



MARYLAND Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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OPEN SESSION Minutes April 11, 2025

The April Open Session meeting of the Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners was called to order at 11:02am.

The minutes for the March 14 meeting was approved with no changes.

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Susan Coppage, Board Chair; Adrienne Ekas, Vice Chair; Leslie Iampieri, Board Secretary; Jamie Wilson, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member; Shannon Webb, Board Member; Barbara Tunstall, Board Member, Vernon Smith, Consumer Member (absent)

Board Staff:

Present: Karen Richards, Executive Director; Kara Brooks Tyson, Director of Compliance; Joshua Shafer, Board Counsel; Gail Wowk, Director of Planning and Continuing Education; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor;; Ulysses Preston, Health Investigations Administrator; Johnta Gray, Health Investigations Administrator; Kellie Peay, Administrative Asst.; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; Brenda McCoy, Staff Social Worker; Lee Nguyen, Database Specialist II; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore Administrative-Fiscal; Joey Orlandi, CE Coordinator

Absent: Louise Bohle, License Coordinator; Tyrone Willoughby, Staff Social Worker; Deborah Evans, License Coordinator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Adam Yates, Health Occupations Investigator

Community: Rachel Doyle, William Doyle, Brach Poliakoff, Ashley Lane, Meghan Co, Lisa Kayes, Kevin Daniels, Lakeisha Christenson, Dre (graduate student)

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Susan Coppage, Board Chair, welcomed Board members, staff
Social Work Compact

- Governor signed April 8, 2025, and the signing was in the morning so there wasn't time for Board members to attend

Kevin did presentation on April 4th to Salisbury University MSW students who are the Substance Use Disorder Workforce Expansion Program. Dr. Ryan Messatzia reached out to the Board to

request the presentation. Kevin agreed to present as he knew Dr. Messatzzia through his own training and he specializes in the SUD field. Dr Messatzzia mentored Kevin in his doctoral program.

- Students in program are from all over the state.
- General perspective from Board Member's perspective
- Students indicated that it was nice to have an in-person perspective of how the Board works
- Power Point created by Karen for the Licensure Workgroup was used
- Students had good questions, and it seemed that the meeting was helpful in putting a face to the Board
- The Board can be anxiety provoking and helpful to understand how things work

Education Meeting – May 2-3, Portland, OR

- Susan, Adrienne, and Jamie will be attending
- Adrienne is on the ASWB Board
- Jamie is committee member for ASWB Education Conference 2026
- Susan received ASWB scholarship
- All three are attending at no cost to our Board

Upcoming elections for Executive Committee

- All three Executive Committee positions are available – please let Susan know if you are interested and Board will vote in May/June
- New Committee members will start in July

Survey – report is finished and ready to publish on website – survey report is in the Board's monthly shared Drive. Board vote needed to publish on the website.

- Susan made motion to publish results – Adrienne seconded
- Vote called – all in favor of publishing results on the website

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director reminded Board members to let us know if they are not going to present for the May meeting – Leslie will be out and we need to assure

Staff Updates

- New Health Investigator candidate identified
- Compliance Unit will have three full time investigators
- With the unit fully staffed, Mr. Preston will assume greater responsibility for assisting the unit with data tracking and IT
 - He worked with IT staff to create a new tracking log using Smartsheet for the Compliance Unit
- Joey Orlandi – Continuing Education (CE) Coordinator started last week in the CE unit

Karren attended the ASWB Administrator Workshop – April 3-5, 2025

- Good to interact with other Executive Directors and Administrators from around the county, provinces of Canada and Guam

University of MD School of Social Work Bridging Success Scholarship

- Scholarship funds through the Office of Student Engagement and Alumni office to pay the \$100 application fee

- IT – Lee and Vlad made adjustment to the online application portal
- Application fee paid
- Licensing presentation on April 16 to the receipts of the scholarship
- 38 students in this cohort for this semester – there are plans to continue for upcoming semesters

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan reported that the Stat & Regs met on April 10th. The committee did a recap of the bills from the 2025 Legislative Session now that it has ended. Bills discussed were:

- HB 345/SB 174: Board supported. Interstate Compact bill-signed on Tuesday April 8, 2025, does not mean compact begins immediately after 10/1/2025. Legislation allows Maryland to join Interstate Compact, but the Compact is not yet in place.
- HB 1521/SB 379: this was the bill continuing the Workgroup around licensure the and the exam. This bill also was increasing the number of Board members by two consumer members. House bill had been voted out in original form; after crossover bill stalled in Senate finance committee and bill did not pass
- HB 783/SB 458: This was a bill pertaining to the continuing education on Structural Racism, one time attestation to taking a course pertaining to this topic, beginning on 10/1/2025 for all Health Occupations Boards. Our Board submitted a letter of information indicated “if this passes, BSWE is ready for it” due to our Anti-Oppressive regulation requiring 3 CEUs
- HB 1210 & HB 1404: Workman’s Compensation bills allowing LCSW-C to complete evaluations and diagnose for WC cases. Bills did not get voted out of the House Economic Matters Committee
- HB 723/SB 749 – this was an FYI from Lillian as Board did not take any position. It was a bill introduced late in session to address cuts of federal workers giving Board authorization to develop a plan for temporary or permanent authorization to practice a health occupation for federal employees who applied after having a position that was cut by the Federal government

Kevin reported that the committee was able to see the process for the bills and how they become law. Also, the committee was able to see how a bill can come back from prior year and get passed.

HB231: Karen reported that this was a bill that all Health Occupation Boards sent a Letter of Concern. The bill was about fee increases and allowing the legislature to have a “yay” or “nay” vote on such bills. This bill was not voted out of committee.

Karen also reported on Structural Racism bill. This will be familiar to social workers in that it is the same as the one-time attestation for Implicit Bias.

Susan also reported that for the Compact legislation, the Board will be able to nominate a representative for the national Compact Commission.

Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne reported that the regulation change authorizing sponsors for Maryland state

government agencies and non-profits will be effective April 28th. The committee met on March 13, 2025, and had preliminary discussion of the registration process for sponsors. Committee also discussed post-renewal audits and the process for randomly selecting licensees for the audit. The process is random and unfortunately, someone may be selected more than once for an audit.

There are more pre-renewal audits this year. So far, there are 60 licenses for 2025. The committee will meet again on April 17, 2025.

Meeting Closure

Susan reported that there were no pre-submitted questions from the public. She asked for any further questions from Board Members. There were none.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:41am.



Susan Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director