

**MARYLAND BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS**  
**4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215**

**APRIL 2, 2025 BOARD MEETING**

**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

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**Meeting Held via Google Meet**

**Board Members Present:**

**Sherry Williams, Department of Health**  
**Naomi Howell, Department of the Environment Member**  
**Mia Lowery, Local Government**  
**Sarath Seneviratne, At Large (entered meeting at 10:31 a.m.)**  
**Kevin Barnaba, Private Industry**  
**Esther Peter, Consumer Member (exited meeting at 11:00 a.m.)**

**Board Members Absent:**

**Tonisha Melvin, Board Secretary, Consumer Member**  
**Bonnie Harbin, At Large**

**Staff and Visitors:**

**Katherine Cummings, Board Counsel (exited meeting 10:52 a.m.)**  
**James Merrow, Executive Director (Absent)**  
**Donna Zickefoose, Administrator I**  
**Leslie Johnson, Administrative Officer**  
**Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator**  
**Zakiyyah Holms, MDH**  
**Cliff Mitchell, MDH**  
**Mike Conti, AG's Office (Joined meeting 10:53 a.m.)**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 10:12 A.M. by Sherry Williams, Board Chair.

**AGENDA** Kevin Barnaba made a motion to adopt the agenda as submitted. Naomi Howell provided a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the Motion. Motion passed. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

**ITEM 1 Review of the Prior Meeting Open Session Meeting Minutes**

**1(a).** The February 5, 2025 Open Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Naomi Howell made a motion to adopt the Minutes as submitted. Mia Lowery provided a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Motion passed. 5 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

**ITEM 2 Board Chair Report**

**2(a).** The Board's Annual Report had been submitted and posted on the Board's website.

**2(b).** The Legislative/Regulations Committee, Sherry Williams, met with James Merrow and Katherine Cummings on February 24, 2025 to work on the draft apprenticeship regulations.

**2(c).** Welcome to Leslie Johnson, Board Administrative Officer.

**ITEM 3 Legislative/Regulations Committee**

**ITEM 4 Executive Director Report**

None.

## **MINUTES FROM THE OPEN SESSION**

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### **ITEM 5            Credentialing**

**Cliff Mitchell**

**5(a).** A meeting of the Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee (JATC) was held on March 25, 2025 that included a discussion of a rating system for reviewing the initial group of 26 apprenticeship prospects. Each of the prospects will be ranked by the JATC and the ones most qualified will be asked to apply with the State using the MS100 application. There are 5 slots available. Cliff gave an overview of the Environmental Health Specialist profession in the State and reported there are about 300 mostly at local Health Departments, approximately 40 at MDH, 6 at the OHCQ (Office of Health Care Quality), 40 with MDE, and a small amount in the private sector. In 2024, the EH Directors reported that there was 30 - 40% vacancy rate for EHS positions. The number one issue cited by the Directors was salary. Workforce development is needed to attract people to the profession. To address this issue, Dr. Mitchell began working with Morgan State University to begin an EHS apprenticeship program. Currently the program is in the process of being approved and the standards ratified. Currently the proposed process is:

- Applicants apply to the Department for the apprenticeship program either as an EHS Apprenticeship I or an EHS Apprenticeship II – both receive on-the-job training under EHS supervision as well as academic coursework
- The Environmental Health Apprentice I and Environmental Health Apprentice II are differentiated by the level of progression through the academic and apprenticeship standards. The Environmental Health Apprentice I is responsible for completing the required academic preparatory work and receives direct on-the-job training in various applied areas of environmental health under close supervision. The Environmental Health Apprentice II completes academic apprenticeship courses and receives direct on-the-job training in various applied areas of environmental health under close supervision.
- Apprentices conduct rotations at MDH, LHDs, and MDE in the various program areas.
- When all of the above has been completed the applicant applies to the Board to take the licensing exam.
- When the apprentice becomes licensed they will be required to “pay back” their service to the state.

### **ITEM 6            Work Force Work Group/Joint Apprenticeship Program**

No Report.

### **ITEM 7            Continuing Education Committee**

No Report.

### **ITEM 8            Statistics from the Licensing Database**

- Active Seasonal Certificates – 19
- Active Licensed Environmental Health Specialists – 506
- Active In-Training Certificates - 93
- Active Certificate of Eligibility Certificates – 183

### **ITEM 9            Exams**

- Number of passing scores since the February 5, 2025 meeting – 9
- Number of failing scores since the February 5, 2025 meeting – 3

**MINUTES FROM THE OPEN SESSION**  
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**ITEM 10      Status of Certificates and Licenses Processed:**

**10(a). Initial Licenses Issued (7)**

1. Che Gaskins
2. Jesse Johnson
3. Morgan Gingles
4. Benjamin Anderson
5. Jonathan Evans
6. Robert Beichler
7. Pamela Maloy

**10(b). License Reactivation (0)**

**10(c). Certificates of Eligibility Issued (18)**

1. Attilah Edges
2. William Wright
3. Ricky Karnes
4. Udeme Olaniyan
5. Paul Ache, IV
6. Jasmine Iler
7. Christina Sanders
8. Brandon Marciniak
9. Laurel Krause
10. Heather Helwig
11. Danielle Gaito
12. Denise Jackson
13. Ryan Mills
14. Andrea Gilbert-Eckman
15. Kira Mock
16. Kola Isola
  
17. Bageru Ayanna
18. JoVontae James

**10(e). In-Training Certificates Issued (7)**

1. Casey Showman
2. Janya McNeal
3. Kayla Johnson
4. Godfred Opoku
5. Brandon Marciniak
6. Paul Ache
7. Julian Laude

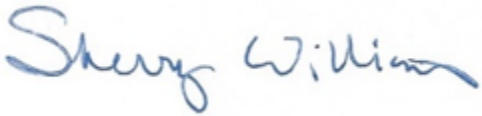
**10(f). Seasonal/Summer/Youth Camp In-Training Certificates (0)**

Naomi Howell announced that her Term on the Board ends June 30, 2025. She stated there has been an MDE selection for her replacement and the paperwork has been submitted.

Mia Lowery made a motion to adjourn the Open Session. Sarath Seneviratne provided a 2<sup>nd</sup> to the motion. Motion passed. Vote 6 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

**MINUTES FROM THE OPEN SESSION**  
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Meeting adjourned 11:25 a.m.



Sherry Williams,  
Board Chair

Date: June 4, 2025