

State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners



**Open Session Minutes
November 4, 2016
Metro Executive Building
• 4201 Patterson Ave, Room 1
Baltimore, Maryland 21215**

Board Members:

Denise Capaci	Professional Member, Chair
Joyce Bell	Professional Member, Vice Chair
Aimee Williams	Professional Member, Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Lannon	Professional Member
Angela Anderson-Smith	Consumer Member
Deborah Ramelmeier	Professional Member (absent)
Sherryl Silberman	Professional Member (absent)
Karen Richards	Professional Member
Gerard Farrell	Consumer Member
Letha Moszer	Professional Member
Mary Sayres	Professional Member
Wrenn Skidmore	Professional Member

Board Staff:

Stanley E. Weinstein	Executive Director
Ari S. Elbaum	AAG, OAG, Board Counsel
Gail Wowk	Director, Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Director, Certification and Licensing
Tyrone Willoughby	Social Work Supervisor
Kara Brooks-Tyson	Director, Compliance and Investigations
Garcia Gilmore	Board Investigator (absent)
Deborah Evans	CEU Supervisor

Guests:

Brandon Wright	Associate Director, Health Occupations Boards and Commission
Sharon Bloom	Department of Health and Mental Hygiene
Kristen Neville	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW-MD Chapter

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to order at 10:28 A.M. by Ms. Denise Capaci, Board Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

October 14, 2016 minutes were approved - 10 Yes.

ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

Stanley Weinstein has several items which were added to his section.

BOARD CHAIR

Denise Capaci

- Denise Capaci announced that Joyce Bell has been nominated for a position on the ASWB Nominating Committee. Dr. Bell briefly discussed this process.
- Final Board Committee assignments reviewed. One year assignment started on 7/1/2016.
- 2017 Board Meeting Schedule was reviewed. Reminder that the Board agreed to not hold a Board Meeting in February 2017.
- Follow up to the September Board Retreat. Denise Capaci opened the floor for further discussion and/or follow up. No additional remarks.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stanley E. Weinstein

- 2016 License Renewal Update. 7,000 renewals:
 - LBSW: 263
 - LGSW: 1286
 - LCSW: 151
 - LCSW-C: 4171551 have not yet renewed – Board reminder letter to be sent out next week
326 applying for inactive status
Last minute renewals in late October. Stanley Weinstein stated that the renewal process went well and that it was a “real effort” on the part of staff to process this volume of renewals.
- Brandon Wright, Associate Director for Health Occupations Boards and Commissions was introduced. He stated that he has already met with Stanley Weinstein and plans to meet with the other boards and commissions soon.
- International Social Work discussions lead by Gloria Hammel. She met with the Welcome Back Center staff whose focus is to facilitate licensing of health care practitioners from other countries. She estimates five social workers have been assisted to date. Note: Handouts on this topic were included with the November 4, 2016 Agenda.
- New Staff. The new Social Worker in the Licensing Unit will begin in December, 2016. The new Health Occupations Investigator will begin later this month. The list for interested applicants for the Administrative Aide position has been received and reviewed. Interviews will be set up this month.
- Inclement weather telephone number and the Department of Budget Management website which lists Emergency Closings were reviewed.
- Discussion held on the past and current practice of disciplining licensees that have failed the CEU Audit. The range of sanctions is from Letters of Education to Letters of Admonishment to Pre-Charge Consent Orders. Licensees sign the CEU Report Form stating the information is correct and that they have completed the trainings listed. However, the CEU Audit identifies those licensees that have not completed the 30/40 CEUs required and consequently, they have failed the audit.

Board Members agreed that further discussion is needed. Ari Elbaum, AAG, suggested a Letter of Agreement can be attached to a Letter of Admonishment which outlines the steps necessary to meet sanctions outlined to each case. Denise Capaci asked Ari Elbaum to prepare this Letter and provide to Stanley Weinstein for Board Staff review. Denise Capaci stated this Letter will be discussed further at the December Board Meeting.

- Stanley Weinstein added four items:
 - a. ASWB Contract. Follow up with an additional change agreed to by both parties. The ASWB and the Board finalized the Post Renewal CEU Audit contract.
 - b. 2016 Fall Newsletter. Reminder to Board Members those articles were due to Gail Wowk by **October 11, 2016**. The goal is to send out this Newsletter by mid-to-late November.
 - c. Shared Cost Agreements for certain staff that support the Boards and Commissions were distributed for review and discussion (See Handout).
 - d. Proposed Regulations:
 1. Palliative Care – Psychological Services – Stanley Weinstein has written the Department to update the reference to Behavioral Health instead of mental health.
 2. The Behavioral Health Administration’s Outpatient Care consultation – pilot program. Motion was made for Stanley Weinstein to submit a Board recommendation to include clinical social worker as a person authorized to sign and verify that a patient is eligible for the outpatient program.
Vote: 10 Yes
 3. Assisted Living Regulations final draft is up for comment through January 2, 2017. Staff will send out email received from the Office of Health Care Quality to Board Members.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Continuing Education Committee

Karen Richards, Chair

Karen Richards reported on the October 14, 2016 Meeting.

- The Board’s list of Board Authorized Sponsors located on the Continuing Education webpage was updated on November 1, 2016. It reflects the hard work of staff to update the active sponsors database along with placing certain sponsors on inactive status. Licensees are encouraged to check this list before signing up for professional CE activities.
- The first email was sent to Board Authorized Sponsors in October 2016. The topic was Film and Discussion Programs. This form of communication is an important tool to share information or updates as needed.
- ASWB three year contract was discussed. They will also conduct pre-renewal CEU Audits on designated licensees starting with the 2017 license renewal cycle.
- Next steps for updating the CEU and Supervision regulations as discussed at the October 14, 2016 Board Meeting. The two areas are Continuing Education Units in Ethics in Category I or II and earning 3 CEUs in Supervision every license renewal cycle. Due to several factors including the regulatory approval process, it is anticipated that these new requirements will become effective with the 2018 license renewal cycle.
- The next meeting is scheduled for December 9, 2016.

Statute and Regulations Committee

Joyce Bell, Chair

Joyce Bell reported on the Committee and Board Retreat discussions.

The Statute and Regulations Committee meeting held on October 17, 2016 was discussed.

Two more meetings will be held on November 14, 2016 and December 12, 2016. The focus of the November 14th meeting will be a synopsis of where we are and where we are going.

REMINDER OR REQUEST

None

The Open Session adjourned at 11:20 A.M.

Aimee Williams, LCSW-C
Board Secretary/Treasurer

Stanley E. Weinstein, Ph.D., LCSW-C
Executive Director

Date

Date