



MARYLAND Department of Health

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

To: Licensees and Certificate Holders
From: The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists
Date: April 30, 2020
Re: Information Regarding Continuing Education Units (CEUs)

During the current state of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board has received many inquiries regarding the CEU requirements for renewal. Information regarding CEUs can be found at COMAR 10.58.05 and on the Board's website under "Laws and Regulations".

The regulations regarding CEUs were first drafted in 1992 and were amended in 2002. Accordingly, some of the terminology used in the regulations has become obsolete and the internet has vastly changed the way courses can be delivered to licensees and certificate holders. The Board plans to update the regulations in the near future.

In the meantime, the Board would like to provide the following information to assist you during this time.

Please note that the following is for informational purposes only and is not intended to supersede the regulations or to address every possible factual situation.

If you have questions, please contact the Board. During the state of emergency, staff response time may be delayed. Thank you for your patience during this historic time.

1. How can I determine if a course is being offered by an Approved Sponsor?

This should be your first step in deciding whether to register for a particular course. Some organizations are automatically approved as sponsors for Category A CEUs. See, COMAR 10.58.05.07B(2) and (3). If the organization offering the course is not on this list, you should contact that organization and ask whether it has obtained approval from this Board. Please note that courses approved by the Board of Social Work Examiners are not automatically

approved by this Board unless the sponsor is considered an approved sponsor under the regulations.

2. Does the Board maintain a list of Approved Sponsors?

The Board does not maintain a list as the number of approved sponsors is vast and changes often, making it difficult to keep the list current. You should contact the organization directly if you are unsure if it has obtained approval from this Board. Most organizations will advertise whether it is an Approved Sponsor.

3. What is the difference between Category A and Category B CEUs?

Category A CEUs are **formally organized**, offered by an Approved Sponsor, and meet the requirements in COMAR 10.58.05.05A(1)(a). This is the most common type of CEU offered. Category A CEUs can be taken online or in-person. If offered online, the course does not have to be taken in real time. That is, there is no requirement that the course is “live” when taken. As long as the requirements set forth in regulations are met, online courses “live” or not, are not prohibited.

Category B CEUs (COMAR 10.58.05.06) consist of activities that may include **informal** courses, in-house colloquia, invited speaker session, in-house seminars and case conferences **which are specifically designed for training or teaching, or both**. It can include informal, non-publicized programs offered at professional or scientific meetings of local, state, regional, national or international professional or scientific organizations. It may also include receiving formal professional supervision, participation in peer case conferences, or peer supervision groups.

Like the regulations for Category A, the regulations for Category B CEUs do not address whether the course or meeting must be in-person or online or whether the courses must be “live”. Please note that supervision, case conferences, or supervision groups, however, must be synchronous, or in real time, per the regulations on supervision.

The regulations for Category B reference “distance learning programs”. It appears this phrase was intended to include a course delivery format that is not as popular as it was when the regulations were first drafted. “Distance learning programs” are not all programs offered online. **Therefore, not all online courses are considered Category B CEUs simply because they are offered online.** The distinction between Category A and B is whether the setting is formal or informal, as specified in the regulations.

4. *Has the Board waived any CEU requirements for renewal due to the pandemic?*

No. At this time the Board has not waived any CEU requirements for renewal as CEUs may be obtained online. Requests for an extension of time to complete CEUs will be considered on a case by case basis and in accordance with the criteria set forth in COMAR 10.58.05.08B.

Do not reply to this email.

(04/30/20)

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