



# MARYLAND Department of Health

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## MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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## OPEN SESSION MINUTES May 9, 2025

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order by Susan Coppage at 11am. There were no additions or adjustments to the agenda. Leslie Iampieri, Board Secretary is absent. Board Vice Chair Adrienne Ekas called the attendance.

### **ATTENDANCE:**

**Board:** Susan Coppage, Board Chair; Adrienne Ekas, Vice Chair; 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); Leslie Iampieri

### **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; Brenda McCoy, Staff Social Worker; Lee Nguyen, Database Specialist II; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore Administrative-Fiscal; Joey Orlandi, CE Coordinator; Adam Yates, Health Investigator; Stacie Rigby, Licensing Coordinator; Louise Bohle, License Coordinator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator

*Absent:* Tyrone Willoughby, Staff Social Worker; Deborah Evans, License Coordinator; Jean James, Staff Social Worker; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator

**Community:** Brach Poliakoff, LCSW-C & CE Sponsor; Kevin Daniels, LMSW/Morgan State; Rachel Doyle, LICSW; Ashley Lane, LMSW/ASWB; Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH; Tawana Lee, LMSW, LICSW; Daniel Mendoza; Keith Booth, LMSW

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Adrienne Ekas called for approval of April Open session minutes. Minutes approved with no changes by Susan Coppage and seconded by Shannon Webb. Unanimous vote from Board members to approve.

### **BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

Susan Coppage, Board Chair, welcomed Board members, staff and members of the public.

Susan noted that attending a Board meeting for one hour could count towards one hour of Category 2 CEU. If you attend for one hour, you are responsible for going to the website and printing the minutes for your records. This is why it is important to have our name correct in the minutes.

#### ASWB Education Meeting May in Portland

- Adrienne is now Board member for ASWB and had her first meeting
- Robust training around Artificial Intelligence (AI) was a big topic – some states are starting regulation for how social workers use AI
  - Some states are a
- As for Nursing and Physical Therapy, there isn't a National Database to capture data on social workers – for research etc. – where people work, the numbers of social workers at different license levels – use for research, tracking trends, and workforce data
  - ASWB created a committee of to establish a data set so states are tracking the same data and will mirror data sets of other health professions
- Presentations on regulating supervision were informative
- Workforce shortages and presentations on the Social Work Census – tracking current trends and future trends
- ASWB 2026 Education Conference will focus on Supervision

Nominations for Board Chair, Vice Chair and Secretary. We do have one nomination for Board Chair – Kevin Meenan, Adrienne Ekas for Vice Chair and Leslie Iampieri for Secretary. Final vote will be in June.

### **EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

ASWB and Board member attendance to conferences:

- The Board is a member of ASWB and pays membership dues to them
  - for that, we can send new board members and staff to New Board member training as a result of paying our dues
  - Administrators are funded for administrator trainings
- Board members can also serve on committees at ASWB
  - ASWB funds people who serve on ASWB committees and members could be funded for a conference in that way
  - ASWB also offers scholarships that Board members can apply for

Staff Updates:

- Mary McLaughlin – Health Investigator – starting May 14
  - Four full time investigators in unit – can address backlog and multiple complaints received on licensed social workers
- Marianne Graham – Official Director of Licensing & Certification as of May 14
  - Marianne looking forward to streamlining the licensing unit – making things less stressful for applicants
- Compliment to the entire licensing unit for the work they have done since starting last year
  - Intranet Quorum (IQ) is tracking system for constituent complaints
    - Last year, several complaints a week – even in a day

- This year, IQ complaints have dropped significantly

#### Artificial Intelligence:

- Agenda has links to legislation in California – Illinois also leading the way with legislation around use of AI in social work settings
- MDH recently sent out AI Policy and had training on using Ai
  - Primarily seen at MDH – use of AI for note taking at meetings

#### University of MD SSW Scholarship

- 32 students applied
- IT did a work around on the online portal for the LMSW application
- On April 16, Licensing Unit did a presentation for the students who applied for the scholarship
- First cohort – funding was through Alumni office to the Office of Student Engagement – they hope to continue to fund scholarships in the future

#### Statutes and Regulations Committee

- Met as committee on May 8
- 8-year regulatory review due at end of year – there are 4 sections that we are charged with reviewing
  - Lillian walking us through the process
  - Some time to get it done – helpful to have Lillian to help committee develop a work plan
- Kevin proposed to adopt regulation as proposed 10.42.01 – regulation governing licensure – specifically removing the language around the LCSW
  - Jamie seconded motion
  - full vote and regulation proposal passed
- 10.42.02 – sent to AELR on May 6 and will remain for 15 days
- Will go to Maryland Register for public comment

#### Continuing Education Committee

- Committee met on April 17
- Staff work with IT to create the registration form for 10.42.06 – for approved Sponsors who are non-profits or Maryland entities who employ social workers
- Adrienne and Gail met with chair of Coppin Social Work program
  - Coppin is an approved sponsor but they had not provided CE's in the past
  - Gave her guidelines

#### Public Question

Please provide clarity around responsibility of LCSW-C supervisor around LMSW's who have met their clinical hours. Do they need to continue to meet with Board Approved Supervisor?

- LMSW must be supervised until their LCSW-C license is issued or they have applied and qualified for INDEPENDENT status
- Even if the LMSW has achieved their clinical and supervision hours per their supervision contract – they must continue to meet with Board approved supervisor

Why do the Supervision do not provide better clarification around this fact that they must continue to be supervised even after meeting the required supervision hours for advanced licensure?

The supervision regulations around supervision are in separate regulations which can lead to some of the confusion. You may not find the one answer in one regulation. The two main regulations beyond the Supervision regulation – 10.42.08.

Look also in the following:

- 10.42.01 Licensing
- 10.42.02 Scope of Practice

Does the LMSW or LBSW need to continue to have supervision from a Board Approved Supervisor once they have met their hours – can they be supervised by a social worker who is not a Board Approved supervisor?

- Yes, for clinical social work supervision – that person must be a Board Approved supervisor – to practice Social Work in Maryland
  - Under a signed contract for supervision
- Administrative supervision such as approving timesheets or managing caseloads etc. could be provided by someone who is not Board Approved Supervisor

LBSW and LMSW who obtain independent practice status can also become a Board Approved Supervisor

- This can be beneficial for settings where social workers are not engaging in clinical practice – diagnosing and treating mental disorders
- LBSW and LMSW who do not have independent status **MUST** be supervised by a Board Approved Supervisor

Again, any LBSW or LMSW who does not have independent status must have at least 3 hours of supervision per month per regulation.

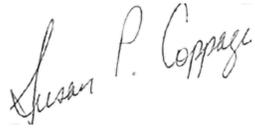
Public member suggested that in the workplace, the regulations can be problematic because some practices will tell the LMSW that they do not need as much supervision because they already have the number of clinical hours needed for their advanced licensure. He also suggested that this is a workplace issue.

Member of public suggested - creating a flow chart for supervision – who can do what in regard to supervising social workers – who can supervise me? Something to distribute to

Reminder – LBSW and LMSW who have independent practice status – they can supervise LBSWs if LBSW and LMSW and LBSWs if an LMSW – this does not apply to providing supervision for advanced clinical licensure. However, for social workers who are not working in clinical settings.

If LBSW or LMSW does not have independent status or they are not licensed as an LCSW-C, they will need 3 hours of supervision per month.

**Meeting Closure at 11:50 am**



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Susan Coppage, LCSW-C, Board Chair



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Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director