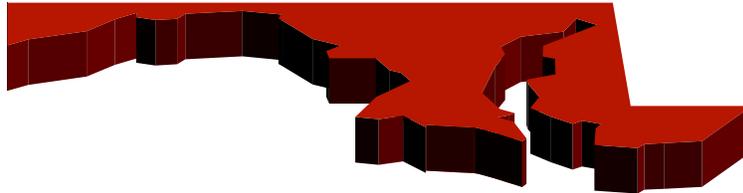


**State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners**



**Open Session Minutes  
September 11, 2020, 10:33 AM  
Teleconference Board Meeting**

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**Board Members: Via Telephone Call-In**

Gerard Farrell	Consumer Member, Chair
Karen Richards	Professional Member, Vice Chair
Donald J. List	Professional Member, Secretary/Treasure
Sherryl Silberman	Professional Member
Allyson Stanton	Professional Member (Absent)
Adrienne Ekas Mueting	Professional Member
Maria Cole	Professional Member
Sondra G. Petty	Professional Member
Barbara Gassaway	Consumer Member
Susan P. Coppage	Professional Member
April A. Cockrell	Professional Member (Absent)
Martin P. Schnuit	Professional Member

<b>Board Staff:</b> Stanley E. Weinstein	Executive Director
Rhonda Edwards	OAG, Board Counsel
Kara Brooks-Tyson	Director of Compliance and Investigations
Donna Ridgell	Administrative Aide (absent)
Lillian Reese	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Gail Wowk	Director of Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Director, Certification and Licensing Unit
Tyrone Willoughby	Board Social Work Supervisor
Earnest Ford Sr.	Board Investigator (absent)
Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate

<b>Guest:</b> Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW-MD Chapter
University of Maryland BC	Students
University of Maryland	Students
Shady Grove Adventist	

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Open Session was called to order at 10:30 am. by the new Board Chair Gerard Farrell

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

## **ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

## **BOARD CHAIR**

**Gerard Farrell.**

- Donald List, Board Secretary/Treasurer was asked to conduct the roll call of all Board Members. 26 Guest attendees included Daphne McClellan, Executive Director and students from various University of Maryland campuses were acknowledged along with students of Board member Adrienne Ekas Muetting's class.
- Gerard Farrell asked the Board members to join him in a moment of silence in recognition for the men & women who lost their lives on September 11, 2001 and those who lost their lives during the Covid -19 Pandemic
- Adrienne Ekas Muetting was asked to share with the Board her 20 plus students in attendance at today's meeting. The students are from Shady Grove Adventist, some are field placement students and the topic of discussion for today class was on ethics. Adrienne Ekas Muetting thanked the board for allowing her students to participate in the meeting.
- Gerard Farrell gave a brief overview of the organization and operation of the Board of Social Work Examiners.
  - a) The Board primary function is to protect the public
  - b) The Board is comprised of 12 Board members appointed by the Governor and approved by the State Senate. Ten of these members are social workers and two are consumer or non-social work members
  - c) The Board oversees the work of the professional staff which is led by Dr. Stanley Weinstein, Executive Director.
  - d) An essential member of the Board is Assistant Attorney General Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel who advises the Board on legal issues which is literally everything the Board does.
  - e) The Maryland Social Work Practice Act governs the Social Work professional. The Board implements the Statute and Regulations that governs the social work practice. The Board is allowed to recommend changes to the Statute and Regulations. Gerard Farrell encouraged all students to read and familiarize themselves with the Regulations that govern their profession.
  - f) The Board is comprised of five committees, three are statutory which includes the: Statute & Regulations Committee, Continuing Education Committee, and the Disciplinary Case Review Committee. There two additional committees added, are the Strategic Planning Committee and the Licensing Review Committee.
- Gerard Farrell asked the committee chairs to give a brief description of their committee.

1. Statute and Regulation Committee Chair – Sondra Petty shared the committee review and implements policies that impact the social workers in the state of Maryland. The Committee recommend polices that will safeguard the public.
  2. Continuing Education Committee – Karen Richards shared once you become a license social worker you must continue to obtain education credits to maintain your social work license. The committee also conducts random audits to ensure CEU requirements are met.
  3. Disciplinary Case Review Committee – Susan Coppage shared this committee reviews all complaints. The committee makes recommendations to the full Board whether to dismiss a complaint or investigate the complaint. If the complaint is investigated the DCRC committee recommends to the full Board a recommended sanction which could include an informal sanction such as a letter of education or a letter of admonishment, a formal charges by the attorney general office, revoke of a social workers license, fines etc.
  4. Strategic Planning Committee – Barbara Gassaway shared the goal of the committee is to set priorities for the Board.
  5. Licensing Review Committee – Gerard Farrell stated this committee meets as required whose sole function is to resolve any licensing and credential issues that the licensing staff is unable to resolve.
  6. Stanley Weinstein gave a brief history of the Board which included only LBSW's, GLSW's and LCSW's. He elaborated on the how the Board has progressed during the years.
- Gerard Farrell shared at the July Board meeting the Board approved the proposal of an independent academic institution to review the Board's policy and procedures to ensure that the Board is not unintended acts of bias towards any race, gender, religion, etc . Stanley Weinstein has been in touch with Morgan State University Social of Social Work who is willing to assist the Board with its review.
  - Associations Social Work Boards acknowledge and commended the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners in its July/August 2020 newsletter on its ability to facilitate and enable continued care to clients. The Board waived application fees, so that outstate license social workers can continue to provide care for six months while completing the application process.
  - Gerard Farrell thanked the Association of Social Worker Boards for their support of the Boards initiative to add required Cultural Sensitivity CEU credits.
  - Gerard Farrell reiterated the importance of the Strategic Planning Committee which was an initiative last year but due to the COVID-19 the committee was tabled. The goal is to put the Committee efforts back on track.
  - The Board is still operating under the Governor's Emergency Order. Most of the Board's staff is continually working remotely from home which is causing a delay in communications, emails, processing mail, posting minutes etc. Gerard asked that you please be patient as we continue to move forward.

## **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Stanley E. Weinstein**

- Stanley Weinstein shared with the Board that ASWB made it a priority to encourage States to make the licensure process easier for licensees to cross State lines. Changes have already been made by the Board to include changing the Licensed Graduate Social Workers licensure to the

License Master Social Worker. The Board is currently considering whether to continue the LCSW licensure since now LMSW can have own an independent practice. The Board is also considering the number of supervision hours. Stanley Weinstein contacted ASWB, to see what are some of the other kinds of activities, which would support mobility that the Maryland Board should be considering? He is currently waiting for a response.

- Stanley Weinstein asked the Board to accept face to face supervision through the use of technology. A vote was taken and agreed unanimously by the Board.
- Lillian Reese, Legislation and Regulations Specialist shared with the Board an update on the proposed Bill which is currently being review in the Secretary's Office. Ms. Reese is currently awaiting a response as to whether the secretary office will sponsor the Bill.
- Stanley Weinstein reiterated that the Board is still under the Governor's Executive Order and that the renewal cycle began on July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2020 0 October 31, 2020. However, the license renewal cycle will be extended 30 days pass the official renewal date. An email blast will be sent out to all license social workers reflecting the extension.

#### **Statute and Regulations Committee**

**Sonya Petty, Chair**

- Sondra Petty shared the committee met on September the 9<sup>th</sup> and discussed the primary task would be the reviewing the proposed Bill. The committee is reviewing the proposed 144 supervisor hours as oppose to 100 to be in line with mobility. A discussion was held on Cultural Humility and Competency and ASWB input.

#### **Continuing Education Committee**

**Karen Richards, Chair**

- Karen Richards informed the Board a meeting was not held in the month of August; however Karen Richards held a separate meeting with newly appointed committee member to get them acclimated with the Committee. The next meeting will be held next week.

#### **Strategic Planning Committee.**

**Barbara Gassaway**

- Barbara Gassaway shared the revised planning committee goals. The committee is scheduled for September 28<sup>th</sup>.

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSSION**

The Open Session adjourned at 11.55 am

*Donald J List*

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**Donald List, LCSW-C**  
**Board Secretary/Treasurer**

*Stanley E. Weinstein*

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

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10/09/2020  
**Date**

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10/09/2020  
**Date**