

State of Maryland
Board of Social Work Examiners
Open Session Meeting
March 8, 2024
10:30 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:33 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; Marie Cole, Board Member (10:45am); Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member; Allyson Stanton, Board Member.

Board Staff: Kristen Lim, 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; Jacquenline Monroe-Moore, Fiscal Administrator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator.

Community: Bracha Poliakoff, Social Worker and Continuing Education Provider; Heather Garner , LSWC-C, CST; Ava Reid, LCSW-C; Terri Green, LCSW-C.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jamie Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the February 9, 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 shared information about the new Category I CEU requirement around oppression, race, culture, equity, cultural humility, race, implicit bias, and anti-racist practices.
- Adrienne Ekas noted that the regulation became effective on December 11, 2023 and will be a requirement for licensees renewing in 2024.
- A January 31 email blast was sent to all licensees.
- Gail Wowk clarified that new licensees renewing for the first time will still have to attest on their application that they took the Implicit Bias training mandated for all Health Occupations

licensees through Senate Bill 5/ House Bill 28 Public Health and the Office of Minority Health and Health Disparities. Again, this was a one time requirement for all licensees to attest to at renewal

- For 2024, licensees can use a 3 Category I CEUs on Implicit Bias for both the one time attestation and the new requirement.
- Susan gave a reminder that the Board will no longer be issuing the LCSW license.

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Lillian Reese, Legislative & Regulations Coordinator

- Lillian Reese announced that bills crossover on March 18 and the session ends April 8, 2024.
- HB34/SB204: adopted in House and crossed over to the Senate - not yet voted out of committee
- SB 242- Sunset Extension: waiting on hearing
- HB755/SB106: bill to remove LCSW from the statute - passed in House
- HB 642 Apprenticeships in Licensed Occupations Act of 2024: withdrawn by the sponsor
 - SB1185 Apprenticeships in Licensed Occupations Act of 2024: submitted late - will go to Rules committee
- HB 1289 State Board of Social Work Examiners - Practice Social Work - Definition and Scope of Authority: BSWE wrote Letter of Concern due to confusing language - hearing on Feb 22
- SB1285: Workers' Compensation - Rehabilitation Practitioners - Licensed Social Workers: BSWE wrote Letter of Concern due to confusing language - hearing on Feb 28
- HB 1120 State Board of Social Work Examiners – Continuing Education Programs – Approval of Authorized Sponsors: House hearing on February 22. Karen Richards testified in opposition. NASW-MD testified in favor. Amendments were proposed by the sponsor. BSWE met with NASW-MD and discussed putting amendments into legislation which would eliminate the need for legislation. Adrienne Ekas proposed that the Board accept the regulation change if the sponsor agrees to withdraw the bill. Jamie Wilson seconded the motion. All 8 Board members present voted in favor.

Executive Director REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Busy first month in new position
 - In Annapolis twice - on February 13 to watch Adrienne Ekas testify in favor of SB106 and SB204 - testified in front of the House on February 22 for opposition on HB1120 and will testify in the Senate for SB794 on March 12
 - Met with ASWB, Susan Coppage, Adrienne Ekas and Lillian Reese to discuss amendments and proposed change to regulation in exchange for withdrawing the bill - good to work together with NASW to come to a compromise.
- Staff updates
 - Introduced Jacqueline Monroe-Moore - new Fiscal Administrative Specialist
 - Njeri Clay, Licensing Social Worker, has resigned - thank you for her service to the Board - Request to Fill position has been submitted
- Social Work Consensus

- During Social Work month, it is important to work towards helping the public at large to have a better understanding of the diverse and important work that Social Workers are engaged in
- To help with this effort, a workforce survey was implemented by The Social Workforce Coalition which includes a range of U.S. and Canadian members from various Social Work organizations including ASWB, Howard University, Latino Social Workers Organization, NASW, National Association of Black Social Workers and more
- If you complete the survey, you can earn 2 CEUs - it takes a bit of time - there are several questions
- Website - SWCensus.org.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Maria Cole, Committee Chair

- No report this month.

Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

- February 15 CE meeting - discussed HB1120, implementation of new CE Regulations and titles that would fit with that category
- Discussing Self-Care and looking at evidence based research on Self-Care
- Thanked Gail Wowk and Stacie Rigby - only two staff members in the CE unit for all their hard work on implementing new CE regulation while also doing the ongoing work of the unit

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

- No questions or comments this month.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

- A motion was made to adjourn the open session and seconded.