

Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists

Board Meeting Open Session – August 21, 2026

10:30 AM - Meeting Minutes

Contents

- [Attendees](#)
- [Board Chair Report](#)
- [Board Counsel Announcements & Reports](#)
- [Executive Director Report](#)
- [Legislative and Regulations Updates](#)
- [Credentialing Committee](#)
- [Disciplinary Review Committee](#)
- [Counseling Compact Update](#)
- [Old/Miscellaneous Business](#)
- [Adjournment](#)

Attendees

Board Members	Board Staff
Sharita Sivels, Board Chair, LCPC	Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri, Executive Director
Kimberly Poole-Sykes, LCPC	Victoria Stinson, Deputy Director
Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT	Melia N. Ritchie, Board Counsel
Ingrid Mazziotta, LCPC, LCADC	Alexandria Langston, Licensing Manager
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC	Sandra Boxley, Licensing Coordinator
Luisa Wayman, Consumer Member	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Compliance Supervisor
Minjee Helmly, LCPC	Nusrat Tusi, Executive Administrative Assistant

	Trevor Smoot, Administrative Assistant
Terri Johnson, LCADC	Breya Graves, Compliance Assistant
	Katrina Hunter, Office Secretary
	Sharon Rendon-Hoyt, Compliance Specialist
	Myisha Maybin, Compliance Investigator
	Wendy Morton, Compliance Investigator
	Adebona Olanrewaju, Administrative Specialist

Meeting Called to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM by Board Chair Sharita Sivels. The Open Session Meeting for August 21, 2026, was offered virtually via Google Meet.

Statement of COMAR Regulation 10.01.14.02.02: *The public attendance regulation states that except in instances when a public body expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, a member of the public attending an open session may not participate in the session.*

Attendance Call by Board Chair:

The Board Chair completed a roll call and confirmed that the Board had an official quorum for today's meeting. The following members responded present:

Sharita Sivels, Board Chair, LCPC
Kimberly Poole-Sykes, LCPC
Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT
Minjee Helmly, LCPC
Terri Johnson, LCADC
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC
Luisa Wayman, Consumer Member

Review and Approve the Board [Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2026](#): The Board reviewed the Open Session meeting minutes from July 17, 2026.

- Motion to Approve: Stacey Nelson
- Motion Seconded: Kimberly Poole-Sykes
- All in Favor: All in Favor
- Any Oppositions: None
- **Outcome: The Motion was Approved.**

Review and Approve the Board [Meeting Agenda for August 21, 2026](#): The Board reviewed the proposed [agenda for the August 21, 2026](#) meeting.

- Motion to Approve: Kimberly Poole-Sykes
- Motion Seconded: Stacey Nelson
- All in Favor: All in Favor
- Any Oppositions: None
- **Outcome: The Motion was Approved.**

Board Chair Report

Board Chair Sharita Sivels had no official report to present during the open session.

Board Counsel Announcements & Reports

Melia N. Ritchie had no official report to present to the Board.

Executive Director Report

Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri presented operational and legislative updates:

- **Managing for Results (MFR) Report:**
 - The Board completed and submitted its requested MFR report and data spreadsheet on Friday of the previous week. The Executive Director extended recognition to Deputy Director Victoria Stinson and the compliance unit for their contributions to completing the submission.
- **Maryland Health Centralization Commission:**
 - The Executive Director attended the second meeting of the newly created commission on August 17, 2026, presenting on the Board's functions, systemic improvements, and operational challenges. The exact long-term role of the commission in overseeing or representing the health boards is still being clarified with MDH.
- **Salesforce Enterprise Licensing System & Online Platform:**
 - The Board is monitoring the Maryland Board of Nursing's implementation of MDH's centralized Salesforce licensing platform while evaluating long-term modernization options. The current semi-online system is operating as intended, having processed nearly 200 applications entirely through online payments and digital forms (paper checks and money orders are no longer accepted).

Administrative Assistant Trevor Smoot was recognized for organizing and triaging online submissions to streamline coordinator reviews while staff work through remaining paper backlogs.

- **HB 1483 (Continuity of Care / Telehealth Bill):**

- The Executive Director reminded the public that HB 1483 takes effect on October 1, 2026. While the Board previously opposed the legislation due to its removal of temporary licensing authority, the Board will monitor the implementation to assess practice impacts and track potential complaints.

Legislative and Regulations (Legs & Regs) Updates

Elizabeth Guroff presented the statutory revision proposal:

- **Proposed Statutory Updates (Bill Draft for 2027 Legislative Session):**

- **Summary:** The Board conducted a formal vote on the comprehensive draft bill revisions distributed in July, which include replacing the Alcohol and Drug Trainee designation with "Certified Alcohol and Drug Assistant" (CADA), removing time limits for graduate practitioners, and updating statutory definitions for counseling practice.
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously via voice vote.

Credentialing Committee

Kimberly Poole-Sykes presented the application intake metrics for August 2026:

Applications Received (August 2026):

- **LCPC:** 37
- **LGPC:** 5
- **LCADC:** 7
- **LGADC:** 0
- **LCMFT:** 16
- **LGMFT:** 10
- **LCPAT:** 1
- **LGPAT:** 2
- **LBA:** 101
- **CAC-AD:** 26
- **CSC-AD:** 18
- **ADT:** 78

Disciplinary Review Committee

Sharita Sivels presented the monthly compliance statistics on behalf of DRC Chair Lisa Connors:

- **Cases Reviewed:** 34 active cases were evaluated by the committee.
- **Cases Closed:** 22 cases were formally closed.

Counseling Compact Update

Sharita Sivels delivered the compact tracking update on behalf of Lisa Connors:

- **Active Compact Member States:** Seven states currently live within the compact framework: Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, and Ohio.
- **Communications Committee:** The Counseling Compact's initial Communications Committee meeting is scheduled for August 27, 2026, to focus on public visibility, website development, social media, and press releases.

Old/Miscellaneous Business

- **Staff Recruitment (Licensing Coordinators):**
 - Executive Director Olaniyi-Quadri announced that the Board is actively recruiting to fill two open Licensing Coordinator positions on the state Maryland Jobs portal to support the licensing workload and handle ADT files.
- **Status of ADT Credential Evolution:**
 - Board Counsel Melia Ritchie clarified in response to public chat inquiries that updating the ADT designation to a Certified Alcohol and Drug Assistant requires statutory enactment through the Maryland General Assembly (anticipated during the 2027 session ending April 2027). Following statutory approval, the Board will formally amend its COMAR regulations to implement the credential tier.
- **Subcommittee Routing Process:**
 - Board Counsel clarified that board members seeking to introduce regulatory items should submit them directly to Counsel and Committee leadership for review at the subcommittee level prior to bringing them before the full Board.

Adjournment

The next general Open Session Board Meeting is scheduled for **Friday, September 18, 2026, at 10:30 AM**, to be conducted virtually.

- Motion to Adjourn: Elizabeth Guroff
- Motion Seconded: Kimberly Poole-Sykes
- Any Oppositions: None
- **Outcome:** The Motion was Approved.

The Open Session officially adjourned at 10:52 AM. Board members were directed to immediately disconnect and transition into the closed administrative session portal.

Meeting Duration: 19 minutes