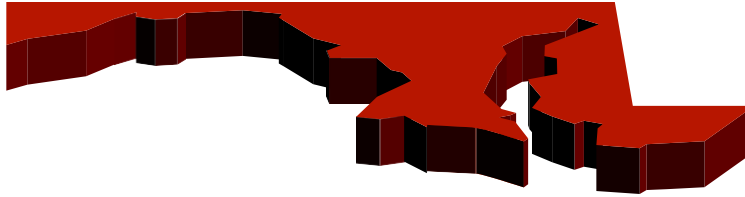


State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners



Open Session Minutes June 11, 2021, 9:45 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	Professional Member
Allyson Stanton	Professional Member
Maria Cole	Professional Member
Sondra G. Petty	Professional Member
Barbara Gassaway	Consumer Member (absent)
Susan P. Coppage	Professional Member
April A. Cockrell	Professional Member
Martin P. Schnuit	Professional Member

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

Guest:	Kimberly Link	MDH Liaison to Board and Commissions
	Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW - MD Chapter

CALL TO ORDER:

The Open Session was called to order at 9:45 am by Board Chair Gerard Farrell

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

May 14, 2021 Board Minutes - approved unanimously

ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - None

BOARD CHAIR

Gerard Farrell

- Gerard Farrell shared with the Board; “Moving Ahead” the Governor’s State of Emergency will end effective July 1, 2021. The State is requiring employees to return back to the office, teleworking is no longer required. State Boards are required to resume in person service operations. Mask wearing is voluntary, conference rooms are now open and do not require mask wearing or social distancing.
- Gerard Farrell presented the question asked by Dr. Weinstein, if Board members would like to resume meeting in person for the July 9th Board meeting. After much discussion it was voted unanimously that the Board will resume in person meetings beginning September 10th, 2021. However, the Board would like to continue holding the Committee Meetings virtual until further notice
- Gerard Farrell shared that the pandemic restrained the Board operations in a number of ways. However, the Board and staff members continued to function without interruption. He commended the Board members and staff on a job well done.
- Gerard Farrell asked each Committee Chair to provide a review of the accomplishments and goals from the past year.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Karen Richards, Chair

- Karen Richards shared that the Committee worked in the last 12 months on Continuing Education activities and the best way to respond to licensees due to the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Clarifying “live, real-time, interactive” training opportunities that qualified as a Category I learning activity were some issues in which the Board staff answered many questions on how to do live trainings. In addition, explaining Governor Hogan’s Covid -19 Emergency Executive Order and how it applies to the CE requirements and license renewals.
- A proposal was made to the Board by ASWB to utilize an online CE Management System for the CE Audits. After the CE Committee held discussions with Board Counsel Rhonda Edwards, AAG, the committee voted to decline participation in the proposal at this time.
- Karen Richards shared revisions were made to COMAR 10.42.06 in response to the social movement inspired by the unnecessary death of George Floyd. The committee decided to work on adding to the CE regulations the requirement that all licensees take 3 CEUs around social justice and racial equity issues. In addition, in September 2020, NASW- MD Social Worker Unraveling Racism (SWUR) committee started a petition around the same issue. In seeking input and working collaboratively with NASW-MD, Committee members have met with and will continue to meet with SWUR members on a quarterly basis as this new regulation moves forward for approval.

- She further shared under the expert guidance of Board staff and legal counsel, Committee members reviewed changes made to clarify language and correct cross references in the COMAR 10.42.06 CE Regulations.
- Karen Richards reported that the Provisional Sponsorship Program ended.
- Throughout the year, the Committee will continue to review potential training and proposals to ensure they are meeting the CE requirements for Board approved learning activities.

DISCIPLINARY CASE REVIEW COMMITTEE

Susan P. Coppage, Chair

- Susan Coppage shared comparison analyst from the complaints received by the Board which included the following:

CRC/Hearings/Complaints	Fiscal Year 2020	Fiscal Year 2021
Case Review Conferences	30	10
Hearings	10	8 (1-OAH)
Complaints	166	155
Unprofessional Behavior	34%	47%
Failed CEU Audit	23%	19%
Inappropriate Behavior (Sexual)	5%	6%
Inappropriate Relationship	5%	5%
Supervisory Issues	7%	5%
Practicing Beyond the Scope of Licensure	4%	5%
Other	22%	13%

- Susan Coppage informed the Board there was a back log of approximately 125 cases at the OAG office awaiting review and charges from last year. The number is the same for this year however some are new cases.
- Kara Tyson, Director of Compliance and Investigations stated emails were sent to the OAG office requesting updates on the back log of cases.
- Sherryl Silberman suggested the Board might want to consider conducting a demographic analyst based on licensure, gender, and race ethnicity on the complaints received by the Board.

STATUTE AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Sondra Petty, Chair

- Sondra Petty reported the Committee met on May 17th. An overview of the past year given on the following regulations that were revised to include the following:
 - a) Revisions was made to COMAR 10.42.10 Teletherapy Regulations
 - b) Revisions were made to COMAR 10.42.06 Continuing Education Requirements
 - c) Revisions were made to COMAR 10.42.02 Social Work Practice (Scope of Practice)
- The Committee is currently reviewing “Private Practices for LMSW licensure” and the “District of Columbia –Health and Regulations Scope of Practice”.

- In addition, HB811/SB597 was passed and will go into effect on October 1, 2021. Some of the changes made in the Bill were decreasing the required social work hours from 144 to 100 hours for supervision to qualify for the LCSW-C.
- Jerry Farrell shared the Board will not be voting on the Telehealth Therapy Regulations today.

CERTIFICATION & LICENSING UNIT

Gloria Jean Hammel, Director

- Gloria Jean Hammel, Director of Certification and Licensing gave an overview a total of 1025 applications for licensing which included the following:

Applications for Licensure	33 Bachelors	877 Masters	38 Certified	667 Clinical
Board Approved Supervisor	356 Certified and Clinical Applications			
Independent Practice	69			
Reactivation/Reinstatements	185			
Record Retrieval	188 (Requested when applying for licensure in another state)			
Inactive Status	200			
Non-Renewed	51			
Flagged	450			
Covid -19 Emergency Applications	610			

- Gloria Hammel shared there are 760 social workers who have not renewed as of June 11, 2021 as part of the Governor's extension of the 10/31/2021 renewal date.

Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel, Office of Attorney General

- Rhonda Edwards stated, observed and participated in many of the Board Committees since 2019 and would like to commend the Board Staff who has worked diligently behind the scenes. She further stated, she looks forward to continue working with the Board and staff in the upcoming year.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

The Open Session adjourned at 10:39 am

Donald J List

Donald List, LCSW-C
Board Secretary/Treasurer

7/9/2021

Date

Stanley E. Weinstein

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

7/9/2021

Date