

BOSW RESPONSE TO ASSOCIATION OF SOCIAL WORK BOARDS (ASWB) 2022 DATA ANALYSIS ON SOCIAL WORK LICENSING EXAM PASS RATES

August 22, 2022

BACKGROUND & BOSW ACTION

The BOSW recognizes the historical and continuing disparities and barriers in the licensing process and acknowledges the impact on our communities and professionals. The BOSW is committed to promote a diverse and qualified workforce, guided by our agency core values to actively examine and address historical and systemic inequities in policy and practice with a diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) lens, and voted unanimously at its May 21, 2021, public board meeting to 1) formally request ASWB to provide exam pass fail data based on demographics, and 2) create a BOSW Ad Hoc Data Committee to gather and publish Minnesota public exam pass fail rates.

The ASWB released an in-depth trend analysis of pass rate data for its social work licensing exams including state and school-level data on August 5, 2022. Based on this comprehensive release of state and national data, the BOSW Ad Hoc Data Committee voted unanimously on August 15, 2022 to discontinue our Minnesota project to publish exam data, to better leverage fiscal resources as it would be duplicative and less comprehensive than the ASWB Data Report. [View the full 2022 ASWB Exam Pass Rate Analysis Report](#)

BOSW RESPONSE TO ASWB REPORT & OPPORTUNITIES

- The BOSW appreciates ASWB's efforts and follow through with the release of 2022 ASWB Exam Pass Rates, and its commitment to publishing this data on an annual basis to the public, academic programs, and jurisdictional social work regulatory boards.
- The ASWB data confirms anecdotal data and analysis regarding demographic disparities in exam pass fail rates.
- The data underscores the need for a systemic, collaborative response from regulatory boards, professional associations, educational programs, and ASWB, to address barriers and obstacles that limit access to enter and sustain professional licensure, and to work towards system integration.
- The BOSW is committed to create opportunities to continue this necessary conversation, study the data, engage with stakeholders, ask the hard questions, and work to explore and eliminate the foundational issues of regulation which create barriers.
- To move to action the BOSW Ad Hoc Data Committee will make the following recommendations to the full Board at its October 7, 2022 public meeting for consideration:
 - Disband the BOSW Ad Hoc Data Committee, pivot the work of the Committee, and broaden the scope of the BOSW Communication Education & Outreach Committee to integrate this work on an ongoing basis.
 - The BOSW will collaborate with ASWB, stakeholders, and ASWB exam candidates to develop strategies to address disparate exam pass rates.
 - Explore and pursue alternate methods to demonstrate competence for licensure in addition to the ASWB exams and the Minnesota Provisional License.