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Subject: BCD NewsFlash

BCD NewsFlash—*an online news source from*

The American Board of Examiners in Clinical Social Work

ABE Presents at BCBS National Conference

Thomas Kenemore, Ph.D., BCD, ABE's treasurer, and Robert Booth, ABE's executive director, recently made a presentation at the national conference of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association in Chicago. **“Quality and Performance Measures in Behavioral Health: Perspectives from the Professional Societies”** was the title of the presentation, in which the audience was also addressed by representatives of the American Psychiatric Association and the American Psychological Association.

This was the first time in the history of the national Blue Cross Blue Shield Association that a clinical social work organization was invited to address its members, consisting of officials from all BCBS health plans and insurance companies in the United States. The two-hour presentation was particularly interesting to the audience, who were asked to appreciate clinical social workers' unique capabilities as valuable members of quality-based healthcare delivery systems. By emphasizing practice-based evidence, as opposed to the more common (but less definable) evidence-based practice, the ABE presenters, who received the audience's highest rating, were able to portray clinical social workers in a positive light that was different from that of psychologists and psychiatrists.

The presentation was arranged by Lynne Lockie, MSW, BCD, Clinical Director of BCBS of Tennessee and head of the behavioral health section of the Blue Cross Blue Shield Association. The Association will be continuing its discussions with ABE and other representatives of the mental-emotional-behavioral healthcare professions,

toward more effective quality-based systems that make better use of clinical social workers, among others.

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Crayton Rowe

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