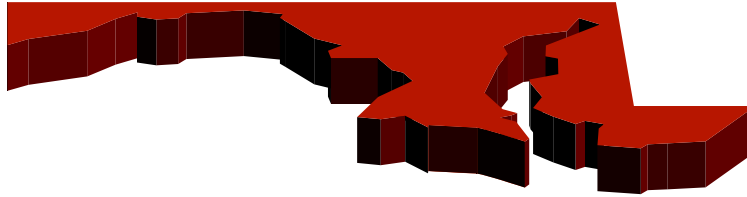


State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners



**Open Session Minutes
February 12, 2021, 10:30 AM
Teleconference Board Meeting**

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
Adrienne Ekas Mueting	Professional Member
Allyson Stanton	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
Martin P. Schnuit	Professional Member

Board Staff: Stanley E. Weinstein	Executive Director
Rhonda Edwards	OAG, Board Counsel
Lillian Reese	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Gail Wovk	Director of Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Director, Certification and Licensing Unit
Tyrone Willoughby	Board Social Work Supervisor
Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate

Guest: Kimberly B. Link	MDH Liaison to Board and Commissions
Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW-MD Chapter
Tara Bolling	NASW-Maryland Chapter

CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 8, 2021 Board Meeting was cancelled

ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

BOARD CHAIR

Gerard Farrell

- Gerard Farrell opened the meeting by asking Legislative and Regulations Coordinator, Lillian Reese to update the Board on the current Legislations Bills. Lillian Reese gave a summary of the following:
 - a) **HB 132 / SB 41 - Health & Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)** This Bill alters the minimum age, from 16 years to 12 years, at which a minor has the same capacity as an adult to consent to consultation, diagnosis, and certain treatment of a mental or emotional disorder by a health care provider or clinic; and providing that a health care provider may decide to provide certain information to a certain parent, guardian, or custodian under certain provisions of law unless the health care provider believes the disclosure will lead to harm to the minor or deter the minor from seeking care. A hearing is schedule for 2/16/2021.
 - b) **House Bill 176 - State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work** - This Bill would authorize The Board of Social Work Examiners to issue a temporary license to practice social work to certain applicants who meet certain requirements; providing that a temporary license authorizes the holder to practice social work only under the supervision of a Board-approved supervisor while the license is effective; providing that a temporary license is valid until the earlier of notification of permanent licensure or 1 year after the date on which the temporary license was issued; etc. Board Chair Gerard Farrell and Dr. Stanley Weinstein testified and oppose Bill SB167.
 - c) **HB 811/ SB 597 - State Board of Social Work Examiners – Practice Act** This Bill would require certain individuals employed by federal agencies to comply with certain provisions of law; establishing that an applicant to obtain a certified social worker license is required to meet certain requirements by December 21, 2023; altering the number of hours of certain supervision an applicant for a certified social worker-clinical license is required to complete; specifying that certain supervision is to be provided in accordance with regulations adopted by the State Board of Social Work Examiners; etc. Board Chair, Gerard Farrell and Dr. Stanley Weinstein will be providing oral testimony on this Bill requesting, revisions be made to the language using current language and current date. To include background checks, reduction to the number of clinical hours for LCSW-C, mobility etc. The hearing is schedule for 2/16/2021 and 2/18/2021.

- d) **HB 344/SB 72 - Open Meetings Act – Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections (Maryland Transparency Act of 2021)** This Bill is requiring State agencies in the Executive Branch and local boards of elections to make publicly available on their websites an agenda and all meeting materials at least 48 hours in advance of each open meeting (*instead of the current 24 hour notice*) or, under certain circumstances, as far in advance of the meeting as practicable; requiring State agencies and local boards of elections to make publicly available on their websites live video or audio streaming of each portion of a certain meeting, and a certain recording for a minimum of 1 year after the date of the meeting; etc. Lillian Reese shared that 14 Boards submitted a letter to the hearing that was held on 2/11/2021 indicating concerns relating to the Patterson Avenue Building. Concerns included this particular location is not equipped due to proper wiring is for internet access, the cost of video meetings, and privacy of Board Members etc. Further discussion alluded to a possible amendment to the Bill.
- e) **HB 689/ SB 466 - Certificates for Involuntary Admission - Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical** Altering a requirement that a certain certificate accompany an application for involuntary admission to certain facilities by providing that the certificate may be of a physician and a licensed certified social worker-clinical; etc. Dr. Stanley Weinstein was asked to give a summary on this particular Bill. He informed the Board that this Bill was written and initiated by Arthur Flax on last year and due to COVID-19 it was not presented at the Legislation Hearing. However, this Bill would enable licensed certified clinical social workers the ability to sign Involuntary Admission forms in addition to psychologist and nurse practitioners. This Bill was discussed and voted unanimously by the Board in favor of the Bill on last year.
- f) **HB 701 - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training of Health Care Professionals** This Bill is requiring the Maryland Department of Health to provide certain boards that are authorized to take actions against persons who knowingly fail to report suspected child abuse with a list of courses relating to the obligation to report child abuse and neglect and the identification of abused and neglected children; requiring certain boards to post certain information on each board's website, provide information about recommended courses to certain health care professionals, or advertise the availability of certain courses; etc. The hearing was held on 2/11/2021, awaiting results.
- g) **HB 732/ SB 568 - Health Care Practitioners - Telehealth - Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners** This particular Bill is authorizing an out-of-state health care practitioner to provide telehealth services to a patient located in the State in accordance with certain provisions of the Act; requiring a certain health occupations board to register an out-of-state health care practitioner, under certain circumstances, to provide telehealth services to a patient located in the State; prohibiting an out-of-state health care practitioner who is registered under certain provisions of the Act from taking certain actions; etc. Dr. Weinstein informed the Board, Gloria Hammel, Director of Certification and Licensing has

spearheaded this project and is currently monitoring out of state social workers. Therefore the Board is already in compliance with this Bill.

- h) **HB 915 - Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals** This Bill was created in establishing the Workgroup on Black, Latino, and Other Underrepresented Mental Health Professionals; providing for the composition, chair, and staffing of the Workgroup; prohibiting a member of the Workgroup from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Workgroup to study and make recommendations regarding certain mental health professionals and certain students who are Black, Latino, or otherwise underrepresented in the mental health profession; etc. The hearing is scheduled for 2/25/2021
 - i) **HB 1006 - Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, and Registration** This Bill requires certain health occupations boards to issue a temporary expedited license, certificate, or registration to a service member, veteran, or military spouse who meets certain requirements; providing for the term of a certain temporary license, certificate, or registration; requiring that an application for a certain temporary license, certificate, or registration include certain information; etc. The hearing for this Bill is schedule for 2/25/2021. Dr. Weinstein informed the Board that the Licensing Unit staff was already expediting application for veterans and their spouses
- Gerard Farrell informed the Board that the Executive Committee met earlier during the week and had an opportunity to review the Bills shared by Lillian Reese. The Executive Committee agreed to take no position on the Bills.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stanley E. Weinstein

- Dr. Stanley Weinstein gave a report on the status of renewal extensions mandated by the Governor Larry Hogan. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic the extension is still in effected. There are currently 931 social workers who have not renewed their license. He pointed out that due to the extensions the Board has tentatively taken a loss of revenue totaling \$190,000.00.
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein asked Gloria Jean Hammel to share with the Board the highlights from the recent Federation of Associations of Regulatory Boards (FARB) meeting.
- Gloria Jean Hammel also updated the Board on the authorization of out of state license social workers practicing in Maryland. The Board currently has 553out of state social workers practicing in Maryland and the Board is still receiving applications. There is also a 6 month extension in the Regulations allowing licensees to practice while their application is being processed. Gloria asked the Board due to the pandemic would it be necessary for the Board to approve and vote on an additional 6 months extension and/or the end of the state of emergency as the April deadline is rapidly approaching. Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel informed the Board an approval and a vote is required. The Board unanimously approved.
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein shared the Office of Legislative Audits - Audit Reports for the Health Occupational Boards. There were no comments or recommendations for the Board of Social Work Examiners.

STATUTE AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Sondra Petty, Chair

- Sondra Petty thanked Dr. Stanley Weinstein for chairing her Committee during her absence. The committee had an opportunity to review the Bills discussed by Lillian Reese. The Committee also reviewed the proposed Music Therapy Bill.
- Sondra Petty shared that District of Columbia has an excellent policy on Private Practice that the Committee will be reviewing at the next meeting to see if the Board could incorporate some of their policies/Regulations in Statute.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Karen Richards, Chair

- Karen Richards shared with the Board that the committee met on last month. The Committee finalized the language for the CEU regulations after meeting with the chairs of NASW Unravel Racism Committee. The committee voted on the changes, incorporated the language and submitted the final copy to the Strategic Planning Committee.
- Karen Richards also inform the Board that Gail Wowk, Director of the Continuing Education Unit and Riya Rahman, IT Specialist updated the Board's website indicating the provisional program is closed.
- She shared there were several questions concerning in-person CEU webinars. Clarity was given that the Board will accept in-person webinar CEU's as long as there in interaction with the presenter. The committee will be meeting on 2/17/2021.

STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

Barbara Gassaway, Chair

- Gerard Farrell informed the Board there was no activity to report from the Strategic Planning Committee

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Donald List, Chair

Donald List informed the Board that there was no activity to report

** Prior to adjourning the meeting Gerard Farrell opened the floor for Questions and Answers:

Sondra Petty asked if signatures can be scanned on applications and would it be accepted by the Board due to the COVID-19 pandemic? – ***The Licensing Unit is currently accepting electronic signatures and scanned documents.***

License renewal for 2021 – Are there special CEU guidelines to follow due to the pandemic? - ***The CEU unit is still requiring the same number of CEU due by the end of renewal period of 2021.***

Is testing still being provided for new licensees? ***ASWB is currently providing testing for applicants while following the COVID-19 distance requirements.***

How are ***flags*** being handled for licensees under investigation? There seems to be an ongoing concern. The policy is as follows: ***The Compliance Unit forwards all licensees under investigation to the Licensing Unit to flag thus preventing the licensee from receiving advance licensure. However, due to staff teleworking there has been some issues that will need to be reviewed.***

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSSION

The Open Session adjourned at 11:26 am

Donald J List

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

__3/12/2021_____
Date

Stanley E. Weinstein

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

__3/12/2021_____
Date