



MARYLAND  
Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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State of Maryland  
Board of Social Work Examiners  
Open Session Virtual Meeting  
4201 Patterson Ave, Baltimore 21215  
MINUTES  
January 10, 2025

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:35 am

**ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA** Leslie Iampieri - Board Secretary

- Agenda Adjustment - Leslie Iampieri will do the Approval of the Minutes
  - Adrienne EKAS was removed from the Agenda for 01/10/2025

**MINUTES**

Leslie Iampieri - Board Secretary

- Minutes were approved for December 13, 2024

**ATTENDANCE**

**Board:** Susan Coppage, Board Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Leslie Iampieri, Board Secretary; Jamie Wilson, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member (absent); Tonya Hill (absent), Board Member; Shannon Webb, Board Member; and Barbara Tunstall, Board Member; Carla Paisely, Board Member (absent); 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(Absent); Jacqueline Monroe-Moore Administrative-Fiscal (absent)

**Additional Staff:** Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH Secretary's Office

**Community:** Meghan Co, LCSW-C, LICSW, Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C and Continuing Education Provider; Lisa Kayes, LICSW, LCSW-C, LCSW; Elizabet Martinez, Univ of MD Cont. Ed., Terri Green, LCSW-C, Office of Public Defender

## Board Chair Report

**Susan Coppage - Board Chair**

- Discussion on the Supervision Verification Form, there is a section where the Supervisor has to do percentages of time in four areas:
  - Assessment
  - Treatment of Mental Disorder and Other Conditions.
  - Formulation of Diagnostic Impression
  - Providing Psychotherapy
- The Board Approved Supervisor should be completing this section, also working with the applicant to come up with the percentage in these areas.
- It doesn't have to be an equal part as long as it totals 100% - there needs to be a percentage in each section
- verifies clinical experience - percentage in each section verifies the experience
- can not exceed 100%
- common mistakes seen are leaving one of the areas blank or exceeding 100% - this tends to be a clerical error
- Barbara Tunstall suggested more training for Bd. Approved Supervisors
  - Marianne Graham shared that Licensing Unit has been working on the backlog
  - Now that unit is fully staffed - plans are being made to developing training
  - several public members made comments in the chat - licensing unit staff is working on updating forms and will take comments into consideration
  - Send emails to licensing unit with questions - they are happy to help

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

**Karen Richards, Executive Director**

- Staff updates - vacancies are filled
  - Introduced Johnta Gray - new Health Occupation Investigator.
  - Still actively recruiting for one more Health Investigator and also an Administrative Officer for the Continuing Education Unit who will also assist Lee (Database Specialist) with website management, digital newsletter and software/IT training for staff.
- The Digital Newsletter was sent in November 2024 working on another one for January 2025
  - goal is to have the newsletter monthly
  - will be doing a "Supervision Corner" to help educate licensees
- If the public has suggestions or questions for the newsletter, please email the Executive Director
- Susan Coppage asked the Board Members to watch the ASWB videos that will be sent out
  - at the February Open Session meeting - there will be an overview of updates on the ASWB exam

## Legislative Updates

**Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison**

- 631 Bills have dropped in House and Senate so far - more to come
- Bill of Interest Senate Bill 174- Compact Bill
- The bill regarding removal of the National Exam has not dropped
- Discussion/Meeting with Senator Washington and Delegate Cullison
  - Karen, Susan and Lillian - discussed concerns - they heard us - just waiting for bill to drop

## Committee Reports

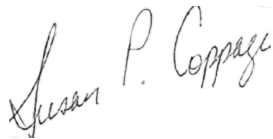
### Statutes and Regulations Committee

**Kevin Meenan, Committee Member**

- Statutes & Regulations committee reviewed three bills, and their recommendations will need to be ratified by Board Members

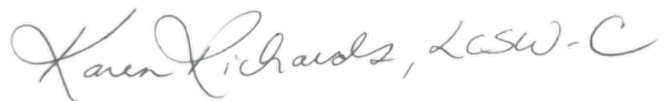
- First Bill - Senate Bill 174 - Interstate Social Work Compact
  - This will allow Maryland to join the Compact - legislation last year did not pass last session
  - If we had joined last year - we could have been one of the first seven states and would have been in the “driver’s seat” in regard to drafting the Commission’s regulations etc.
  - Recommendation is to “support”
  - Motion to Support - Jamie Wilson and Adrienne Ekas - 2nd the Motion
    - All in Favor
- 2nd Bill - Senate Bill 67 - Notation of Veteran Eligibility for Benefits - recommendation - “No Position.”
  - No position is a way to support bill which is being presented to all Health Boards
  - Motion – “No Position” Susan Coppage and Jamie Wilson – 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
    - All in Favor
- 3rd Bill - Senate Bill 72 - English Proficiency Requirement - recommendation - “No Position”
  - Motion “No position” Susan Coppage and Adrienne Ekas – 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion
    - All in Favor
- Discussion Regarding Supervision for Clinical - Licensing
  - Able to make changes to the Supervision Contract Form
    - indicate that when it is signed - submitted to Board for approval
    - the hope that this will reduce the negative impact of errors on the back end when applicants are applying for their advanced license
    - further discussion next month
  - Changes to the Supervision Contract Form will be Reviewed by the Board for Approval

**The Open Session was adjourned at 11:08 a.m.**




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Susan Coppage, LCSW-C  
Board Chair




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Karen Richards, LCSW-C  
Executive Director, BSWE