

Board Consideration and Action January 21, 2022

Staff Recommendation Summary: Extend COVID Blanket Variance Approved by Board July 16, 2021 for Continuing Education (CE) and Supervision Requirements

Rationale for Extension: Current COVID-19 Impact on Licensing and Practice Issues:

- Safety and access concerns continue regarding COVID-19 and the Omicron variant exposure.
- CE Providers have increased availability of online, live interactive CE workshops and educational sessions that meet the CE statutory requirement for live interactive CEs.
- Virtual supervision has been occurring since March 2020 with no known negative consequences. Virtual supervision provides a safe option to comply with supervision requirements while limiting risk of COVID-19 exposure and allows for increased opportunity for licensees in rural communities with fewer licensing supervisors.

BOSW COVID Variance Approvals: March 20, 2020 & January 12, 2021 & July 16, 2021

At the July 16, 2021 meeting, the Board approved the following updates to the March 20, 2020 and the January 12, 2021 blanket variance approved per Minnesota Statutes, section 148E.035 to the CE and supervision requirements:

1. Continuing Education:

- License renewal periods that start prior to March 1, 2022 have no limit to the number of independent learning hours obtained to meet the CE requirement under MS 148E.130.
- License renewal periods starting on or after March 1, 2022 must meet the current statutory CE requirements under MS 148E.130, including the 50% requirement for live, interactive CEs.

2. Supervision:

- Licensees who obtained supervised practice prior to March 1, 2022 may continue receiving supervision by telephone or eye to-eye-electronic media while maintaining visual contact as provided in the March 20, 2020 approved variance under MS 148E.100-MS 148E.125.
- Licensees who begin obtaining supervised practice hours on or after March 1, 2022 are required to meet the current supervision requirements under MS 148E.100-MS 148E.125.

Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that the Board extend the previous approved CE and supervision variances to September 1, 2022.

1. Continuing Education:

- License renewal periods that start prior to September 1, 2022 have no limit to the number of independent learning hours obtained to meet the CE requirement.
- License renewal periods starting on or after September 1, 2022 must meet the current statutory CE requirements, including the 50% requirement for live, interactive CEs.

2. Supervision:

- Licensees who obtained supervised practice prior to September 1, 2022 may continue receiving supervision by telephone or eye to-eye-electronic media while maintaining visual contact. Licensees are still required to obtain the statutory number of supervision hours required for their scope of practice and license type.
- Licensees who begin obtaining supervised practice hours on or after September 1, 2022 are required to meet the current supervision requirements, including the minimum number of in-person one-on-one supervision required for their scope of practice and license type.