



Secretary Carol Aichele

PENNSYLVANIA STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS



www.dos.state.pa.us

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Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) February 1, 2012

The Pennsylvania Health Alert Network (PA-HAN) is one of the major ways the Pennsylvania Department of Health (PADOH) rapidly distributes information on emerging public health issues (e.g. disease outbreaks) to health care providers, hospitals, emergency management officials, and other public health agencies. In a typical year, PADOH distributes 20-25 HAN messages to providers via email, fax, or cell phone, depending on user preference. PADOH feels it is important that all health care providers have access to HAN messages directly or through their health care facility in order to receive critical public health messages. This assures that public health is protected and allows Pennsylvania's health care providers to give the best care to your patients and community.

In mid-2011, PADOH switched to a new software vendor to support and improve the PA-HAN. The updated system was completed in July and the new version of the PA-HAN can be found at the following link <https://han.pa.gov/>. During the conversion process, some users were removed from the system and cannot be reinstated to the user list without re-registering. PADOH therefore requests that any previous user who is not currently receiving HAN messages register as a Health Alert recipient in the new system. In addition, any provider who would like to receive HAN messages for the first time should also register in the new system.

To access the new PA-HAN Registration Site, click on the following link: <https://han.pa.gov/>. Under the second paragraph there is a gray 'Register Now' button. This option will walk the user through the registration process. If you have any questions about the HAN system or the registration requirements, please ask for Stacey Kalinoski in the PADOH at 717-265-8890 or skalinoski@pa.gov.

Questions, answers on supervised clinical experience requirements for licensed professional counselors

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The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors regulates the requirements for individuals who may appropriately use the title of licensed social worker, licensed clinical social worker, licensed marriage and family therapist, and/or licensed professional counselor. Many individuals desiring licensure and licensed professionals supporting emerging professionals striving for licensure, focus on the educational requirements and/or examination requirements. Details for these requirements are enumerated in the BPOA's website. www.dos.state.pa.us/social. Another major requirement for licensure is the supervised clinical experience requirement. The following questions and answers focus on supervised clinical experience requirements for licensed professional counselors; requirements for licensed social workers and marriage and family therapists are similar but please consult their specific sections of the state licensure rules and regulations.

How much supervised counseling experience is required? Master's degree licensee applicants must complete 3600 hours of supervised clinical experience. Doctoral degree licensee applicants must complete 2400 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Can the practicum and internship training I took during my educational requirements for licensure count? No, the supervised clinical experience must be obtained after the completion of 48 semester hours or 72 quarter hours of graduate coursework in order to meet the educational requirements for licensure.

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What type of clinical setting is appropriate for the supervised clinical experience requirement?

Acceptable experience means supervised experiences in a setting that is organized to prepare you for the practice of counseling consistent with your education and training.

What type of clinical experiences do I need?

Experience must meet the criteria established in Section 49.13(a)(4) and 49.13(b) of the regulations. It is appropriate to engage in a wide range of clinical experiences. However, at least half of the experience shall consist of providing services in one or more of the following areas: assessment, counseling, therapy, psychotherapy, other therapeutic interventions, consultation, family therapy, or group therapy.

Can I use multiple work or training sites for my supervised clinical experience?

Supervised work activity needs to take place in a single setting for (1) at least 30 hours per week but no more than 40 hours per week during at least a 3 month period, or (2) at least 15 hours per week for at least 6 months.

Who can be my supervisor?

A supervisor for supervised clinical experiences needs to meet one of the following requirements: (1) holds a license as a professional counselor and has 5 years experience within the last 10 years as a professional counselor or (2) holds a license and has at least a master's degree in a related field and has 5 years experience during the last 10 years. At least half (1800 hours) of the supervised clinical experience needs to be supervised by a licensed professional counselor. No more than half (1800 hours) can be provided by a licensed individual in a related field with appropriate experience.

How much supervision do I need?

Supervisor and supervisee need to meet for a minimum of 2 hours for every 40 hours of supervised clinical experience.

Can I have some group supervision as well as individual supervision?

At least 1 of the 2 hours for every 40 hours of supervised clinical experience needs to be individual supervision and in person, and 1 of the 2 hours may be with the supervisee in a group setting and in person.

How many supervisees can be in a supervision group?

Because a supervisor shall supervise no more than 6 supervisees at the same time, it is assumed that a supervision group is no larger than 6 supervisees.

What is my supervisor supposed to do?

The supervisor shall oversee, direct, recommend and instruct the professional counseling activities of the supervisee. It is the supervisor's responsibility to ensure that acceptable supervised clinical experiences are occurring congruent with regulation 49.13(b). If the supervisor is temporarily unable to provide supervision, it is his/her responsibility to designate another supervisor as a substitute.

How do I document my supervised clinical Experience?

During your supervision experiences, you may document your clinical experiences and supervision contact in an ongoing written format that works for you and your supervisor. At the conclusion of your supervised clinical experiences, refer to pages 4, 5, and 6 of the Application for a License by Examination to Practice Professional Counseling. Information required on this Verification of Supervised Clinical Experience form includes supervisor licensing and contact information, location and dates for supervised clinical experience, hours of supervised clinical experience, hours of individual and group supervision, and a supervisor written summary of supervised clinical experiences. Complete these pages for each supervised counseling experience you are using to meet the licensure requirement.