**Masters examination**

Monica Roth Day received her bachelor's in psychology with a minor in counseling from the University of Iowa; her MSW from the University of Minnesota, Duluth; and her Ed.D. from the University of Minnesota. Monica is a social work educator with 19 years of post-MSW experience. She is chair of the Human Behavior, Justice,



**Ann McAllister (NC)**  
F/Caucasian

**Bachelors examination**

Ann McAllister earned her MSW and Ph.D. from Tulane University School of Social Work in New Orleans. Ann's practice experience includes the fields of mental health with adolescents and adults, substance abuse, adoption, juvenile corrections, health care services, and family counseling. She has served in various positions with

ASWB since 1984. Prior to retirement, Ann taught at Louisiana College, where she served as professor, chair of the Human Behavior Department, and director of the social work program.



**Bynia Reed (MD)**  
F/African American

**Clinical examination**

Bynia Reed earned her MSW from the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and her bachelor's degree in psychology from Princeton University. Bynia's training focused on early childhood attachment, attachment theory and family mental health. She has a private practice in Laurel, Maryland, where she focuses on play

therapy and treatment of children, adolescents, and adults. Bynia became an item writer for ASWB in 2007, was a member of the Clinical exam committee, and served as a Clinical exam co-chair in 2009 and 2010.



**Nancy Sidell (PA)**  
F/Caucasian

**Masters examination**

Nancy Sidell earned her master's degree from Case Western Reserve University and her Ph.D. from Ohio State University. Nancy started her professional life as a social worker in a nursing home and moved on to hospital settings, both community and teaching facilities. Currently, Nancy is a faculty member at Mansfield University of

Pennsylvania. Her areas of expertise include gerontology, rural issues, social work communication skills, and teaching pedagogy. She is the author of *Social Work Documentation*, published in 2011.

## 2014 Form Reviewers

A final review of a complete ASWB examination is conducted before an exam test form goes online for administration. These form reviews are conducted by subject matter experts, primarily emeritus members of the ASWB Examination Committee.

Name/Jurisdiction	Race/Ethnicity, Gender	Current Practice Setting	SW Degree(s)	Areas of expertise
Pamela Abrams (AR)	African American, female	Direct practice/ Academia	MSW	Diversity, ethics, family assessment
Shannon Bender-Bell (BC)	Caucasian, female	Direct practice	BSW, MSW	Trauma, domestic violence, grief
Carol Boyd (MS)	African American, female	Academia	BSW, MSW	Policy, administration, health care
Elizabeth Collardey (MI)	Asian American, female	Academia	MSW, Ph.D.	Mental health and community development
Trevor Gates-Crandall (NY)	Caucasian, male	Direct practice	MSW	Addiction, LGBT issues
Keeva Hartley (MN)	African American, female	Direct practice	MSW	Trauma, play therapy, attachment disorders, domestic violence
Carl Hokanson (MN)	Caucasian, male	Direct practice	MSW	Geriatrics, case management, medical social work, administration
Nora Jessome (NS)	Caucasian, female	Social work administrator	MSW	Community development, early childhood development, disaster relief
Debby Jones (BC)	Caucasian, female	Direct practice	BSW, MSW	Mental health, supervision, children, youth, and families
Leslie McCarl (PA)	Caucasian, female	Direct practice	MSW	Community mental health in rural settings
Melanie McCoy (MD)	African American, female	Direct practice	MSW, Ph.D.	Trauma, resiliency, cultural diversity, substance abuse treatment
Jane Matheson (AB)	Caucasian, female	Direct practice	MSW, Ph.D.	Children, youth and families, child welfare, mental health administration
Jay Memmott (SD)	Caucasian, male	Academia	MSW, Ph.D.	Mental health, substance abuse, gerontology, research
Kristi O'Dell (MS)	Caucasian, female	Academia	MSW, Ph.D.	Health care, research
Saundra Starks (KY)	African American, female	Direct practice/ Academia	MSW, Ed.D.	Cultural competency, diversity, women's issues, clinical practice
Susanna Sung (MD)	Asian, female	Direct practice	MSW	Adult mood and anxiety disorders, community outreach, government relations, policy
Leana Torres (AZ)	Pacific Islander, female	Direct practice	MSW	Community mental health, inpatient psychiatric hospital social work, and military social work

# 2014 Examination Development Activities

With the ASWB network of contracted item writers at full strength and in high productivity, the ASWB examination development program was able to take a one-year hiatus from item writer training in order to shift its focus to preparing for the future of the ASWB examination program.

During 2014, efforts focused on preparing the item banks for a changeover to the terminology and organizational shifts that accompany the DSM-5. This large-scale effort required ASWB subject matter experts to review all items that included DSM information, to evaluate whether their content was affected by the new version.

Items that were determined to be inconsistent with DSM-5 were pulled from the item banks to be evaluated for further editing (and subsequent review and approval by examination volunteers, followed by pretesting) or possible deletion. At the same time, item writers were asked to create test questions that were reflective of the DSM-5. These items were then reviewed by the ASWB Examination Committee, and if approved, sent on for pretesting. ASWB expects to begin offering examinations reflective of DSM-5 beginning in July 2015.

## Examination Development Meetings, 2014

January 10–12  
Form Review  
Culpeper, VA

February 7–8  
DSM-5  
Herndon, VA

March 27–30  
Exam Committee/Form Review  
Baltimore, MD

June 6–8  
Exam Committee/Form Review  
Washington, DC

August 8–10  
Exam Committee  
Philadelphia, PA

October 3–5  
Exam Committee/Form Review  
Herndon, VA

The ASWB examination development program also devoted time to upgrading content based on the DSM-5 changes on the ASWB online practice examinations available both to exam candidates and to social work programs and schools accredited by the Council on Social Work Education and the Canadian Association for Social Work Education. Enhancements were also made to the association's study guides. The revised guides will provide more information on examination and item development, including information on the foundational elements of the social work

licensing examinations, including how content is identified, created, and maintained. The revised online practice examinations are scheduled to go online in April 2015; a new guide to the exams is scheduled for publication in early 2015.

At the same time test content was being prepared for the future, staff and consultants in exam development were readying the ASWB examination program for its technological future. In 2014, work began on the creation of custom-made item development software that could accommodate in a single application the multiple levels of review, analysis, and editing necessary to deliver test questions for Examination Committee review. The new system will bring greater efficiency to the item development workflow as well as enhanced security. The new software is scheduled for implementation in early 2015, after a series of staff, consultant, and item writer training sessions.

The past year was also a time of transition, as two new item development consultants were welcomed to the ASWB exam development program. In early 2014, new consultants Monica Roth Day and Bynia Reed participated in a two-day training that brought them up to speed with the association's process for creating and vetting valid and defensible examination items. While new to the consultant role, Day and Reed are veterans of the exam development process: both served as item writers and chaired exam committees in the past.

The ASWB exam development program readied for a return to its training program by issuing a call for potential item writers in the fall of this year. As in past years, applicants must supply background information and complete a screening document. Once balanced for demographic, geographic, and practice diversity, selected writers are required to attend a training program and write 30 items within one year that meet ASWB standards. This system has yielded the highest quality items in ASWB history and contributed to an examination program that has one of the highest reliability rates of any high-stakes licensure test among the helping professions.



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