

P E N N S Y L V A N I A
STATE BOARD OF
**SOCIAL WORKERS, MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPISTS AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**
NEWSLETTER

Winter 2007-2008



COMMONWEALTH
OF PENNSYLVANIA

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Bureau of Professional and
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2008 Meeting Dates

Feb. 12	June 10	Oct. 14
March 11	July 8	Nov. 10
April 8	Sept. 16	Dec. 9
May 20		

Governor's Newsletter

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Message from the Chairman

By Michael J. De Stefano, L.C.S.W.

I was first appointed to this board on Dec. 9, 1997 to fill an unexpired term, and subsequently reappointed to serve two more full terms. As a board member for almost ten years, and having served as vice chairman for the past several years, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of very dedicated, talented and knowledgeable staff and board members. It was an honor to accept the duties of chairman in Dec. 2006.

This board originally was called the State Board of Social Work Examiners. With the exception of one public member, the board consisted of four licensed social workers. Some things have changed during the past ten years and some have remained the same.

The State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors continues to have the same mission: Protect the integrity of the professions and protect the health, safety and welfare of the consumer.

The functions of the board have not changed. They include:

- Passing on the qualifications and fitness of applicants for licenses;
- Adopting and revising rules and regulations; and

- Imposing discipline upon individuals who have been found to be in violation of the Act or lawfully promulgated regulations of the board.

Much of the board's time in the past few years has been devoted to the latter two functions.

With the final passage of regulations dealing with continuing education, it is hoped that there will be many more opportunities for licensees to obtain thirty approved continuing education credits for biennial renewal, and that there will be fewer individuals found with audit exceptions. In the past, only licensed social workers were required to obtain the thirty approved continuing education credits for biennial renewal.

With the change in regulations, all 13,500+ currently active licensees under the jurisdiction of the board will be required to obtain, and if audited, show proof of having completed, the CEU's.

It should also be noted that three of the thirty clock hours must be related to ethical issues. I would encourage all licensees to go to our Web site and familiarize themselves with these regulations and other board updates.

We recently were informed that the board was projected to have a deficit within the next year or two. Don't be too surprised if there is an increase in the biennial renewal fees in 2009.

Prosecution's Charging Unit Celebrates One-Year Anniversary

By Basil Merenda, Commissioner, Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs

Since the charging unit hit the ground running in August 2006, it has saved time and resources for the prosecution department. Under the direction of Peter Marks, executive deputy chief counsel, and C.A.L. Shields, Bureau of Enforcement and Investigation director and a four-term elected district attorney from Schuylkill County, the unit consists of four prosecutors, BEI's director and deputy director.

The unit meets daily to review and analyze complaints and investigations of professional misconduct on behalf of the 27 boards and commissions. The unit makes prosecutorial decisions, including dismissals, reinvestigations, negotiated consent agreements, re-reviews, and recommendations for formal action by trial prosecutors. It allows decision-making at a much earlier time in the process and subjects each case to analysis by at least two or more experienced prosecutors. The result is quicker, better and more efficient decision-making and processing of professional complaints.

The charging unit is a concept that Governor Edward G. Rendell used while he was district attorney of Philadelphia. As district attorney, Governor Rendell used the charging unit to reduce the criminal case backlog in Philly. In fact, most, if not all, of the district attorneys in Pennsylvania use a charging unit of some sort to process criminal complaints and to control the criminal case backlog in their counties. Based on my experience as an intern with the Philly DA's office during that time, I wanted to adapt a charging unit to what we do here at BPOA.

As you see, the charging unit solves two problems: it coordinates the legal office, compliance department and BEI under a single unit; and it brings a legal analysis into the complaint review process as soon as a consumer files a complaint with BPOA.

Keep up the great work streamlining the processes and saving time and resources to better serve the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Continuing Education Requirement for All Licensees

Licensed social workers and clinical social workers have been required to obtain continuing education for some time. Board regulations now require all licensees (social workers, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists and professional counselors) to complete 30 clock hours of continuing education every two years in order to renew their licenses.

Beginning with the biennial period March 1, 2007 through Feb. 28, 2009, licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed professional counselors will, for the first time, be required to complete 30 hours of continuing education in order to renew their licenses.

The regulations require licensees to take continuing education in acceptable courses and programs related to the licensee's profession.

For instance, a marriage and family therapist must take continuing education in courses and programs

appropriate for the master's level practitioner and pertain to the practice of marriage and family therapy. Licensed professional counselors must take continuing education in courses and programs appropriate for the master's level practitioner and pertain to the practice of professional counseling.

The regulations require all licensees to obtain at least three of the 30 clock hours in ethical issues. Up to 20 hours of the 30 hours may be completed in home study.

The regulations include a list of preapproved providers of continuing education courses and programs. Many of the professional associations who provide programs are on the list. In addition, providers or individual licensees may seek board approval of a course or program by applying to the board at least 90 days before the date the course or program commences.

On MFT Supervision

By Donna A. Tonrey, Psy. D., LMFT

As marriage and family therapist (MFT) clinicians, you are well aware that clinical supervision is a very important part of training and continued learning within the MFT discipline. MFTs are unique with regard to the credential of approved supervisor, which is achieved through the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (AAMFT). Supervision is one of the cornerstones of MFT education and ethics, and the field always has promoted and encouraged MFTs to continue learning and expanding clinical skills through supervision. In addition, there is the hope that these same therapists one day will also become approved supervisors.

Never was it more important to the MFT field than it is right now for approved supervisors to recognize their value and importance to the field. Beginning Jan. 1, 2010, at least half of the supervision a MFT receives toward licensing requirements will have to be with an AAMFT-approved supervisor. Currently, one of the options for supervision toward licensing can be with someone who is practicing as an MFT, has taken one MFT supervision course, and has five years experience within the last 10 years.

This will no longer be the case after Jan. 1, 2010. This means that the demand for supervision

with an AAMFT-approved supervisor is going to increase. We currently do not have enough approved supervisors in the state of Pennsylvania. The field needs experienced and seasoned MFTs who are eligible to become approved supervisors to do so in order to assist the newer therapists on their professional journey.

With licensing, the MFT field is growing in Pennsylvania. There is an increased understanding of the discipline of marriage and family therapy, which has led toward more people choosing the MFT discipline as their field of study. Therefore, it is vital to the field that seasoned MFTs be available as supervisors and mentors.

Much is gained through the process of clinical supervision. There is an incredible advantage for newer therapists to have the wisdom and guidance of an approved supervisor as they continue on the path of developing and advancing their clinical skills.

Supervision does not stop when a therapist becomes licensed. It continues as long as the therapist has a need for it and is learning from his mentor and supervisor. It is important for the seasoned MFT who is in the position to become an approved supervisor to consider doing so and share his wisdom with those who are following in their footsteps.

Disciplinary Actions

Following is a chronological listing of disciplinary actions taken by the board from Jan. 1, 2006, through July 10, 2007. Each entry includes the name, certificate or registration number (if any), and last known address of the respondent; the disciplinary sanction imposed; a brief description of the basis of the disciplinary sanction; and the effective date of the disciplinary sanction.

Every effort has been made to ensure that the following information is correct. However, this information should not be relied on without verification from the Prothonotary's Office of the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs. One may obtain verification of individual disciplinary action by writing or telephoning the Prothonotary's Office at P.O. Box 2649, Harrisburg, PA 17105-2649; (717) 772-2686.

Please note that the names of persons listed below may be similar to the names of persons who have not been disciplined by the board.

James E. Henry, license no. SW000804E, of Conneaut Lake, Crawford County, had his license indefinitely suspended based on findings he violated his Voluntary Recovery Program consent agreement and order. (12-27-05)

John W. Levenson, license no. CW004414L, of Plymouth Meeting, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$150 civil penalty. Levenson failed to timely complete 30 hours of continuing education for the biennial period March 1, 1999, through Feb. 28, 2001. (01-18-06)

Kerri Kathleen Barthel, license no. SW011738L of Spring City, Bucks County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty. Barthel failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information

to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Vincent L. Carolan, license no. SW013088L, of Scranton, Lackawanna County, was suspended for three years, with the first 60 days being a minimum period of active suspension and the remaining period of time, once his license is reinstated to active status, to a period of probation. Carolan engaged in a personal, romantic and/or sexual relationship with a patient. (02-14-06)

Gladys A. Christopher, license no. SW008848L of Cherry Hill, N.J., was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty, a reprimand was placed on her board record, and she was ordered to complete the lacking 30 hours of continuing education within six months. (02-14-06)

Nancy U. Douglass, license no. SW006829L of Forest Hills, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$1,100 civil penalty. Douglass failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Matt J. Greenberg, license no. SW006975L of Stamford, Conn., was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty. Greenberg failed to complete 30 clock hours of continuing education in board-approved social work courses and provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Geneva Vaughan Harris, license no. SW006014E of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$1,225 civil penalty. Harris failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

David R. Kedzierski, license no. SW008386L of Indianola, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$600 civil penalty. Kedzierski failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education in board-approved social work courses and provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Mary Anne Little, license no. SW122963 of Morgantown, W. Va., was assessed a \$400 civil penalty. Little failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

William B. McCullough, license no. SW001904E of Pottstown, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty. McCullough failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Lisa Beth Pass, license no. CW013401 of Butler, Butler County, was assessed a \$350 civil penalty. Pass failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Julie A. Rabinowitz, license no. CW013587 of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$300 civil penalty. Rabinowitz failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Tawana Ford Sabbath, license no. SW006046E of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$500 civil penalty and a formal reprimand was placed on her permanent licensure record. Sabbath failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (02-14-06)

Mark E. Walthofer, license no. CW013521, of Reading, Berks County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than four years, with the first six months active and the remaining three and one-half years stayed in favor of probation with stipulated terms. Walthofer is unable to practice the profession

with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, or mental impairment. (02-14-06)

Jade DiClemente, aka Jade Baird, license no. SW011682L, of Gilbertsville, Montgomery County, was suspended based on the fact that she was unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, or mental incompetence. (02-27-06)

SaraKay Smullens, license no. CW000577L, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$150 civil penalty based upon her failure to comply with the board's regulations by failing to complete 30 hours of approved continuing education credits. (03-08-06)

Cheryl Ann Moser, license no. SW005780E, of Zion Grove, Schuylkill County, was assessed a \$1,012.50 civil penalty. Moser failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed

to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (03-14-06)

Gina B. Sunderland, license no. SW006764L of Mount Union, Huntingdon County, was assessed a \$650 civil penalty. Sunderland failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (03-14-06)

Diane Michele Postell, license no. SW010064L, of Wilmington, Del., was assessed a \$900 civil penalty and was ordered to complete 18 hours of approved continuing education based upon her failure to timely complete the required 30 hours of continuing education for the biennial period March 1, 2001 through Feb. 28, 2003. (04-14-06)

Emma M. McElliott, license no. SW009471L, of Moorestown, N.J., was suspended for violating a lawful disciplinary order of the board by failing to pay a civil penalty. (04-19-06)

William H. Fell III, license no. SW003849E of Point Pleasant, Bucks County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty. Fell failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (05-9-06)

Susan M. Jakubowski, license no. CW014591, of Sarver, Butler County, was indefinitely suspended for a minimum of two years, six months; she must provide a letter of apology; and her license will not be reinstated until she can show to the board's satisfaction that she can safely and competently practice social work/clinical social work. Jakubowski participated in an inappropriate and/or personal and/or sexual relationship with patients. (05-09-06)

Robert Hunton, license no. PC001805, of Williamsport, Lycoming County, had his license revoked for committing immoral or unprofessional conduct involving a felony conviction. (06-15-06)

Mary N. Dengler, license no. CW013072, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$1,200 civil penalty. Dengler failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education

and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (09-12-06)

Joann Jankoski, license no. SW009058L, of Uniontown, Fayette County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty, a public reprimand was placed on her permanent board record, and she must complete 20 hours of continuing education within six months, in addition to those Jankoski shall take in the current or subsequent reporting periods for the renewal of her license. Jankoski failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (09-12-06)

Brooke Magill, license no. PC002994, of Youngwood, Westmoreland County, was indefinitely suspended, immediately stayed in favor of probation; a public reprimand was placed on her permanent board record; she paid a \$1,000 civil penalty; and she is required to complete board-approved courses in boundary violations and professional ethics. Magill engaged in a personal relationship with a male client. (09-12-06)

Megan J. Miller-Draughon, license no. SW007080L, of Garner, N.C., was assessed a \$600 civil penalty and voluntarily surrendered her license. Miller-Draughon failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (09-12-06)

William J. Ryan, Jr., license no. CW013083, of Conshohocken, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$500 civil penalty and a public reprimand was placed on his permanent board record. Ryan failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (09-12-06)

Helen Griffin-Shelley, license no. SW003431E, of Lafayette Hill, Montgomery County, voluntarily and permanently surrendered her license. Griffin-Shelley is unable

UNETHICAL OR UNLICENSED ACTIVITY

If you believe the practice or service provided by a licensed professional to be unethical, below an acceptable standard or out of the scope of the profession; or if you are aware of unlicensed practice, please call the Bureau of Professional and Occupational Affairs complaints hotline at:

In Pennsylvania:

1-800-822-2113

Out of State:

1-717-783-4854

A complaint form is available on the Department of State's Web site at
www.dos.state.pa.us

Disciplinary Actions

to practice social work due to physical and/or mental infirmity. (10-10-06)

Karen A. Jesionowski, license no. SW010688L, of Fairless Hills, Bucks County, was assessed a \$400 civil penalty and, within six months of the effective date of her order, must complete eight hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for the 3/1/01 to 2/28/03 biennial reporting period. Jesionowski failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (12-12-06)

Alan L. Moore, license no. PC003616 of Woodland, Clearfield County, had his license indefinitely suspended until Moore can show to the satisfaction of the board that he can safely and competently practice social work. Moore is addicted to drugs and/or alcohol. (12-12-06)

Christine M. Ambrose, license no. SW007864L of Narberth, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty. Ambrose presented herself as a licensed social worker through the use of the title designation "LSW" on her business cards without holding a license in good standing. (02-13-07)

Michael Cage, license no. SW005202E, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was indefinitely suspended for violating a board order. (02-05-07)

Bridget Y. Newsome, license no. SW123472 of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$150 civil penalty. Newsome practiced and/or held herself out as a licensed social worker during a period of time that her license was expired. (02-13-07)

Cheryl Hirst Hodgins, license no. SW004105E of Exton,

Chester County, was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty because Hodgins held herself out as a licensed clinical social worker and/or social worker during a period of time that her license was expired. (03-13-07)

Mark Walthofer, license no. CW013521 of Reading, Berks County, had his license indefinitely suspended for a period of four years. Walthofer relapsed by using cocaine in violation of the board's Feb. 14, 2006 order, and is unable to practice social work with reasonable skill and safety. (03-13-07)

Maria S. Blunt, license no. SW009773L, of Pennsauken, N.J., was assessed a \$1,000 civil penalty and ordered to complete 20 hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for the March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2007 biennial reporting period within six months of the date of the order. Blunt failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (06-08-07)

William B. McCullough, license no. SW001904E, of Pottstown, Montgomery County, was suspended indefinitely because he violated a previous consent agreement and order by failing to complete continuing education courses. (6-26-07).

Arthur D. Brozell, license no. SW013314L, of Gibsonia, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$1,100 civil penalty and ordered to complete, within six months, 22 hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for the March 1, 2005 to Feb. 28, 2007 biennial reporting period. Brozell failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Maureen V. Conway, license no. CW014738, of Johnstown, Cambria County, was assessed a \$700 civil penalty and ordered to complete

14 hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for the March 1, 2005, to Feb. 28, 2007, biennial reporting period within six months of the effective date of her order. Conway failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Faith V. Crosser, license no. CW013389, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$200 civil penalty and ordered to complete four hours of continuing education within six months. Crosser failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Amisa M. Dacey, license no. SW123794, of Macungie, Lehigh County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty and ordered to complete 30 hours of continuing education within six months of the effective date of her order. Dacey failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Lewis J. Gerald, license no. SW004089E of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty and ordered to complete 30 hours of continuing education credits necessary within six months. Gerald failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Sheila Gold, license no. SW007728L, of Pittsburgh, Allegheny County, was assessed a \$600 civil penalty and ordered to complete 12 hours of continuing education credits necessary within six months of the effective date of

her order. Gold failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Melissa S. Latch, license no. SW124118, of Hatfield, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$475 civil penalty and ordered to submit certification of attendance of 9.5 hours of continuing education. Latch failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Deborah L. Lee, license no. SW123255, of Chesterbrook, Chester County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty and ordered to complete 30 hours of continuing education within six months of the effective date of her order. Lee failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Marlene S. Levick, license no. SW009486L, of Dunedin, Fla., agreed to the permanent and voluntary surrender of her license because Levick had her license disciplined by the proper licensing authority of another state. (07-10-07)

Jill S. Lipschutz, license no. CW015045, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was indefinitely suspended for no less than two years, immediately stayed in favor of probation, subject to terms and conditions. Lipschutz is unable to practice the profession with reasonable skill and safety to patients by reason of illness, addiction to drugs or alcohol, or mental impairment. (07-10-07)

Suzanne M. McIntosh, license no. SW122835, of Mercerville, N.J., was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty and ordered to complete, within six months of the effective date of her order, 30 hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for the March 1,

2005, to Feb. 28, 2007, biennial reporting period. McIntosh failed to complete 30 clock hours of continuing education and provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Felice H. Miller, license no. SW001672E, of Wynnewood, Montgomery County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty and ordered to complete five hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for the March 1, 2005, to Feb. 28, 2007, biennial reporting period. Miller failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Elaine T. Neill, license no. SW003413E, of Aliquippa, Beaver County, was assessed a \$450 civil penalty and ordered to complete nine hours of continuing education credits within six months of the effective date of her order to meet the requirements for the March 1, 2005, to Feb. 28, 2007, biennial reporting period. Neill failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Jacqueline K. Orlando, license no. SW006510L, of Clarks Summit, Lackawanna County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty and ordered to complete five hours of continuing education within six months of the effective date of her order. Orlando failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Angie M. Shahmoradi, license no. SW123371, of Chambersburg, Franklin County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty and ordered to complete 30 hours of continuing education within six months of the effective date of her order. Shahmoradi failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education

and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Maria H. Taormina, license no. SW001578E, of Lancaster, Lancaster County, was assessed a \$900 civil penalty and ordered to complete 18 hours of continuing education credits within six months of the effective date of her order. Taormina failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Nanine E. Valen, license no. CW003158L, of Swarthmore, Delaware County, was assessed a \$1,500 civil penalty because Valen failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and failed to provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Carmen Valls, license no. CW013372, of Philadelphia, Philadelphia County, was assessed a \$250 civil penalty and complete, within six months of the effective date of the order, five hours of continuing education credits necessary to meet the requirements for March 1, 2005, to Feb. 28, 2007, biennial reporting period. Valls failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

Anna K. Sever, license no. SW123130, of North Huntingdon, Westmoreland County, was assessed a \$650 civil penalty and ordered to complete 13 hours of continuing education within six months. Sever failed to complete 30 hours of continuing education and provide information to document certification of compliance with continuing education requirements. (07-10-07)

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