



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 September 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:39am

ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

Karen Richards made adjustment to agenda – adding Glendia Cook’s name under “New Staff” updates

ATTENDANCE

Board: Susan Coppage, Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Jamie Wilson, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member; Shannon Webb, Board Member; Carla Paisley, Board Member; and Barbara Tunstall, Board Member

Board Staff: Carla Boyd, Board Counsel; Karen Richards, Executive Director; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Ulysses Preston, Health Investigations Administrator; Kellie Peay, Administrative Asst.; Kara Brooks Tyson, Director of Compliance; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Assistant; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore, Fiscal Officer; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; and Brenda McCoy, Staff Social Worker

Community: Bracha Poliakoff, Social Worker and Continuing Education Provider; Heather Gardner, LCSW-C, Garnering Change Psychotherapy, LLC

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Susan Coppage, Chair

- Susan Coppage welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members.
- Licensing Review Committee (LRC) had first meeting on Monday, September 9th. LRC is made of Executive Committee members – Susan, Adrienne, and Leslie
 - Purpose is to review Licensing Applications cases as recommended by the Licensing Unit
 - Example, applications that have recent positive Criminal History Record Check (CHRC)
 - Marianne noted that CHRC that are less than 7 years or have circumstances that the Licensing Unit would like to have an additional review by Board members.

- Contractual Agreement forms that are problematic – have LRC review and help with making recommendations as to whether the file should process to level of making a referral to Compliance.
 - Susan noted that it allows for more flexibility in addressing issues and helping staff with Licensing application issues that aren't just black and white.
 - Karen noted that it is beneficial to have another set of eyes reviewing these applications.
- ASWB Delegate Assembly – November 8 – 9 in San Diego
 - Two resolutions that need a vote – Susan will send them to Board Members for vote
 - One is around having the ASWB Board Chair serve only one term
 - Susan would like to have Board Counsel review this one which is about groups having more say

Executive Director REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Building update – offices look good with paint and carpet – boxes that were moved upstairs are back in the office space
 - Quote from Maryland State Archives (MSA) acceptable; Board will be moving forward with preparing files to be digitally archived – starting with Compliance records
- New Staff updates and Welcome
 - Licensing Coordinator Glendia Cook started on July 24
 - Staff Social Worker Brenda McCoy started on September 4
 - Licensing Unit fully staffed now
 - Compliance is recruiting for two new Health Investigator positions
 - Also recruiting for an Administrative Assistant to Continuing Education and Database Specialist -will help with website and communication
- Licensing Policy Workgroup did not meet in July or August
 - Thank you to Kevin and Barbara for volunteering and being ready to attend
 - Discussion about the group's Interim Report which is due to legislature by end of year
 - Susan asked about legislation for next session (2025)?
 - It is the plan of Senator Washington to re-introduce the bill – SB 871
 - Workgroup had a straw poll vote on elimination of the ASWB exam as a qualification to be licensed as an LBSW or LMSW in Maryland – majority were in favor – the Board and ASWB were only votes in opposition
 - Karen shared that the Workgroup will be having discussions of the impact of this change on the Board – not sure that there is a complete understanding of the structural impact of such a big change
 - Next meeting is scheduled for September 25
- The Board is working on a new monthly newsletter that will be emailed to licensees
 - Tonya Hill asked if important information such as when legislation is introduced could be sent out more frequently as one time is not enough
 - Karen responded that the Board always has ability to email licensees which would be helpful to keep licensees informed of important issues and reminders

Licensing Unit Update

Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor

- Marianne thanked Karen Richards for assistance with getting HR under control and having the unit fully staffed now
- Applications are currently being processed very close to the 60-day timeline as stated in regulations
- Renewal portal opened July 15
 - Per recent update from Lee – 2, 222 renewals – 51 LBSW, 824 LMSW, 21 LCSW and 1326 LCSW-C
 - For this year, there are approximately 9,000 licensees that need to renew
 - Last year, 5,000 to 6,000 licensees renewed in the last two weeks of October
 - Unit is getting a lot of calls about the new Fingerprinting requirement
 - FBI Privacy Statement – digitally sign or print out and sign
 - Susan asked if Marianne could provide a complete overview of the fingerprinting process at the next meeting
- Unit is also getting a fair amount of requests to “Not Renew” or to go “Inactive”

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan, Committee Member

- Committee met on September 12
- With CE Committee chair Adrienne Ekas, the members reviewed the CE Regulation change to 10.42.06.02. and .05 – committee voted to proceed as drafted and Adrienne will present to the full Board for a final vote at the Board meeting tomorrow
- Kevin thanked Lillian, Carla, Marianne and Karen for helping review the regs and informing the committee of where things go as they are forwarded up the line
- Committee continued discussion of the language around Independent practice – tabled for fuller discussion at next meeting

Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

- Vote on 10.42.06 and .05 – purpose – to add MD Govt agencies and MD non-profits to list of authorized sponsors
 - Draft was reviewed by CE committee and Stats and Regs
 - Final version had edits after receiving comments on draft from NASW-MD – this added 60-day time frame for the Board to review the registration materials from an agency wanted to be added
 - Adrienne called a vote and it was unanimous to move regulation forward to Secretary’s office for approval
- Committee meets again on September 18 – will be reviewing regulation around Category 2 trainings for new members

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

- No questions or comments this month.

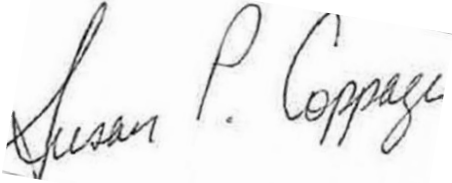
APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Jamie Wilson

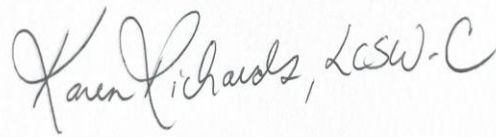
A motion was made by Jamie Wilson to approve the Open Session Minutes of July 12, 2024. Adrienne Ekas seconded, and all were in favor with no changes.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

- At 11:15am, a motion was made and seconded to adjourn the open session.



Susan Coppage, LCSW-C
Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director, BSWE