



MARYLAND  
Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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State of Maryland  
Board of Social  
Work Examiners  
Open Session Meeting  
4201 Patterson Ave., Baltimore, 21215  
MINUTES  
November 8, 2024

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Open Session was called to Order at **10:41 am**

**ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

No adjustments or additions were made to the agenda.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board Members:** Leslie Lampieri, Board Secretary; Jamie Wilson, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member; Shannon Webb, Board Member; Barbara Tunstall, Board Member, and Kori Olszewski, Board Member.

**Board Members Absent**

Susan Coppage, Chair, (absent) Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair (absent), Carla Paisely, Board Member (absent), and Vernon Smith, Consumer Member (absent).

**Board Staff:** Carla Boyd, Board Counsel; Karen Richards, Executive Director, Kara Brooks Tyson, Director of Compliance and Investigations; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Ulysses Preston, Health Occupations Investigator, Kellie Peay, Administrative Asst.; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; Brenda McCoy, Staff Social Worker, Gail Wowk, Director, Planning and Continuing Education

**Staff Members Absent**

Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Gloria Hammel, Director of Certification and Licensing; and Lee Nguyen, Database Specialist II; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Pamela Price-Murray, License Coordinator; Louise C. Bohle, License Coordinator; Debra Evans, License Coordinator; Tyrone Willoughby.

**Community:**

**Community:** Bracha Poliakoff

## BOARD CHAIR REPORT

**Leslie Lampieri, Board Secretary**

- Susan Coppage, Board Chair, and Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair, are attending the ASWB Annual Meeting along with Board Staff - Marianne Graham
- Leslie Lampieri welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members.

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**Karen Richards, Executive Director**

- Karen Richards thanked the staff for their hard work during the licensing renewal phase, the busiest time of the year.
- Next Phase
  - Licensees who missed the renewal deadline can apply for Reinstatement - several applications already received
  - Staff updates:
    - The New Board investigator will be starting on 11/13/2024
    - We are actively recruiting for two more investigators and hope to have at least one start by December 2024
    - We are also actively recruiting for another Administrative Support Staff
- Karen Richards spoke about the new Zoom phone system being used by all of the smaller Health Occupation boards. Zoom phones allow calls to be answered by the computer. The new system will be up and running by mid-November 2024
- Licensure Policy Work Group - SB871
  - Karen Richards presented to the Policy Work Group on October 30th
  - CMG and Associates - the consulting group hired by the Licensure Policy Work Group to draft the Final Report also presented
  - See the link to the information and reports from the October 30th meeting
    - <https://health.maryland.gov/workgroup-swrl/Documents/Final-10-30-24-Meeting-Packet.pdf>
  - The Workgroup is convening additional meetings in November and December as the Final Report is due to legislature on the first of December
  - The majority view of the Workgroup is to remove the use of the ASWB exam for the LBSW and LMSW
  - The majority of Workgroup members also support an alternative pathway for the LCSW-C license
  - The Board continues to oppose the removal of the exam as a qualification for licensure at all three levels and this is the position that has been stated in the Workgroup meetings
  - For more information on the Workgroup, please consult their website
    - <https://health.maryland.gov/workgroup-swrl/Pages/default.aspx>
  - Board members asked questions regarding Alternative Pathways
    - The Illinois model requires that applicants for the advanced clinical license take the ASWB at least once - if they do not pass - they can enter into agreement for more supervision hours
    - Illinois does not require the exam for the LBSW or LMSW as of 2021
      - the state has seen increase in number of LMSWs licensed
    - Barbara Tunstall asked if the Board offer any assistance if applicant fails the exam
      - current regulation allows them to retake the exam within 3 months - there are some exceptions to the 3 months depending on the score received
      - The Board has proposed suggestions for reducing the barriers around exam - for example, only taking the section they failed or allowing for

## Committee Reports

### Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan, Committee Member

- Kevin stated that the Committee will meet on Thursday, December 5, 2024
- No report this month - will have a report for December
- The goal will be to discuss Independent practice, more specifically "definitions" regarding the Independent Practice.

### Continuing Education Committee

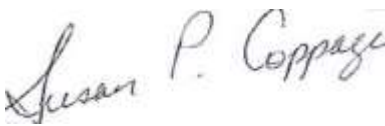
Kori Olszewski, Board Member

- There is no update at this time regarding the following:
  - Regulation change adding Maryland Non-Profits and Maryland Governmental agencies to the list of Authorized Sponsors
  - regulation should be reviewed as there is no hold on AELR regulation review hearings this year according to Legislative Liaison - Lillian Reese
- Committee discussed the new Anti-Oppressive regulation and how staff is clarifying the language for sponsors and language that should be placed on the certificate
- November meeting is canceled

### Questions Or Comments:

- No questions or comments were submitted to the Board prior to the meeting.

The Open Session was adjourned at **11:04 a.m.**



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Susan Coppage, LCSW-C

Board Chair, BSWE

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Karen Richards, LCSW-C

Executive Director, BSWE