

**State of Maryland**  
**Board of Social Work Examiners**  
**Open Session Meeting**  
**November 17, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:34 AM

**ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No adjustments or additions were made to the agenda.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board: Susan Coppage, Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Jamie Wilson, Board Secretary/Treasurer; Leslie Lampieri, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member; Allyson Stanton, Board Member.  
Maria Cole, Board Member arrived at 10:45 a.m.

Board Staff: Kara Brooks-Tyson, Acting Executive Director; Gloria Hammel, Director of Certification and Licensing; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Wanda Franklin, Continuing Education Associate; Lee Nguyen, Database Specialist; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Barbara Smith-Hamilton, Licensing Coordinator; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator.

Board Counsel for November 17, 2023 -Tony DeFranco,

MDH Staff: Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH-Office of the Secretary

Community: Heather Garner, Social Worker; Stephanie Lagalo, University of Maryland, Baltimore Evidenced Based Practice Center Senior Co-Occurring Trainer; Bracha Poliakoff, Social Worker; Daphne McClelland, Social Worker

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**

**Jamie Wilson,**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the October 17, 2023 Board meeting minutes. It was seconded. A modification was made to add Matthew Shafer as an attendee.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

**Susan Coppage, Chair**

- Susan Coppage welcomed everyone to the open session meeting and asked if anyone had any adjustments or additions to the meeting agenda. None were proposed.
- She reported that the Board received an Open Meetings Act complaint for not having the meeting agendas posted within 24 hours and for not posting open session minutes on the Board's website. She announced that the Compliance Board found the Board of Social Work Examiners violated certain sections of the Open Meetings Act. Please see: <https://www.marylandattorneygeneral.gov/Opinions%20OMCB%20Documents/Vol17/17OMCB129.pdf> for the full report.
- Interviews were held for the open Executive Director position on 11/14/2023. Candidates chosen for a second interview will be invited to the December Board meeting, necessitating a change in schedule from virtual to in-person meeting.
- The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, 12/08/2023.

## UPDATES

- **ASWB Delegate Assembly** **Jamie Wilson,**  
**Secretary/Treasurer**
  - The Assembly took place two weeks ago and focused on workforce shortages and staff shortages on Boards. Problem-solving ideas were shared and the Social Work Compact was discussed as a possible solution to some of the issues identified.
  - Elections were held for officers.
  - The Assembly also voted on increasing diverse representation.
  - The next Assembly will be held in San Diego, CA in 2024.
- **Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee** **Adrienne Ekas, Vice Chair**  
**Maryland Licensing Alternatives Workgroup**
  - The Access to Mental Health Advisory Committee meeting will be held on Monday, 11/20/2023 to work on generating the first report. It will be shared with the Board once completed.
  - The first Licensing Alternative Workgroup meeting was held and a report must be generated by the end of December 2023. The workgroup has been discussing what other states are doing regarding the exam. No resolutions were formed but people are open to working with each other to resolve the barriers identified.

## ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**Kara Brooks-Tyson, Acting  
Executive Director**

- 8,651 social workers renewed as of 10/31/2023 - 188 LBSWs, 2,680 LMSWs, 143 LCSWs, and 5,640 LCSW-Cs.
- There was a total of 834 social workers who did not renew as of 10/31/2023 - 52 LBSWs, 340 LMSWs, 26 LCSWs, and 416 LCSW-Cs.
- Staff are working on reinstatement of licenses.

- Discussed House Bill 454 Health Occupations - Licenses, Certificates, and Registrations - Lawful Presence and Identification Numbers - this provides an application path for people who do not have a Social Security or Individual Tax Identifier number.
- Discussed the Veterans Auto and Education Improvement Act of 2022 (PL 117-333) that allows active duty military or military spouses reciprocity to practice social work in Maryland.
- Gloria Hammel and Marianne Graham of the Licensing Unit provided an overview of the Contractual Agreement Form and requirements for LMSW supervision towards LCSW-C licensure.
- Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer, provided a budget overview for the Board. She noted that there is \$2.3 to \$2.4 million dollars being spent but that so far only \$2.2 million has come in from the 2023 renewals.
- There was discussion of how the Social Work Compact might impact revenue. Gloria Hammel pointed out the need to study the Board's number of endorsement applications, as that would be impacted the most if Maryland joins the Social Work Compact.

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Statutes and Regulations Committee**

**Kevin Meenan, Committee Member**

- Reported that new committee members are acclimating to the committee.
- Noted that new committee members are needed.
- Reported that the Sunset and LCSW Bills were discussed.
- The next meeting is Wednesday, 12/06/2023.

### **Continuing Education Committee**

**Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair**

Adrienne, Gai, and Stacie met with ASWB on site on 10/25/2023 to discuss audits for 2023.

Adrienne will attend the MDH Secretary's meeting to answer any questions about the Continuing Education Regulations.

Adrienne acknowledged and thanked the Continuing Education staff for their hard work.

## **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

Daphne McClelland asked if minutes from July 2021 through July 2022 are going to be posted. Susan Coppage replied that the minutes that we have are posted and moving forward the Board will be posting all agendas and minutes.

## **ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION**

- A motion was made to adjourn the open session at 11:13 am and seconded.

12/8/2023

Date

*Adrienne Ekas*

Adrienne Ekas, LCSW-C  
Vice Board Chair  
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

12/8/2023

Date

*Jamie Wilson*

Jamie Wilson, LCSW-C  
Secretary/Treasurer  
Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners