



MARYLAND
Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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State of Maryland
Board of Social Work Examiners

Virtual Open Session

MINUTES

February 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:34 a.m.

ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No adjustments were made.

ATTENDANCE

Board: Susan Coppage, Board Chair; Adrienne K.Ekas, Vice Chair; Leslie Lampieri, 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

Board Staff: Karen Richards, Executive Director, Kara Brooks Tyson, Director of Compliance; Carla Boyd, Board Counsel; Gail Wowk, Director of Planning and Continuing Education, Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Ulysses Preston, Health Investigations Administrator; Adam Yates, Health Occupations Investigator, Johnta Gray, Health Investigations Administrator (absent), Kellie Peay, Administrative Asst.; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; Brenda McCoy, Staff Social Worker; Louise Bohle, License Coordinator; Gloria Hammel, Director of Certification and Licensing (absent); Tyrone Willoughby, Staff Social Worker (Absent); Deborah Evans, License Coordinator (Absent); Lee Nguyen, Database Specialist II; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore Administrative-Fiscal

Additional Staff: Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH Secretary's Office

Community: Meghan Co, LCSW-C, LICSW, Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C and Continuing Education Provider; Will Doyle, Rachel Doyle, Zoraida Younger, Chikeia Teal, Elizabet Martinez, Univ of MD Cont. Ed., Terri Green, LCSW-C, Office of Public Defender, Tawana Lee

Agenda/Minutes

Leslie Iampieri - Board Secretary

- Agenda Adjustment - Leslie Iampieri will do the Approval of the Minutes

MINUTES

Minutes were approved for January 10, 2025, with corrections: Barbara Tunstall is Consumer Board Member and Jamie Wilson is Board Member.

Board Chair Report

Susan Coppage - Board Chair

Discussion of the Executive Team (Karen Richards, Susan Coppage, and Adrienne Ekas) meeting with ASWB on February 10, 2025. Some of the highlights were:

- Discussion about the Exam:
 - The Exam Committee is made up of 18 subject matter experts. They are volunteers. ASWB Staff members did not create the questions. See the Examination Program Yearbook here: [ASWB Examination Program Yearbook](#)
 - Discussion: ASWB is working on changes to the exam including a modularized format where test takers would only take the sections that they fail
 - See initiatives here: [ASWB Exam Updates](#)
 - Accommodations for Applicants with a Disability
 - Applicants can request accommodations: [Request Accommodations for Disability](#)
 - Questions take a long time to vet through process
 - Start as 20 "test sample" questions on the exam
 - ASWB is piloting changes for multi-choice questions - putting in more 3-choice versus 4-choice options
 - There is a test taking GuideBook
 - When an applicant is approved to take the exam and signs up - they can get a free guidebook from ASWB
 - free guide around test taking in general - preparing for taking tests
 - Resources for Educators: for use by social work educational programs to help students prepare with the knowledge and skills that they need to be successful on the exam
- Adrienne Eka also noted that ASWB is also piloting a program for remote test taking -
 - will roll out for applicants with disabilities
 - who are not within close proximity to a test location
 - This project takes time and resources to assure the integrity of the exam
- Karen Richards - information on the two one-pagers attached to today's meeting agenda
- They also have a test mastery program that is free when signing up for the exam
- Susan Coppage noted Board Members received webinars from ASWB regarding the Exam to watch to give greater context

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Staff updates - 2 positions for recruiting
 - Administrative positions and 1 more Health Occupation Investigator vacancies
- Gloria Hammel will be retiring on March 1, 2025
 - Thank you for your many years of service and contributions to the Board
- 2025 Legislative Session
 - Testified in House on January 28th for Social Work Compact bill

- Compact Bill voted out of the House and will be heard in the Senate
 - Testified on February 4th in Senate Finance Committee for SB 379 - the Exam Licensure bill
 - several people testifying on this bill on both sides of the issue
 - Board in favor of amendment to add ONE not two consumer members - this would help with quorum - change in composition of the Board
 - Board is not in favor of removing the exam for the LBSW and LMSW
 - two hour testimony - good on both sides
- Marianne Graham - Licensing and Certification Updates
 - Reviewing Contractual Agreement forms
 - taking suggestions from public members at prior meetings
 - making it clearer for both supervisor and supervisee
 - considering how Board could request the contracts at start of supervision
 - No longer have a backlog. Processing the application within 60 days
 - working to keep this up during the busy season in spring when applications tick up due to graduation
 - Thank the Staff for their hard work in organizing the files to get ready for scanning
 - Thank all of the licensing staff for
 - Secondary main project - Reducing the paper files turning into electronic filing
 - In the process of going electronic/scanning
 - Licensing unit is working to digitize the application process
- Karen Richards Administrative Staff Compliance MD State Archives Digital Files
 - thank to Administrative staff going through boxes and boxes of paper compliance files
 - scanning to digital files - paper files destroyed per retention schedule
- BURFA BILL
 - Budget Reconsolation Bill from Governor's office
 - BSWE not the only Health Occupation Board to have funds moved
 - \$408,000.00 from the Board of Social Work
 - Funds to shift to the Behavioral Health Administration to address budget shortfalls

Legislative Updates

Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison

- Status updates for bills Board t
- HB 231 Hearing January 23, 2025 - Constitutional amendment regarding fee increases - no updates on vote out of committee - Board joined Letter of Concern
- HB 482 Criminal History - Letter of concern with other Boards - Feb 12 - not voted out of committee
- SB 458/HB 783 - Structural Racism bill - Letter of Information - Senate bill - Feb 11 - not moved yet
- The Compact Bill HB 345/SB 174 - Passed in the House - will cross over to the Senate - not yet voted out of the Senate yet
- SB 379 has not been voted out of the Senate Finance Committee

(UPDATE) Susan Coppage informed everyone that she will be leaving the Board - term is up at the end of June - Department of Human Services (DHS) will select someone to replace her - will not be without a Board member

Committee Reports

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan, Committee Member

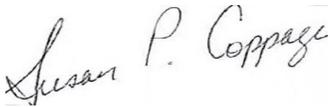
- Thank you to Lillian for all of her help in
- HB 1210 - **Workers Compensation** – Evaluation of Permanent Impairment- Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical
 - Add LCSW-C to those who can comply with requirements as an expert witness
 - Committee supports this bill
- Motion to support the Bill
 - 1st Adrienne Ekas and 2nd Jamie Wilson
 - all in favor
- House Bill 1404 - Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical
 - Motion to support
 - Board Support Motion 1st Susan Coppage 2nd Kori Olszewski
 - all in favor

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

- Adrienne Ekas meeting 1/16/2025 Regulation
 - Authorized Sponsor March 10, 2025
 - CEU Authorization Sponsor
 - Category I, Category II, Qualification, Target Audience
- Next Meeting 2/21/2025
 - Anti-Oppressive & DEI will be discussed at the next CEU Meeting in response to a question asked by public member - Elisabet Martinez

The Open Session was adjourned at 11:09 a.m.



Susan Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director