

newsletter

Sent: Friday, March 20, 2009 1:27 AM
Subject: Hybrid Title 38 Implementation!!



19 March 2009

To: BCD V.A. Clinical Social Workers
Fr: Howard Snooks, Ph.D., BCD, President, American Bd. of Examiners
in Clinical Social Work
Re: Hybrid Title 38 Implementation!!

The long wait is over for implementation of Hybrid Title 38 for V.A. Clinical Social Workers: your boarding process is scheduled to begin on March 30, and to be completed not later than July 1 at all VHA sites. Congratulations to all!

I urge you to take advantage of the Hybrid Title 38 process and of the advancement conferred by your BCD. I also ask you to forward this message to your BCD colleagues throughout the VHA and to urge non-BCD colleagues to consider board certification-the BCD now has an online V.A. application at the ABE website, abecsw.org. We at the American Board of Examiners will continue to advocate for higher levels of professional recognition, and invite you to join an information network for the benefit of V.A. Clinical Social Workers. For more information, contact Robert Booth, abe@abecsw.org.

Many of you have already contacted our Office to find out about your status under Hybrid Title 38. Implementation procedures were announced on Feb. 17th by the Central Office and sent out to all VHA Social Work Service Managers to be shared with you. Attached were the Social Work Qualification Standards and the Staffing advisory from VA HANDBOOK 5005/23. If you did not receive these materials from your Site Chief or Executive, request them from those sources or from your Site's HR office or (if applicable) from your Union office. They are also available at the Office of HR Management website and the VA intranet website.

We can confirm that your BCD is a Tier One (highest) designation, the only one so recognized for general clinical practitioners. The BCD, in combination with other factors, may well qualify you for promotion under

Special Advancement for Achievement.

More good news: Hybrid Title 38 promotions are retroactive to April 2, 2006. If, under upcoming initial boarding, you are found to have been eligible for promotion at that date, your promotion is retroactive starting with the first pay period after you had met the qualification requirements. For those hired after April 2, 2006, your promotion is retroactive to whatever pay period post-April 2, 2006, that you first met the qualification standards.

Hybrid Title 38 will afford more opportunities for advancement than did Title 5. Clinical social workers will be making more decisions about hiring (rather than non-clinical HR personnel); and you will have a clear view of the standards for promotion. For example, all clinical social workers working in an advanced setting, with clinical or advanced licensure, can be GS-12s. Congratulations on achieving long-deferred recognition of your professional competence!

This is an auto-generated message. Do not hit the reply button. Center/ABE personnel may be contacted at abe@abecsw.org.