

**MD State Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists
Board of Directors Meeting - Open Session –
Friday, February 20, 2026
Start time: 10:15AM EST –
Transcript**

Attendees

Board Members (BDCOMM)	Board Staff
Sharita Sivels-Stevens, LCPC, Board Chair	Rhonda Edwards, AAG (Board Counsel)
Lisa R. Connors, Ph.D., LCPC, Vice Chair	Melia Ritchie, AG Office (Board Counsel)
Winnie Moore, LCPC	Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri, Exec. Director
Elizabeth K. Guroff, MA, LCMFT	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Supervisor, Compliance
Ingrid Mazziotta, LCADC	Victoria Stinson, Deputy Director
Mary Blackwood, LCMFT	Breya Graves, Admin. Specialist
Terri Johnson, LCADC	Myisha Maybin, Investigator
Karen Katrinic, M.S. LCMFT	Olanrewaju Adebona, Administrative Specialist
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC	Wendy Morton, Investigator
Kimberly J. Poole-Sykes, LCPC (ABSENT)	Sharon Rendon-Hoyt, Compliance Specialist
LCADC Position-Vacant	Alexandria Langston, Supervisor, Licensing
Consumer Member Position-Vacant	Janice Isaac, Licensing Coordinator
Consumer Member Position-Vacant	Katrina Hunter, Office Secretary

Members of the General Public in Attendance:

Alexandra Simone,	Amy Sims -MDH-
Bernard Mozdenski	Charles Wright
Jessica Brenneman	Sam Hardesty
Sarah McDevitt	Shannon Hoey PhD, BCBA, LBA
Wunmi Adediji	Zakiyyah Holmes -MDH-

Board Chair Call to Order the Open Session Meeting with Board Members

Board Chair Opens Meeting at 10:15 a.m.

We are beginning our open meeting for February the 20th of 2026. For the public 14-02 for public attendance, which states that except an instance when a public body express invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participations otherwise authorized by law, a member of the public attending an open session

Sharita Sivels -BDCOMM-: Board Chair Call to Order the Open Session Meeting with Board Members

Attendance and Board Roll Call: All Board Members, please say your name and say you're present for today.

Lisa Connors -BDCOMM-: Lisa Connor's vice chair LCPC

Mary Blackwood -BDCOMM-: Mary Blackwood, L LCMFT board member.

Ingrid Mazziotta -BDCOMM-: LCPC board member.

Elizabeth Guroff -BDCOMM-: Lisa Guroff, LCMFT board member.

Stacey Nelson -BDCOMM-: LCPAT board member.

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Winnie Moore LCPC board member.

Karen Katrinic -BDCOMM-: Karen Katrinic-BDCOMM-: LC, MFT board member.

Sharita Sivels -BDCOMM-: And I am Sharita Civil Stevens, board member, and chair of the board.

Make Note that a quorum is present for today. Next thing on our agenda is to review and approve our minutes of January the 16th, 2026 Board Meeting. Motion to Approve meeting Minutes for the January 16, 2026, Board Meeting

Do we have a motion to approve that?

Motion – Second

Second.

Motion to Approve

Motion is Passed -

Board Chair - That motion is passed.

Approve the Board of Director Meeting Agenda for today, February 20, 2025.

Motion to approve. Do we have a Motion to second?

Winnie Moore -BDCOMM-: Second.

No Oppositions

Board Chair - Hearing none, that motion is passed.

Reports:

Chairman of the Board– No report.

Board Counsel: - No Report. Thank You.

Executive Director Report - Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri - Licensing System Update:

The Executive Director reported that the Board has completed development of a new online licensing application system, with a projected launch following a 120-day transition period ending **June 20, 2026**. During this period, staff will process the backlog of paper applications and those already submitted to prevent duplicate records. After the deadline, paper applications will no longer be accepted and will be returned. The new system will allow applicants to submit applications, upload documents, make payments, and track application status online, improving efficiency, reducing issues related to paper checks, and creating a clearer audit trail. A live demonstration of the system was provided by Nathan Mitchell. It was noted that the current portal will continue to be used for license renewals, as the new system will apply only to new applications. The Board has been advised that processing times may be slightly longer during the transition period while staff complete the shift to the online system.

AASCB Conference - Board Members and Board staff will be attending the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) beginning February 22-25, 2026, in Orlando, Florida.

Quarterly Stakeholder Meeting – The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 26 at 10:30 a.m. We encourage members of the stakeholders to join those meetings. It's an opportunity to be able to share ideas and hear what the public are saying and the reactions of people to some of the things that we are doing, especially things like this new licensing website.

Thank you.

Committee Reports

Legislative & Regulations Committee (Legs & Regs)

The Committee reported on several bills under consideration during the legislative session and presented recommendations for Board action. The Board voted to support with amendments SB 910/HB 1094 (Health Insurance – Graduate Level Clinical Interns Required Reimbursement) to ensure applicability to all master’s-level interns under relevant health occupations. The Board voted to oppose HB 1483 (Clinical Professional Counselors – Continuity of Care) due to concerns regarding lack of licensure oversight and client protection. The Board also voted to oppose HB 1372 (Health Centralization Commission for Health Occupation Boards) due to concerns about external oversight without Board representation. The Board voted to take no position on HB 1542 and HB 995 (Behavioral Health Care Providers – Use of Artificial Intelligence). The Board voted to support with amendments HB 771 (Human Trafficking Awareness Training) to allow the training as an optional continuing education topic rather than a mandatory requirement. The Committee also noted that HB 1079 (Office of Regulatory Management) remains under review with no recommendation at this time.

Credentialing Committee Reports

Stacey Nelson provided an overview for the credentialing committee. The credentialing committee continues to meet since our last open meeting we met and have reviewed eight cases.

Disciplinary Review Committee

Lisa Connors provided an overview of the disciplinary review committee. Since the last board meeting, the DRC has reviewed a total of 29 cases. The committee will continue to review cases to bring to the Board for final decision.

Counseling Compact Report and Updates

Lisa Connors provided an update on the Counseling Compact. There have been 625 privileges and based on the counseling compact, we anticipate that several more states by the middle of the year will also be offering privileges if they're able to complete the rule process. Currently, there are only three states that are issuing privileges. Those states are Arizona, Minnesota, and Ohio are the only states that are offering privileges. So, to date 625 privileges have been issued.

Board Chair announced the next scheduled Board meeting for March 20, 2026, beginning at 10:30 a.m. held in a virtual format.

Motion to Adjourn

Second the Motion to Adjourn

No Oppositions

Meeting Adjourned at 00:42:51