

# Examination Program

## 2020 YEARBOOK



The success of the Association of Social Work Boards social work licensing examination program depends on the hard work of a diverse group of volunteers, consultants, and contracted item writers committed to public protection. Together, these social workers ensure that the ASWB examinations remain fair, valid and reliable.

## Examination Committee

The Examination Committee is made up of successful former item writers who are subject matter experts representing the diversity of the social work profession. This committee, appointed by the ASWB Board of Directors, typically meets up to four times a year to review and approve questions for use on the ASWB examinations. This year, with travel not feasible, meetings were held online.

### Sharon Cutts (Connecticut)

White • she/her

Co-chair, Clinical examination

Sharon Cutts has been a Licensed Clinical Social Worker for more than 30 years. She holds a BSW from Pennsylvania State University and an MSW from Smith College School for Social Work. Sharon worked in a range of settings before establishing a private practice in Wethersfield, Connecticut. These settings included a child guidance clinic, a hospital emergency room, a child welfare agency, and a residential facility for adjudicated adolescent males. Sharon works primarily with teens and adults in the areas of trauma, anxiety, depression, sexual minority-related issues, and integration of spirituality and psychotherapy.



### Leana Torres (Arizona)

Asian • she/her

Substitute co-chair, Bachelors examination

Leana Torres is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker working as a civilian with the U.S. Air Force Mental Health Clinic and in part-time private practice. She lives in Arizona and has 22 years of experience working in mental health. Her background includes community mental health, private and state inpatient psychiatric hospitals, and military mental health. She is licensed in Arizona and North Carolina.



### Jil Meadows (North Carolina)

White • she/her

Co-chair, Masters examination

Jil Meadows began her career in medical social work and then focused for two decades on working with children and youth. For the past 11 years, she worked as a counselor to students at Warren Wilson College, her alma mater. Jil recently returned to medical social work, providing services as part of a home-based primary care team for the VA hospital in Asheville, North Carolina. Jil uses neuroscience and positive psychology in her work with veterans and roots all her relationships in the power of authentic acceptance.



### Jessica Chatman (Illinois)

African American/Black • she/her

Bachelors examination

Jessica Chatman is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with eleven years of experience in community mental health and substance use disorder treatment. She graduated with a BSW and MSW from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. She is currently the integrated health home manager at Cook County Health in Chicago and a certified IM+CANS trainer for the state of Illinois. Jessica's areas of expertise include complex care management, training, and quality assurance and accreditation for managed care, behavioral health, and substance use disorder organizations.



### Mary Stebbins (Virginia)

White • she/her

Substitute co-chair, Bachelors examination

Mary Stebbins is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with 25 years of experience. She is currently employed as the deputy director at Albemarle County Department of Social Services and serves as an adjunct instructor for the MSW program at Virginia Commonwealth University. Mary holds an MSW and a Ph.D. from the School of Social Work at Virginia Commonwealth University. She has extensive knowledge of social work practice, child welfare, trauma, and child and family therapy.



### Vicki Coy (New Brunswick)

White • she/her

Bachelors examination

Vicki Coy is a Registered Social Worker with more than 13 years of post-MSW experience and 21 years of social work experience. She owns a bilingual private practice specializing in grief, family violence, couples, and adjustment issues. Her previous work was at a military mental health clinic, in family court, and in schools, where she worked mainly with teens. Vicki started her involvement with ASWB in 2001 and has served on various committees.



**Rikki Davlin (Idaho)**  
**Native American • she/her**  
Masters examination

Rikki received her MSW in 2009 and her clinical license in 2012. She has worked in many capacities, including a growing private practice working mainly with survivors of trauma and emergency medical services workers. Rikki also consults with local EMS departments to help facilitate mental health programs for their crews.



**Tammy Dyson (British Columbia)**  
**White • she/her**  
Masters examination

Tammy Dyson, MSW, a Registered Clinical Social Worker in Vancouver, British Columbia, currently works as the leader for the medical assistance in dying program for a large health authority. Tammy has worked in the field of end of life care in British Columbia and the California Bay Area for more than 23 years as both an educator and a consultant. She has taught and facilitated topics related to end of life care, including advance care planning and emotional care in the final days of life, and grief.



**Amanda Eagle (Florida)**  
**African American • she/her**  
Clinical examination

Amanda Eagle is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker with more than 17 years of experience working with children and families in crisis. She works with the Hillsborough County DUI traffic safety school providing education and substance use assessments and maintains a small private practice, primarily working with at-risk youth. Her areas of social work experience include child welfare, quality assurance and improvement, psychoeducation, substance use education and assessment, and clinical work with children and families in crisis.



**Joseph Harper (Illinois)**  
**White • he/him**  
Clinical examination

Joseph Harper serves as the executive director of Comprehensive Behavioral Health Center of St. Clair County, Inc., which provides mental health and substance abuse services to the community. He also serves as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Southern California. He previously held positions with the Illinois Department of Human Services Division of Mental Health and most recently served as executive director of the southern region. He has prior practice experience in child welfare, employee assistance programs, and outpatient mental health services. Joe has coauthored several publications in the field of forensic social work practice and has served as an expert witness regarding forensic populations.



**Lauren Henríquez-Bentiné (New York)**  
**Latinx • she/her**  
Clinical examination

Lauren Henríquez-Bentiné is a bilingual and bicultural Licensed Clinical Social Worker. She is currently a social work director for a community-based organization in a Bronx elementary school. Lauren has worked in school-based settings since 2016. Her areas of expertise include trauma, self harm, and depression, as well as providing services to immigrant populations. Lauren earned her BSW from Lehman College in 2004 and graduated from Fordham University's advanced standing MSW program in 2005.



**Jean Leong (Alberta)**  
**Chinese • she/her**  
Clinical examination

Jean Leong, MSW, Registered Clinical Social Worker, is an approved clinical supervisor with the Alberta College of Social Workers. She has more than 30 years of post-MSW experience in health care settings and community-based agencies. She currently works in primary care, providing clinical services to patients in family practice settings as well as developing capacity for family physicians to manage mental health issues in their practices. Jean's experience includes working in mental health with a range of presenting issues and in supervisory roles. Her current interests are in the application of the biopsychosocial framework in working with family physicians and their patients, trauma-informed clinical work, and brief models of intervention.



**Julia López (Missouri)**  
**Latina • she/her**  
Bachelors examination

Julia López, Ph.D., is a public health researcher who uses her clinical practice skills to further advance the field of sexual health using public health theories and frameworks. She has used her clinical expertise as a licensed social worker in community mental health settings and substance use treatment with the research design and methodology for analyzing, interpreting, and disseminating data across myriad settings and populations.



**Rae Marsh (North Carolina)**  
**Black • she/her**  
Bachelors examination

Rae Marsh is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and Licensed School Social Worker in Apex, North Carolina. She has worked with children and families through child welfare agencies and the local school system. She also provides therapy through her private practice. Areas of expertise include crisis intervention, abuse and neglect, and dropout prevention. Rae began working with ASWB as an item writer in 2016.



## Ruben Mina (New York)

Black Latino • he/him

Masters examination

Ruben Mina lives in the Bronx, New York, and is a director with the New York City Department of Education. His work focuses on addressing educational inequity. He is a Licensed Masters Social Worker with expertise in youth and family programming, community engagement, policy analysis, and group facilitation.



## Susanna Sung (Maryland)

Asian • she/her

Clinical examination

Susanna Sung is a Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical and the director of the marketing and community relations unit at the National Institute of Mental Health Intramural Research Program. She has extensive clinical and research background in adult mood and anxiety disorders, substance use disorders, and co-occurring disorders. Susanna's other areas of expertise include research, community outreach and engagement, government relations, and policy.



## Steven Parks (Texas)

Hispanic Caucasian • he/him

Masters examination

Steven Parks is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker and board-approved supervisor. He is currently employed as manager of the children's mental health program at Jewish Family Service. Steven also teaches as an adjunct faculty member for the University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work and operates a small private practice. Steven specializes in therapeutic treatment of children and adolescents with emotional and behavioral challenges. Steven also serves as a regional board member for National Association of Social Workers Texas Chapter.



## Vanna Thuston (Texas)

Multiracial • she/her

Bachelors examination

Vanna Thuston is a Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Supervisor. She serves as the manager of the Greater Heights Community Resource Center with Memorial Hermann Health System in Houston, Texas, a community-based center embedded within the hospital that serves patients and surrounding community members. Her experience includes working with populations with serious mental illness, as well as identifying partnerships to enhance connection of clients to community supports. Her recent focus has been on macro approaches to various settings and populations.



## Marcy Shaarda (California)

White • she/her

Clinical examination

Marcy Shaarda, LCSW, earned her BSW and MSW from the University of Texas at Austin. She has been employed with the Department of Veterans Affairs in Oakland, California, since 2008 and is involved with the local union to support workers' rights. Marcy works primarily with veterans who experience chronic homelessness, posttraumatic stress disorder, substance use disorder, and regular involvement with the judicial system. Marcy is also an item writer and exam reviewer for the California jurisprudence exam. Past social work experience includes child welfare and international social work.



## Form review, 2020

A final review of a complete ASWB examination is conducted before an exam form is administered online. Subject matter experts, primarily emeritus members of the ASWB Examination Committee, complete these form reviews. We were able to host an in-person form review in January. With travel not feasible this year, however, the remaining meetings were held online.



**“We want to ensure that every social work exam item is fair and equitable for everyone who’s testing.”**

Stacey Owens, Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical  
ASWB ITEM DEVELOPMENT CONSULTANT

## Item development consultants, 2020

ASWB contracts with experienced social workers who work directly with item writers in the creation of the questions that are presented to the Examination Committee. The consultants are all successful former item writers and Examination Committee members. These consultants also attend Examination Committee meetings to provide guidance and gather feedback from the committee on the work of item writers.

### Amanda Duffy Randall (Nebraska)

White • she/her

Bachelors examination

Amanda Duffy Randall, Ph.D., is clinically licensed and recently retired from her position as director of the Grace Abbott School of Social Work at the University of Nebraska Omaha. She has taught for more than 32 years and maintains a private practice working with adolescents, adults, and families in the sexual minority community. She is a past president of ASWB and former member of the Nebraska Board of Mental Health Practice.



### Monica Roth Day (Minnesota)

White • she/her

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 23 years of post-MSW experience. She currently works as an associate professor and associate director of the child welfare/Title IV-E Program at Metropolitan State University in St. Paul, Minnesota. Monica became an item writer for ASWB in 2007, joined the Masters exam committee in 2010, and served as Masters exam committee co-chair in 2013.



### Keeva Hartley-Stouffer (Minnesota)

African American • she/her

Masters examination

Keeva Hartley-Stouffer is a direct service provider with more than 15 years of clinical practice experience. She holds an MSW and an independent clinical license in Minnesota. Keeva also has a certificate in child abuse prevention studies. Her areas of expertise include trauma, play therapy, attachment disorders, and domestic violence. Keeva was trained as an ASWB item writer in 2007, was selected as a member of the Clinical exam committee, and served as the co-chair in 2012 and 2013.



### Nancy Sidell (Pennsylvania)

White • she/her

Exam Development Consultant

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. Nancy is an emeritus faculty member at Mansfield University of Pennsylvania, where she served as a professor of social work and in several administration roles. She is currently a part-time faculty member for Capella University's DSW program. Her areas of expertise include gerontology, rural issues, social work communication skills, and teaching pedagogy. She is the author of *Social Work Documentation, 2nd ed.*, published in 2015 by NASW Press.



### Stacey Owens (Maryland)

African American • she/her

Bachelors examination

Stacey Owens earned her MSW from the University of Texas and her BSW from Prairie View A&M University. Stacey is clinically licensed with 15 years of experience in the federal government. Her areas of expertise include crisis mental health, diagnostic assessment, and public health regulation. She has worked with specialty populations including military service members, veterans, clients who are incarcerated, and patients/families receiving hospice care. Stacey was trained as an ASWB item writer in 2009, was selected as a member of the Bachelors exam committee, and served as the Bachelors exam committee co-chair in 2013 and 2014.



### Greg Winkler (Wisconsin)

White • he/him

Clinical examination

Greg Winkler, LCSW, is a deputy director at Rock County Human Services Department in Janesville, Wisconsin. With 30 years of experience in the field, Greg has practiced in clinical, administrative, and education positions after receiving an MSSW from University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has worked primarily in behavioral health settings within a private health care system and in a public county agency. He has also served on the Wisconsin licensing board and as the ASWB delegate for Wisconsin.



### Bynia Reed (Maryland)

African American • she/her

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 development, 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 Clinical exam committee co-chair in 2009 and 2010.



## Examination development program projects

In 2020, the examination program's veteran item writers were given a break so that the exam development staff and item development consultants could focus on several other projects.

### Item bank inventory

ASWB item development consultants re-reviewed items in our item bank that were written more than three years ago to ensure that references are current and that the items are ready for the Exam Committee. Consultants reviewed more than 7,500 items, updating them to meet current quality standards. Their work will help ASWB continue to reach Exam Committee meeting goals in the future.

### Online item writer refresher training

To ensure items continue to meet current quality standards, ASWB exam development staff and item development consultants developed an online Item Writer Refresher Training using the Blackboard learning management system. Six training modules further hone and refresh veteran item writers' skills, so writers are ready to return to writing high-quality items in the new year. The course was piloted in June and went live on October 1, 2020.

### Diversity, equity, and inclusion

The ASWB exam development program has always embraced the social work profession's values of diversity, equity, and inclusion in every step of creating the social work licensing examinations. This year, the Examination Services department worked with ASWB's Communications and Marketing department to spread the word about all the ways diversity, equity, and inclusion are incorporated into exam development. A highlight included an article in *Social Work Today* about measuring competence fairly by Senior Director of Examination Services Lavina Harless. Staff also worked to refresh website content to highlight information about the diversity of the experts who create the exams and the ways that each exam question is reviewed at every step in the process to identify signs of potential bias. This project included the creation of several videos with Exam Committee members discussing the inclusivity of the exam development program.



**“The exams set the tone  
for the profession.  
They have to reflect our ethics.”**

Rae Marsh, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
ASWB EXAMINATION COMMITTEE MEMBER  
AND FORMER QUESTION WRITER



**“The ASWB  
Exam Committee is  
the most diverse group  
of social workers  
I’ve ever served with.”**

Bora Sunseri, Licensed Clinical Social Worker  
ASWB EXAM COMMITTEE CO-CHAIR, 2017-2018

## **Examination development meetings, 2020**

### **JANUARY 11-13**

Form Review  
Culpeper, VA

### **APRIL 28-30**

Exam Committee Social Hour  
Online

### **MAY 27-29**

Form Review  
Online

### **AUGUST 7-8**

Exam Committee  
Online

### **AUGUST 28-29**

Ad-hoc Exam Committee  
Online

### **SEPTEMBER 16-17**

Form Review  
Online

### **SEPTEMBER 25-26**

Exam Committee  
Online



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