



MARYLAND Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners

In Person Open Session

MINUTES

March 14, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:30 a.m.

ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No adjustments were made.

ATTENDANCE

Board: Susan Coppage, Board Chair; Adrienne K.Ekas, Vice Chair (absent); 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 (absent)

Board Staff: Karen Richards, Executive Director; Kara Brooks Tyson, Director of Compliance; Joshua Shafer, 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; Kellie Peay, Administrative Asst.; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; Brenda McCoy, Staff Social Worker; Louise Bohle, License Coordinator (absent); Tyrone Willoughby, Staff Social Worker (Absent); Deborah Evans, License Coordinator (Absent); Lee Nguyen, Database Specialist II; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore Administrative-Fiscal

Community: Gail Martin

MINUTES

Minutes were approved for February 14, 2025, Open Session.

Board Chair Report

Susan Coppage - Board Chair

- Susan Coppage welcomed Board members, staff and public members to the Open Session Meeting and shared how nice it was to see everyone in person
- Reminder to Board Members that when the Board is meeting virtually, please leave cameras on – especially during the closed Administrative Session.
- ASWB New Board Member training – checked in with Board members to see who has attended

ASWB new board member training as it is valuable experience to connect with other states and even Canadian provinces. There are two upcoming sessions scheduled:

- August 28-29, 2025– online
- September 25-27, 2025, Alexandria, VA
- Barbara Tunstall will be attending the online training in August
- ASWB Education Meeting – May 2-3, Portland, OR
 - Susan, Adrienne and Jamie will be attending and funded through ASWB not the Board
 - Adrienne is new ASWB Board member
 - Jamie is serving her first term on the ASWB education committee. She will participate in her first meeting on Wednesday March 19. She will be learning at the Portland Educational meeting in preparation for planning the 2026 Education meeting

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Staff updates
 - New Continuing Education staff candidate selected – waiting to finalize
 - Health Investigator II – recruitment complete – will be selecting candidate soon
 - Marianne Graham is Acting Licensing Unit Director since Gloria's retirement
 - Marianne has a memory book for Gloria that she passed around for Board Members to sign
 - Gloria served the Board for over 25 years – was in other state agencies prior to coming to Board – long history of service to the State of MD
- ASWB Administrators Workshop – April 3 to April 5
 - Will be attending and look forward to meeting with administrators from other Social Work Boards
 - Opportunity to get updates on how other states are doing and to discuss current topics like the Social Work Compact
 - 22 other states have passed legislation and there will be administrators from some of those states
- Maryland State Ethics
 - Presentation for Board members and staff at today's closed section by representative of Maryland State Ethics Commission
 - Ethics Disclosures are due by April 30th
- March Digital Newsletter sent out
 - Follow up information on the ASWB presentation from February
 - ASWB is more than the exam – Board membership provides
 - Training for new board members and staff
 - Conferences and workshops for Board members and staff
 - Databases with information on what other states/provinces are doing regarding supervision, CEUs, regulation, licensing etc.
 - Links to information in the newsletter included
 - Exam initiatives
 - Research initiatives
 - Yearbook for test question volunteers
 - 2024 Analysis of the practice of Social Work
 - Supervision Pointers
 - Staff Jean James answered "true/false" questions
 - Use of links in newsletter
 - To regulation, legislation etc. in hope to direct licensees to sources of information
- Survey of Licensees
 - Sample size – 10% of all licensees – so a little over 1,900
 - Stratified proportionally over the 4 active license levels
 - LBSW, LMSW, LCSW, LCSW-C
 - Survey closed February 28
 - Return rate has been good – over 400 responses

- Research assistance provided by Professor at UMBC
- Report will be shared widely once finalized

Legislative Updates

Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison

- Monday – March 17 is crossover date for any bill in a particular chamber to cross over to the opposite chamber
- Session will be ending on April 7th

Committee Reports

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan, Committee Member

- Stats and Regs met on March 13th and a good discussion was had on the Legislative process as Lillian referred to
- House Bill 1521 – companion bill to SB 379 – the licensure bill to remove exam for LBSW and LMSW and to add two consumer members to the Board
- Regulation 10.42.01 – referring to the removal of the LCSW language has been printed in the Maryland Register and is open for public comments until April 7th
- Regulation 10.42.06 – Continuing Education sponsor -posted in Maryland Register on Feb. 7. Comment period ended on March 10. Motion to finalize the regulation:
 - Motion seconded and unanimously approved by Board members
- Regulation 10.42.02 – regulation clarifying private practice and cleaning up definitions – sent to the AELR – Administrative Executive Legislative Review committee – which is made of ten representatives from the House and ten from the Senate – no further action at this time for 10.42.02
- Kevin mentioned that there was room on the Stats & Regs committee if other Board members wanted to join - he has learned a lot from being on this committee
- HB 1210 - **Workers Compensation** – Evaluation of Permanent Impairment- Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical and HB 1404 - Workers' Compensation – Rehabilitation Practitioners – Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical
 - Bills have been introduced in prior sessions by Social Worker Arthur Flax
 - Both bills moved to the Senate Finance Committee
 - Bills clarify Social Worker's ability to evaluate and make determinations in Workman Comp cases

Continuing Education Committee

Kori Olszewski, Committee Member

- 10.42.06 was discussed at last CE meeting held on February 21st
 - Only public comments from MD Register were positive so Board did not have to respond
- Anti-Oppressive & DEI requirements was discussed in light of changes to DEI initiatives at many of the universities etc.
 - There will be no changes to the Board's regulations
- Committee had discussion of the "randomness" of the audit as this issue was raised by several licensees to the Executive Director
 - The process is truly random, and it is unfortunate that some licensees may get selected more than once
- Upcoming meeting will include discussions around forms/registration process for the sponsors who will register as a result of the new regulation

No public questions were submitted ahead of time.

The Open Session was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Susan P. Coppage".

Susan Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Karen Richards, LCSW-C".

Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director