

Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists

Board Meeting Open Session – September 18, 2026

10:30 AM - Meeting Minutes

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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 Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC	Alexandria Langston, Licensing Manager Sandra Boxley, Licensing Coordinator
Luisa Wayman, Consumer Member	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Compliance Supervisor

Mary Blackwood, LCMFT	Trevor Smoot, Administrative Assistant
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	Breya Graves, Compliance Assistant
	Katrina Hunter, Office Secretary
	Sharon Rendon-Hoyt, Compliance Specialist
	Myisha Maybin, Compliance Investigator
	Wendy Morton, Compliance Investigator
	Janice Isaac, Licensing Coordinator

Meeting Called to Order

- The meeting was called to order at 10:33 AM by Board Chair Sharita Sivels. The Open Session Meeting for September 18, 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
Luisa Wayman, Consumer Member
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC
Mary Blackwood, LCMFT
Kimberly Poole-Sykes, LCPC
Ingrid Mazziotta, LCPC, LCADC

Lisa Connors, LCPC
Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT

Review and Approve the Board [Meeting Minutes from August 21, 2026](#): The Board reviewed the Open Session meeting minutes from August 21, 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 September 18, 2026](#): The Board reviewed the proposed agenda for the September 18, 2026, meeting. Board Counsel Melia Ritchie requested an amendment to remove the ratification of credentials under the Credentialing Committee report, as the updated data was not yet available and will be reported at the October meeting.

- Motion to Approve (as Amended): Kimberly Poole-Sykes
- Motion Seconded: Luisa Wayman
- All in Favor: All in Favor
- Any Oppositions: None
- **Outcome: The Motion was Approved with the specified amendment.**

Board Chair Report

Board Chair Sharita Sivels reported that staff is actively developing the next edition of the Board newsletter, which will be published on the Board's website in the near future.

Board Counsel Announcements & Reports

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

Executive Director Report

Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri presented operational, policy, and election updates:

- **Discontinuation of Pre-Applications (30-Day Notice):**
 - Effective October 18, 2026 (30 days from notice), the Board will no longer accept pre-applications. While pre-applications were originally offered to help prospective applicants assess requirements, current staff workload—including paper application backlogs and high volumes of online submissions—makes

continuing this service infeasible. On October 18, all pre-applications will be removed from the online platform so that licensing staff can focus exclusively on processing full license applications. Prospective applicants currently preparing pre-applications may still submit them prior to the October 18 cutoff.

- **Potential Review of Licensing and Credentialing Fees:**

- The Board is preparing for a prospective review of its licensing and credentialing fees as part of the ongoing comprehensive regulations review. The Executive Director noted that operational costs and staff expenditures have increased, and fee schedules have not been evaluated in a considerable time. No immediate increases or specific effective dates are set, but the public was placed on notice that fee evaluations are approaching alongside initiatives to streamline the application review process.

- **Executive Committee Nominations:**

- Nominations are officially open for the upcoming annual Executive Committee elections (Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary), taking place at the October Board meeting. Board members may self-nominate or nominate colleagues (with prior consent from the nominee) ahead of the vote and inauguration next month.

Legislative and Regulations (Legs & Regs) Updates

Elizabeth Guroff presented the updated statutory revision proposal:

- **Health Occupations Statutory Revisions (Substance Use/ADT Grandfathering Amendments):**

- **Summary:** Following the Board's preliminary approval in August, the Substance Use Disorder subcommittee met to refine the bill draft regarding the transition from Alcohol and Drug Trainee (ADT) to Certified Alcohol and Drug Assistant (CADA). Because the proposed statutes would not take effect until July 1, 2027, individuals can legally continue to obtain an ADT through June 30, 2027. To protect active trainees, the subcommittee amended the draft to grandfather in the ADT credential for its full six-year statutory lifespan, establishing a final sunset date of June 30, 2033. Additionally, the Maryland law exam and continuing education (CEU) requirements were explicitly reincorporated into the draft for trainees.
- **Vote:** Approved unanimously via voice vote.

Credentialing Committee

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

Applications Received (September 2026):

- **LCPC:** 30
- **LCADC:** 11
- **LGADC:** 1
- **LCMFT:** 5
- **LGMFT:** 2
- **LGPAT:** 7
- **LBA:** 40
- **CAC-AD:** 7
- **CSC-AD:** 15
- **ADT:** 32
- **Supervisor Applications (All Types):** 38
- **Out-of-State Applications (All Types):** 11

(Ratification of active credentials was deferred to the October meeting per earlier agenda amendment.)

Disciplinary Review Committee

Lisa Connors presented the monthly compliance statistics:

- **New Complaints Received:** 13 new complaints.
- **Cases Closed:** 8 complaints were formally closed.

Counseling Compact Update

Lisa Connors delivered the regional and national compact tracking update:

- **Active Compact Member States:** Nine states are now actively issuing compact privileges: Arizona, Georgia, Indiana, Louisiana, Minnesota, Mississippi, Ohio, Tennessee, and Wyoming.
- **Rules & Bylaws:** The Compact Rules Committee continues to draft uniform operational rules, policies, and bylaws across member jurisdictions.
- **Communications Subcommittee:** A newly formed Communications Subcommittee has been established to oversee public outreach, messaging, and digital media. Lisa Connors announced that she has been appointed to serve on this national subcommittee. More information is available on the official compact website (counselingcompact.org).

Old/Miscellaneous Business

Hearing no old or new business, the Board Chair called for miscellaneous items. None were raised.

Adjournment

The next general Open Session Board Meeting is scheduled for **Friday, October 16, 2026, at 10:30 AM**, to be conducted virtually.

- Motion to Adjourn: Stacey Nelson
- 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 transition to the closed administrative session portal.

Meeting Duration: 19 minutes