



MARYLAND Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

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OPEN SESSION MINUTES December 12, 2025

CALL TO ORDER

Kevin Meenan called the meeting to order at 11:04am. There were no changes or adjustments to the agenda.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Kevin Meenan, Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Leslie Iampieri, Board Secretary/Treasurer; Stephen Liggett-Creel, Board Member; Kevin Daniels, Board Member; Jamie Wilson, Board Member; Kori Olszewski, Board Member; Shannon Webb, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member (absent); Barbara Tunstall, Consumer Board Member

Board Staff: Joshua Frazer, Board Counsel; Karen Richards, Executive Director; Kara Brooks-Tyson, Director of Compliance; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; Mary McLaughlin, Health Occupations Investigator; Johnta Gray, Health Occupations Administrator; Ulysses Preston, Health Occupations Investigator; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore, Fiscal Administrator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Lee Nyguen, Database Specialist; Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing; Deborah Evans, Licensing Coordinator; Jean James, Social Work Supervisor; Brenda Neal, Social Worker; Kellie Peay, Administrative Assistant

Community Members: Susan Coppage, LCSW-C; Tawna Lee, LMSW; Gail Martin, retired SW; Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C & CE Sponsor; Rachel Doyle, LICSW

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kori Olszewski made a motion to approve the minutes for Open Session – November 14, 2025 – Jamie Wilson seconded the motion. Minutes approved with no changes.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Kevin Meenan welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members. Board meeting schedule for 2026 – hybrid schedule will continue – two virtual and one in-person. January will be first in-person meeting.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

The Maryland Department of Health (MDH) is actively working to ensure the Board's website is fully compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). Lee, Joey, and Karen have collaborated to utilize SharePoint, which serves as the primary platform for updating the website. Their efforts include systematically archiving and removing outdated or unnecessary materials, with a particular focus on reviewing and managing PDF documents hosted on the site.

An upcoming meeting is scheduled for December 18, where all Executive Directors from Health Occupation Boards will meet with the new MDH Secretary – Meena Seshamani, MD, Ph.D.

Recommendations for Board seats are being prepared for Senate approval through the Green Bag appointment process. Individuals interested in serving on the Board are encouraged to visit the Governor's Appointment Office website at <https://govappointments.maryland.gov/>.

Currently, there are two LCSW-C seats that will be open as of July 1, 2025. Leslie Iamperi and Kevin Meenan have elected not to apply for a second four-year term. Additionally, the Board continues to have vacancies for the LMSW and consumer member seats.

Efforts are underway to update Board forms to ensure accuracy and relevance for current operations. Drafts of the forms are in the Open Session folder on the shared Google Drive for Board Members to review. Board Members can send feedback to Marianne Graham. As forms are finalized, roll out of the new forms will be shared at upcoming Board Meetings.

Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing & Certification

Feedback received from supervisors indicate that Draft Supervision Contract and Supervision Verification Form can be confusing. Additionally, there was math on the form that really wasn't necessary. New form eliminates the percentages as it is not required by regulation. The new form can be used for all license levels – which was needed for the LBSWs and LMSWs who have Independent status and are able to provide supervision to other LBSWs and LMSWs.

The Licensing unit is also reviewing the Supervision Summary Sheet to make it more user friendly for the supervisee as well as the supervisor. Marianne asked that Board members provide any feedback as many are Board Approved Supervisors.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Daniels, Committee Chair

Meeting was held on December 13, 2025. Kevin Daniels was named as the Committee Chair and Stephen Liggett-Creel stepped up as the Committee Vice Chair. The Statute and Regulations Committee is very busy – particularly during the Legislative session.

The Board received a Petition to Amend COMAR 10.42.03.03 from a member of the public. It proposed making an amendment to allow permissive reporting for Social Workers when they are aware a client is an adult victim of domestic abuse or in support of an Extreme Risk Protective Order.

The Statute and Regulations committee had a robust discussion around the proposal. They also reviewed the response from the MD Board of Counselors as they were also petitioned to make the change. Some of the points discussed were:

- While empathetic to reasoning – there are reasons that the Board cannot support amendment.
For example,
 - Disregard client values towards independence
 - Does not require social workers to obtain consent
 - Supplants client's judgement for that of the social worker
 - Board does not have statutory authority to make such a change

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Kevin made motion to entire Board to accept the Committee's recommendation to send recommendation to the Secretary's office to NOT make the change to the regulations. Vote count – 9/0 in favor of the committee's recommendation.

Committee will meet in January with Lillian to discuss additional statutes and prepare for upcoming legislative session which starts January 14.

Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

Meeting – December 4, 2025. Committee discussion around 2025 random audit. HB 783 requires all Health Occupation practitioners to do one time training on Structural Racism. One time attestation at renewal time – like the Implicit Bias training. Effective on April 1, 2026. New Board Authorized Sponsors – no new applicants last month – currently have 10.

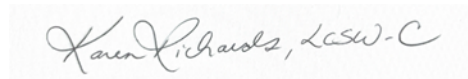
ADJOURNMENT

Kevin made a motion to close the meeting. Leslie seconded. Meeting was adjourned at 11:32 am.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Meenan, LCSW-C, Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director