

# **Applications and nominations for the Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists are being accepted through May 9, 2022.**

The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is accepting applications through May 9, 2022 for the following Board seats:

Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor (Applicant may not hold another credential under the Board);

Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist; and

Licensed Clinical Counselor (At-large position may be held by any clinical licensee under the Board).

Interested candidates should carefully review all membership criteria and the time commitment noted below before applying. Applicants are responsible for ensuring that all application documents and nomination materials are submitted by May 9, 2022.

## **Criteria:**

The criteria for members is outlined in the Board statute, Health Occupations §17-202, which is attached. Terms are for four years. Applicants for the clinical licensee member positions must be actively licensed, be in good standing with the Board, and a resident of Maryland. Applicants for the consumer member position must meet the criteria set forth in the above-referenced statute.

## **Board member duties:**

- Attend monthly Board meetings which are held on the third Friday of each month at 10:30 am at the Board office located at 4201 Patterson Ave., Baltimore, MD 21215. The meeting includes an administrative and a public (open) session. Members receive a stipend of \$150 per meeting plus mileage. Members receive documents in advance of the meeting for review. There are attendance requirements in order to remain a board member.
- Members serve on various Board committees including Credentialing, Legislation, and Disciplinary Review. Committees meet as determined by the committee chairperson either in person or virtually. Committees may also meet on the date of the Board meeting, either before or after the open and administrative sessions.
- Members participate in disciplinary hearings and case resolution conferences.
- Board members may be asked to testify before the General Assembly regarding legislation that affects consumers and/or licensees.
- Board members are subject to the State Ethics Law and are required to file an annual financial disclosure with the Maryland State Ethics Commission.

Please note that all applicants are thoroughly vetted and may be interviewed by a subject matter expert. The Governor appoints all board members with the advice of the Secretary of the Department of Health).

**All interested applicants are required to submit a formal application through the Governor's Appointments Office website at <http://govappointments.maryland.gov/> no later than May 9, 2022.**

Please be aware that one of the application documents, Appointee Exemption Disclosure (AED) form, is required by the Maryland State Ethics Commission (MSEC) to document any potential conflicts of interest. On the AED form, applicants should request an employment exemption for all current employment. Applicants that are self-employed, own or co-own a business should also request a financial exemption on the AED form.

If an applicant is serving in an official capacity with a professional organization, the applicant should list their role and note their willingness to resign immediately if appointed to the Health Occupation Board. Applicants may contact the MSEC at 410-260-7770 with questions or to request guidance.

Nominations may be made by professional organizations, but are not required. The nomination is also due by the deadline for applications. Nominations may be submitted via e-mail to:

*Kim Bennardi, Administrator*  
*Maryland Department of Health*  
*Office of Appointments and Executive Nominations*  
*201 W. Preston St. 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Baltimore, MD 21201*  
[Kim.bennardi@maryland.gov](mailto:Kim.bennardi@maryland.gov)  
*Phone: 410-767-4049*

**Any additional questions regarding applications or nominations may be addressed to Kim Bennardi at [kim.bennardi@maryland.gov](mailto:kim.bennardi@maryland.gov) or 410-767-4049.**

### **Section 17-202. Membership.**

(a) Composition; appointment and qualifications of members. –

- (1) The Board consists of 13 members appointed by the Governor with the advice of the Secretary.
- (2) Of the 13 Board members: (i) Four shall be licensed as clinical professional counselors; (ii) Three shall be licensed as clinical marriage and family therapists; (iii) Three shall be licensed as clinical alcohol and drug counselors; (iv) One shall be licensed as a clinical professional art therapist; and (v) Two shall be consumer members.
- (3) The composition of the Board as to the race and sex of its members shall reflect the composition of the population of the State.
- (4) The Governor shall appoint the counselors and therapists from a list submitted to the Governor by the Secretary. Any association representing professional counselors,

marriage and family therapists, alcohol and drug counselors, or professional art therapists may submit recommendations for Board members to the Secretary

(5) Two of the individuals appointed as a licensed clinical professional counselor member under paragraph (2)(i) of this subsection may not hold another credential issued by the Board.

(b) Qualifications of consumer member. -- The consumer members of the Board:

(1) Shall be members of the general public;

(2) May not be or ever have been certified or licensed as a counselor or therapist or in training to become certified or licensed as a counselor or therapist;

(3) May not have a household member who is certified or licensed as a counselor or therapist or in training to become certified or licensed as a counselor or therapist; Maryland Code Annotated Health Occupations Article, Title 17. 8

(4) May not participate or ever have participated in a commercial or professional field related to professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, alcohol and drug counseling, or professional art therapy;

(5) May not have a household member who participates in a commercial or professional field related to professional counseling, marriage and family therapy, alcohol and drug counseling, or professional art therapy;

(6) May not have had within 2 years before appointment a substantial financial interest in a person regulated by the Board; and

(7) While members of the Board, may not have a substantial financial interest in a person regulated by the Board.

(c) Oath. -- Before taking office, each appointee to the Board shall take the oath required by Article I, Section 9 of the Maryland Constitution.

(d) Terms. -- (1) The term of a member is 4 years. (2) The terms of the members of the Board are staggered as required by the terms of the members of the Board serving on July 1, 1988. (3) At the end of a term, a member continues to serve until a successor is appointed and qualifies. (4) A member may not serve more than 2 consecutive full terms. (5) To the extent practicable, the Governor shall fill any vacancy on the Board within 60 days of the date of the vacancy.

(e) Removal. -- (1) The Governor may remove a member for incompetency, misconduct, or neglect of duty. (2) Upon the recommendation of the Secretary, the Governor may remove a member whom the Secretary finds to have been absent from 2 successive Board meetings without adequate reason.

History 1985, ch. 734; 1990, ch. 6, Section 11; 1992, chs. 433 , 434 ; 1993, ch. 5, Section 1; 1994, ch. 721 ; 1996, ch. 576, Section 1; ch. 577, Section 1; 1997, ch. 461 ; 1998, chs. 131 , 132 ; 1999, ch. 437 ; 2000, ch. 61, Section 1; 2008, ch. 505, Section 2; 2009, ch. 60, Section 5; 2010, ch. 727 ; 2012, chs. 628 , 629 ; 2018, chs. 756 , 757 .