

State of Maryland
Board of Social Work Examiners
Open Session Meeting
VIRTUAL
May 10, 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; Marie Cole, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member

Board Staff: Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel; Karen Richards, Executive Director; Gloria Hammel, Director of Licensing; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Ulyssese Preston, Health Investigations Administrator

Community: Bracha Poliakoff, Social Worker and Continuing Education Provider; Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH Office of Secretary; Elisabet Martinez, University of MD SSW Cont. Ed.; Daphne MCellan, Retired Social Worker, Tawana Lee, Clinical Social Worker, Terri Green, MD Office of Public Defender

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jamie Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of April 12, 2024 Open Session with amendments.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Susan Coppage, Chair

- Susan Coppage welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members
- Attended ASWB Conference in Arlington, VA with Adrienne Ekas and Karen Richards
- It was a well done meeting and it was good to have conversations with Board staff and members from other jurisdictions

- In particular, Susan had conversations with the Board Chair from the DC Board. It was exciting to talk about MD's recent Reciprocity legislation and there was agreement that future meetings would be beneficial to further discuss. Susan shared that the prior Board Chair - Sondra Petty had set a meeting the MD, DC and Virginia to discuss reciprocity agreements and it was exciting to begin to take further steps towards reciprocity.
- The first day of the conference was for Board Administrators and Board Members - Karen attended the Administrators session. Susan and Adrienne attended the Members session which was also led by Adrienne.
- Susan shared information about the Diversity Speaker that led the conference. She presented the topic using a game she invented called "Factuality" which is based on the game of Monopoly.
- Susan suggested the possibility of bringing this speaker to Board staff and members at a retreat. She talked to the speaker after her presentation and obtained her contact information
- Susan sent an email to Board members to survey their interest in serving on a DEI committee

Executive Director REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Update of Building - painting and new carpet project
 - Staff shout out for work done packing and clearing out for the project while also meeting the demands of their full time jobs
 - Fresh space once it is finished with possibility of configuring cubicles
 - ASWB conference - as Susan reported - it was beneficial to network with other Board Administrators - many are grappling with legislative changes. Canada was having many challenges around legislative pushes to remove barriers
- Staff Updates
 - Deborah Evans - Part-time Licensing Coordinator - started April 29th
 - Tyrone Willoughby starting part-time as Staff Social Worker - current school social worker who will be able to give extra time this summer - has prior experience in Licensing
 - April 17th - Ulysses Preston - Health Investigator started and is already taking on cases

**LEGISLATIVE REPORT Lillian Reese,
Legislative & Regulations Coordinator**

- No report this month

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan, Committee Member

- Met on April 11
- Lillian worked on LCSW language - removing mentions to the LCSW as per
- Discussion with Lillian and Rhonda around endorsement language - removing what is not relevant as it pertains to the LCSW licensure level

- CE language still be working on for regulation change as agreed upon with NASW-MD for their withdrawal of the bill which would have put into statute that the Board again approve Sponsors
- Reciprocity language - committee discussed need to begin setting up conversations with Virginia, DC, Delaware, Pennsylvania - to begin to discuss reciprocity agreements per legislation

Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

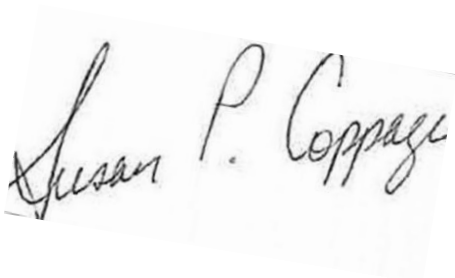
- Committee met on April 18
- The committee reviewed past and current procedures for those licensees that did not comply with the CE Audit
 - If audited, licensees have several opportunities to comply with making up the missing CEU's
- Per regulation, licensees can be blocked from renewing until they do comply - they can not renew, reinstate or reactivate until they are in compliance with the audit requirements
- Committee was also discussing self-care guidelines to help both sponsors and licensees understand what is a good training on the topic
- Any sponsor or licensee looking for guidance on this topic are encouraged to reach out to the Office of Continuing Education
- Thanked Gail Wowk and Stacie Rigby for all their hard work in the Continuing Education unit

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

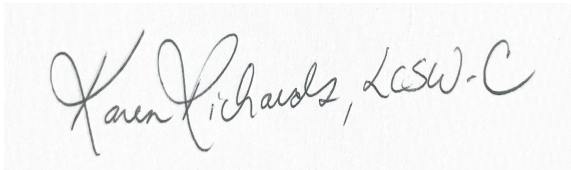
- No questions or comments this month.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

- At 11:02 am, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the open session.



Susan Coppage, LCSW-C
Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director, BSWE