

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



**Open Session Minutes
February 10, 2023
Teleconference Board Meeting**

Board Members: Via Google Meet

Sondra G. Petty	Professional Member, Chair
Adrienne Ekas	Professional Member, Vice Chair
Jamie Wilson	Professional Member, Secretary/Treasurer
Leslie Iampieri	Professional Member
Allyson Stanton	Professional Member
Maria Cole	Professional Member
Kevin Meenan	Professional Member (absent)
Danielle Artis	Consumer Member (absent)
Susan P. Coppage	Professional Member
April A. Cockrell	Professional Member
Martin P. Schnuit	Professional Member

Board Staff:

Daphne McClellan	Executive Director
Kristen Fon Lim	OAG Board Counsel
Lillian Reese	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Kara Brooks-Tyson	Program Manager, Compliance, and Investigations
Gail Wowk	Program Manager, Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Program Manager, Certification and Licensing Unit (absent)
Donna Ridgell	Administrative Aide
Pamela Price-Murray	License Coordinator
Lee Tuan Nguyen	Database Specialist II
Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate
Wanda Franklin	Continuing Education Associate

Guest:

Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C	Social Worker
Emanuel Wilkerson,	MSW
Gisele Ferretto,	University of Maryland School of Social Work
Janet Blondo, LCSW-C	Social Worker
Jessica Strauss, LCSW-C	Social Worker
Dr. Kyle Berkley, LMSW	Social Worker
Maria Smith, LCSW-C	Social Worker
Zakiyyah Holmes	Maryland Department of Health

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 13, 2023, Board Minutes -Approved Unanimously

ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA - NONE

CALL TO ORDER:

The Open Session was called to order at 10:34 am by Sondra G. Petty, Chair

Board Chair Report

Sondra G Petty

- Sondra Petty opens the session, by thanking the public for submitting their questions to the Board. It was anticipated that the public questions and concerns would be addressed at the January 13, 2023, Board meeting. Unfortunately, (ASWB) Association of Social Work Board presentation was scheduled for a minimum of one hour and a half; and due to unforeseen scheduling issues, had to leave after an hour. Therefore, time did not permit for Q & A's. However, Sondra Petty suggested any questions pertaining to the exam can be addressed by ASWB. Any questions pertaining to licensure can be sent to the Board directly.
- Sondra Petty also stated that as a reminder that the ASWB presentation can be found on the Board of Social Work Examiners' website for review.
<https://health.maryland.gov/bswe/Pages/default.aspx>
- Sondra Petty informed the Board that starting July 2023, there will be three vacancies on the Board. Martin Schnuit, April Cockrell and Sondra Petty would have completed their tenure serving on the Board.
- Board member April Cockrell would like to remain on the Board.
- Daphne McClellan pointed out that, out of the three upcoming vacancies, there are two LCSW-C's and one LCSW that needs to be filled in addition to a consumer member position.

Executive Director Report

Dr. Daphne McClellan

- Dr. McClellan began her report by introducing the Board's newest staff member Pamela Price-Murray, License Coordinator. Mrs. Price -Murray is still in the training stage. In addition, the Board is hoping to have the Social Work Supervisor position filled soon.
- Dr. McClellan informed the Board that all individual questions that were submitted to the Board were placed into two categories: questions pertaining to the Board and questions for ASWB. She explained individual licensing issues will be answered and addressed by the Board individually.
- Questions were submitted on the Board's position concerning the ASWB exam. Dr. McClellan shared that the Board placed a formal statement on its website that has been highlighted in yellow along with the ASWB presentation held on January 13, 2023, in case anyone missed the presentation.
- Dr. McClellan shared; she sent out some significant apologies in the January Newsletter pertaining to the time frame, that it is taking for the LCSW-C approvals to sit for the exam. The Board realizes that there is a 60-day window from the time **all** documents have been submitted. However, due to staff shortage (two licensing unit positions) the Board staff is diligently trying to get caught up. In addition, the Board is putting some processes in place that will make things run more smoothly. The Board appreciates the patience of its applicants.
- It was further stated in the newsletter that if there were major concerns one should contact Dr. McClellan directly and she will respond to each of them personally. Dr. McClellan provided her email address.

- Dr. McClellan shared, that she and Board Chair Sondra Petty testified at the HGO hearing on House Bill 103 which has to do with temporary licensing under emergency situations. Committee Chair, Delegate Pena - Melnyk suggested that the Board and the sponsor of the Bill work out a compromise.

LEGISLATION AND REGULATIONS

Lillian Reese, Specialist

- Lillian Reese shared there are several Bills on the agenda for discussion this session.

SB 730 – Board of Social Work Examiners - Sunset Extension – The hearing for this Bill has been scheduled for March 3, 2023. This Bill will extend the Board to the year of 2027, which is three years beyond the year 2024 that’s in the statute right now.

HB 454/SB 187 – Health Occupations, License Certificates Registrations for Immigrants - The hearing for this Bill was held on February 7th and will go to the House on February 22, 2023. The Board joined fifteen other Health Occupational Boards to support the Amendment.

HB 694 – Labor and Employment Workers – Worker’s Compensation – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical -This Bill is authorizing a licensed certified social worker clinical to register, as a rehabilitation practitioner and perform specified services for workers compensation purposes. It requires a license certified social worker clinical, to be certified by the Board of Social Work Examiners to qualify for registration.

HB 1061 – The Janet L. Hoffman Loan Assistance, Repayment Program – Private Company Employees with a Master’s Degree in Social Work- Eligible Employment – There is no hearing schedule as of yet.

HB 103/SB 145 – State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work Lillian stated, Sondra Petty and Daphne McClellan did an excellent job testifying; however, Committee Chair, Delegate Pena - Melnyk, indicated to Daphne that further serious discussion is required to reach some type of compromise.

Lillian indicated that SB871/SB872 are two Bills from Senator Mary Washington

SB 871 – Social Workers-Licensure Examinations – Moratorium and Workgroup - Bill 871 places a moratorium on use of the exam from the and establishes a work group to find exam alternatives. This Bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee on March 14th at 1:00pm. Lillian further pointed out this is an emergency Bill and it’s different from a general Bill. If this Bill passes both houses and the governor signs off on them, they will become effective, immediately.

SB 872- State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work - Lillian shared this too is an emergency Bill. This Bill would grant a two-year temporary license that can be renewed. This bill is scheduled for a hearing in the Senate Finance Committee on March 14, 2023, as well.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Adrienne Ekas, Chair

- Adrienne shared at the January Committee meeting, Kristen Lim, the Board’s AAG attorney attended the meeting as the Committee began discussing the final draft of the “Letter of Education”. The Letter of Education would be issued to social workers who have three or less missing CEUs from the ASWB audit. However, it does not include missing the require CEUs for the supervision and ethics requirement.
- The Committee discussed the next step in dealing with social workers who fail to sign their “Letter of Admonishment”.

- Discussion was held on learning activities that could or could not be approved for a CEU.

STATUTE AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Maria Cole, Chair

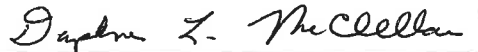
- Lillian Reese shared that the Telehealth regulations took about three years to get published. The Board was one of 10 Health Occupations Boards who were conducting telehealth sessions. The directive was given to the Board by the Governor and the previous Administration that there should be some cohesiveness among the Boards. After the regulations were printed, in the Maryland Register, the Board received public comments which were reviewed with Board counsel. The language was changed so that it was not substantive, thus allowing for the regulation to be amended as opposed to having to rewrite and possibly start from the beginning. The Secretary is currently working on drafting a letter from all the Health Occupation Boards, with the intention to proceed with these proposals. If voted on and approved, the Board must amend and publish these amendments in the Maryland Register.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSSION

The Open Session adjourned at 11:10 am.



Jamie Wilson, LCSW-C
Board Secretary/Treasurer



Daphne McClellan, Ph.D., MSW
Executive Director

March 17, 2023

Date

March 17, 2023

Date