

## **BCD STANDARDS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION**

Continuing Education (CE) is an important part of advanced practice. ABE requires that the BCD clinician amass a minimum of 20 clock hours of clinical CE annually in order to maintain the BCD. This CE may be *formal or informal*, as related below. ABE does not pre-approve specific CE activities but does require that they directly address the professional practice of clinical social work and meet the guidelines listed below.

**Formal Activities** Formal CE activities are: verifiable courses, practice-oriented seminars, workshops, staff development activities, webinars, podcasts, or other forms of "distance learning" - all must be verifiable and accredited/offered by state licensing boards, professional associations, and graduate schools.

**Informal Activities** Informal CE activities include clinical learning at structured social work meetings and discussions, including the following:

- **Staff meetings** focused on clinical social work methods or theory but not on specific cases or administrative matters;
- **Speaker presentations** (at professional society meetings) addressing clinical social work methods, theories, or issues;
- **Peer-group meetings, panel discussions, and study groups**, in which practitioners discuss clinical social work methods, theories, or issues.

**Teaching** ABE extends time-and-a-half credit to BCD clinicians who, in the past two years, taught a college-level clinical social work course or an advanced clinical social work workshop for the first time (verifiable by the sponsoring organization).

**Publications** ABE extends 10 credits to BCD clinicians who, in the past two years, have published a clinical social work article or book chapter in a peer-reviewed social work or related journal or book.

**Documentation of Activities.** Some BCD holders annually are asked to furnish documentation of continuing education activities. You will be notified if you are in that group.

*For formal activities*, ABE requires photocopies of a certificate or a letter from the event's sponsor or instructor (including your name, date, CE hours attained, and, if needed, the course syllabus or conference brochure), or a description of the activity (with participants, date, topics, and duration) signed by the coordinator or group leader.

*For informal activities*, provide a document that summarizes the activity and its clinical social work content, with date, duration, name/title of leader/coordinator, mention of participants (e.g. clinical staff of Acme Hospital), indication of your attendance, and signature of person responsible.

*Do not submit documentation of continuing education to ABE unless requested.*