

**Board of Professional Counselors & Therapists  
Board Meeting Open Session – March 20, 2026  
10:22AM - Transcript**

**Attendees**

<b>Board Members</b>	<b>Board Staff</b>
Elizabeth Guroff, MA, LCMFT	Alexandria Langston, Manager Licensing
Ingrid Mazziotta, LCADC	Breya Graves, Compliance Assistant
Karen Katrinic, MS, LCMFT	Janice Isaac, Coordinator Licensing
Kimberly Poole-Sykes, LCPC	Katrina Hunter, Licensing Assistant
Lisa Connors, Ph.D., LCPC	Myisha Maybin, Compliance Investigator
Mary Blackwood, LCMFT	Olanrewaju Adebona, Licensing Assistant
Sharita Sivels, LCPC	Sandra Boxley, Coordinator Licensing
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT, ATR-BC	Sharon Rendon-Hoyt, Coordinator Compliance
	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Manager Compliance
	Wendy Morton, Compliance Investigator
	Tomiloba Olaniyi-Quadri, Executive Director
	Victoria Stinson, Deputy Director
	Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison
	Melia N Ritchie, Board Counsel
	Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel

**Stakeholders and Members of the Public in attendance:**

Alissa Zhu,  
Anne McHugh  
Erin Schaller  
Jennifer R.,  
Jessica Brenneman  
Rita Anaka,  
Samantha Hardesty -BDCOMM,  
Sankofa Behavioral Health  
Sara Trescott  
Zakiyyah Holmes -MDH-

Meeting Called to Order at 10:33 AM by Board Chair Sharita Sivels-Stephens

Call to Order the Open Session Meeting for March 20, 2026, which is offered virtually.

Statement of COMAR Regulation 10.01.14.02.02 - *The public attendance states 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**

Sharita Sivels-Stevens  
Ingrid Mazziotta  
Kimberly Poole-Sykes  
Karen Katrinic  
Lisa Connors  
Stacey Nelson  
Mary Blackwood  
Elizabeth Guroff -

**Absent:**

Terry Johnson  
Winnie Moore

Board Chair acknowledges and notes the absence of 2 board members. The Board does have a quorum for today's Board meeting.

**Review and Approve the Board Meeting Minutes from the February 20, 2026, BOPCT Open Board Meeting.**

Motion to Approve  
Motion is Second  
No Oppositions  
The Motion is Approved:

**Review and Approve the Board Meeting Agenda for the March 20, 2026 Board Meeting,...**

Motion to Approve  
Motion is Second  
No Oppositions  
The Motion is Approved:  
Kimberly Poole-Sykes -BDCOMM-: I second.

## **Board Chair Report**

The Chair announced the addition of a new member to the Behavioral Analyst Advisory Committee (BAAC): **Denisha Jingles** of Sankofa Behavioral Health. Ms. Jingles is a counselor and behavioral analyst with over 18 years of experience and expressed enthusiasm for contributing to the Board's collaborative efforts.

### **BAC Email Vote and Confirmation:**

Board members voted affirmatively to provide BAAC committee members with MD.gov email addresses.

Motion to approve.

Seconded.

No opposition.

**Motion approved.**

## **Board Counsel Announcements & Reports**

Board Counsel announced the formation of an **Ad Hoc Regulatory Review Committee** to evaluate existing Board regulations. Board members interested in participating were asked to notify the Executive Director or Deputy Director. The committee will be established within the next month.

### **Executive Director's Report**

The Executive Director presented documentation outlining the proposed relocation and reconfiguration of Board office space. A prior Board decision approved relocation to a 5th-floor suite to accommodate expanded staffing needs.

The current proposal includes removal of existing fixtures and installation of cubicles with overhead storage. Estimated costs:

- \$62,000 (installation, storage, panel reupholstery)
- \$8,000 (previously approved fixture removal)

**Total estimated cost: \$70,000**

**Elizabeth Guroff (BDCOMM):** Requested clarification on funding responsibility and whether costs fall to the Board or the Maryland Department of Health (MDH), as well as the source of funds.

Discussion followed regarding funding procedures. It was clarified that relocation costs are absorbed by the Board and can be covered through operating funds designated for contractual services and workspace needs.

**Elizabeth Guroff (BDCOMM):** Inquired whether these funds are subject to reallocation under recent legislative actions.

The Executive Director confirmed that MDH may reallocate Board funds under the BFRA Act and noted that funds have previously been used for facility improvements. The Board has sufficient funds to cover the relocation cost. A future meeting with fiscal staff will be scheduled to review Board finances.

## **Legislative and Regulations (Legs & Regs) Updates**

### **House Bill 1483 – Telehealth:**

Board Member Elizabeth Guroff reported on advocacy efforts to include a 6-month temporary licensure provision. The Board withdrew opposition based on anticipated amendments; however, the amended version was not presented as expected. The Board was not included on the hearing docket and could not provide testimony.

The bill, as advanced, would allow out-of-state counselors to practice in Maryland without licensure for continuity of care. The Board expressed significant concern and plans to provide testimony when the bill reaches the Senate.

### **House Bill 1372 – Health Commission Oversight:**

The bill proposes a commission to oversee all Boards, including development of a standardized electronic application system. The Board testified in opposition, noting lack of representation and potential impact on Board autonomy.

### **House Bill 1094 – Intern Billing:**

This bill would allow interns to bill under supervisor licenses. The Board supported amendments to expand applicability across professions under its jurisdiction and to include group practices.

### **House Bill 771 – Human Trafficking Training:**

The Board supports the training requirement but submitted a letter requesting that specific training courses not be codified in COMAR regulations, to maintain consistency with other CEU requirements.

## **Committee Reports**

### **Credentialing Committee – Kimberly Poole-Sykes**

The Committee continues to meet monthly. Since February:

- **368 total applications received**
- Includes various licensure categories and 31 out-of-state applications
- 45 supervisor applications reviewed

**Current Active Credentials Total: 14,324**, including:

- 7,450 LCPCs
- 1,679 LGPCs
- 292 LCADCs

- 24 LGADCs
- 635 CSC-ADs
- 956 ADTs
- Additional categories as reported

**Report concluded.**

### **Disciplinary Review Committee – Lisa Connors**

The Committee reviewed **28 cases** and continues to meet regularly.

**Report concluded.**

### **Counseling Compact Update**

The Counseling Compact is currently in a public comment period regarding supervised experience rules. Public comments may be submitted via the Compact website through **April 20, 2026, at 11:59 PM (Mountain Time)**. Submitted comments will be reviewed by the Compact Rules Committee.

### **Old Business**

No old business was discussed.

### **Adjournment**

The next Board Meeting is scheduled for **April 17, 2026, at 10:30 AM (virtual)**.

Motion to adjourn.

Seconded by Kimberly Poole-Sykes.

No objections.

**Motion carried.**

The Open Session adjourned at **11:06 AM**. The Board then convened in closed session.

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**Meeting Duration:** 34 minutes