

State of Maryland
Board of Social Work Examiners
Open Session Meeting
VIRTUAL
April 12, 2024
10:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:33 AM. Virtual Session

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; Marie Cole, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member; Allyson Stanton, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member; David Goldman, Board Member

Board Staff: Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel; Karen Richards, Executive Director; Kara Brooks-Tyson, Director of Compliance; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore, Fiscal Administrator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Jean James, Licensing; Lee Nyguen, Database Specialist; Gloria Hammel, Director of Licensing

Community: Bracha Poliakoff, Social Worker and Continuing Education Provider; Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH Office of Secretary; Elisabet Martinez, University of MD SSW Cont. Ed.; Giselle Ferretto, University of MD SSW; Stanley Weinstein, retired SW

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jamie Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the March 8, 2024 Board meeting Minutes. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Susan Coppage, Chair

- Susan Coppage welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members. She welcomed back Tonya Hill back from maternity leave.
- Did not have updates - giving time to Lillian Reese for legislative updates

Executive Director REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Greetings from Tonya Hill who returned from maternity leave - congratulations!
- Update of Building - painting and new carpet
 - Empty file cabinets and storage room
 - No additional staff provided to help with emptying files
 - Last 4 weeks, staff are doing other duties as assigned in addition to their regular work
 - Purging following archive guidelines and making plans to move, scan and archive materials once facility updates are complete
 - Work being done during evenings and weekends - staff unable to access building during this time
 - Original start date was April 8 - pushed back to April 22 to allow Boards more time to clear out file cabinets and storage room
- Staff Updates
 - New part-time SW in licensing - Jean James, LCSW-C
 - Two additional part-time contractual staff for licensing have been hired - one Licensing Coordinator and one Social Worker
 - Health Investigator for Compliance Unit starting April 17th
 - Licensing Coordinator vacancy closed - waiting on candidate list to start interviews
 - Social Worker II position in Licensing posted - please refer anyone who might be interested
 - Interviews starting next week for Administrative Aide position
- Policy Workgroup on Social Work Licensure
 - Attended meetings on February 27th and March 26th
 - Straw poll vote to remove exam as requirement for Bachelor's and Master's level licensing held at both meetings - vote on March 26 was 15 in favor - 4 opposed - 1 abstained
 - Workgroup is required per SB871 of 2023
 - I am participating in Policy Sub-Committee - meeting next on April 19th
 - Workgroup has an Interim Report due on May 31st
 - Next meetings will feature Director of NASW Illinois and representatives from NASW Virginia and the Virginia Board of Social Workers
 - Virginia has not eliminated exam in their regulations - also have two alternative paths
 - The Policy Workgroup meetings are open to the public - next meeting is April 30th - see below to the link for the link to group web page which has links to meetings
 - <https://health.maryland.gov/workgroup-swrl/Pages/default.aspx>

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Lillian Reese, Legislative & Regulations
Coordinator

- Last update for 2024 - session
- Time to start considering Legislation for 2025 - concept papers due at end of May
- *HB 34/SB 204 Compact Bill* - did not pass - likely due to the exam piece - will likely be taken up again in the next session
- *HB 146/SB 221 Health Occupations Boards – Reciprocal Licensure and Certification* effective July 1 - authorized to adopt regulations to offer reciprocity with other states - can achieve the same thing as the Compact Bill and have more workers certified to practice in Maryland
- *HB 581/SB 472 State Government - Permits, Licenses, and Certificates - Processing (Transparent Government Act of 2024)* - Governor's bill - Rhonda Edwards assisted with drafting legislation which will provide a catalog of information for documents needed for permits/licenses issued by Departments - October 1 2024 -
- *HB 755/SB 106 - State Board of Social Work Examiners - Board Membership and Certified Social Worker Licenses* - clean up bill for LCSW language in regulation as Board no longer issuing this level
- *HB 1120/SB 794 - Approval of Authorized Sponsors* - bill withdrawn due to agreement with NASW-MD and BSWE - will update regulations using suggested language from the bill - CE and Stat & Reg committee will work on updates
- *HB 1285/SB 931 - Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Social Workers* - did not pass House and Senate
- *HB 1289 - State Board of Social Work Examiners - Practice Social Work - Definition and Scope of Authority* - did not pass out of House
- *SB 242 -State Board of Social Work Examiners - Sunset Extension* - passed and 5-year extension was granted over original 3-year
- Susan asked a question about the Reciprocity Bill - how to manage agreements and regulation with identified states? Would we identify other states first?
 - Rhonda clarified - best for Board to identify states - formulate agreement and develop regulations around reciprocity - assure that states have a “meeting of the minds” as to what they will accept from one another - there is not always a 1:1 with other states - before entering in to agreement - want to assure that the Board is willing to accept that state's licensing levels
- Susan asked question about the “clean up” bill - Lillian clarified that not all references to LCSW will be removed - there are still some places where it will remain - will discuss in committee and submit proposal
- Adrienne, Karen, and Susan thanked Lillian for all of her hard work and help during the legislative session - she is the liaison for several Boards and she is always available to answer our questions

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Maria Cole, Committee Chair

- Committee met on April 11th - reviewed end of session and celebrated Sunset bill

- Discussed clean up bill HB 755 and HB 1120
 - Will work with CE committee
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Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

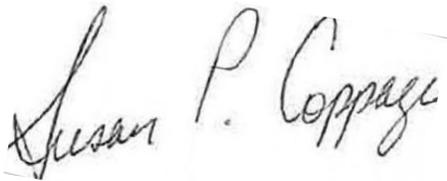
- SW Consensus - Workforce study by coalition - if survey is completed, ASWB will issue 2 CEUS
 - Gail Wowk followed up with ASWB about CEUs and they will count as **CATEGORY 2**
 - Susan asked if Census could be posted on web page - Lee will add
- Anti-oppressive social work CEU - sponsors are calling for guidance and so far, there is a good response to offerings for social workers - reach out to CE staff with questions
- Committee voted to remove Self-Care as a topic not accepted - committee is working on further guidance and will post on the CE page on website
- Thanked Gail Wowk and Stacie Rigby - only two staff members in the CE unit for all their hard work

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

- No questions or comments this month.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

- At 11:08 am, a motion was made to adjourn the open session and seconded



Susan Coppage, LCSW-C
Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director, BSWE