

State of Maryland
Board of Social Work Examiners
Open Session Meeting
VIRTUAL
September 12, 2025
11:00 AM

CALL TO ORDER

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:52 AM. Virtual Session

ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA

No adjustments or additions were made to the agenda.

ATTENDANCE

Board: 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; 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; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore, Fiscal Administrator; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Jean James, Licensing; Lee Nyguen, Database Specialist; Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing

Community: Nicole Graner, LCSW, Community Behavioral Health Assoc. of MD; Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH Office of Secretary; Elisabet Martinez, University of MD SSW Cont. Ed.; Rachel Doyle, LICSW, Mat DeCarlo, PhD, MSW; Theresa Kelly, LCSW-C

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Leslie Iampieri, Secretary/Treasurer

A motion was made to approve the Minutes of the July 12, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes. It was seconded and unanimously approved.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Kevin Meenan, Chair

- Kevin Meenan welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members.

- Welcomed new Board Member – Dr. Kevin Daniels

Executive Director REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Social Work Compact Update
 - MD legislation effective October 1, 2025
 - Delaware just joined – 29 states in Compact
 - Compact Commission met on September 5, 2025
 - Open Public Session for comments on use of ASWB exam as the National Qualifying Exam – members voted yay on this proposal
 - Members met in closed session for presentations from two final vendors for the database
 - Final vote on vendor will occur at next meeting to be held November 5th
 - Hope is that national license is available in 2026 – more information after the November meeting
- Website updates
 - ADA Compliant by April 2026
 - Training and assistance from MDH IT Dept to assure all MDH sites are compliant
 - As we work on accessibility updates, we also will work on updating forms and making the website more user friendly
- Staff Updates
 - Three new Health Investigators – Jhonta Gray, Mary McLaughlin, and Adam Yates attended four-day John Reid Investigator training in Baltimore –
- Renewal Updates – **Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing & Certification**
 - 1258 who have renewed – July renewal numbers adjusted down
 - Don't wait until the last minute – approximately 8000 licensees renewing this year
 - Questions about renewal – send email to mdh.socialwork@maryland.gov
 - Phone calls can be harder to return
 - RapBack – audit completed – RapBack means you only have to fingerprints done once – if you agree to RapBack, we will get updates if there are changes to the Criminal History Record
 - If licensee does not want to participate in the RapBack – you have to let the Board know
 - If you have questions about fingerprinting or RapBack, please email the Board
 - If you OPT OUT of the RapBack, you will have to fingerprint at every renewal
 - Main number is 410-764-4788
- Update to Website – thank you to Ms. Doyle, public member, the Open Session will now be posted as a YouTube video on the Board Meeting webpage – starting with the July meeting.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Kevin Meenan, Committee Chair

- Committee met on 9/11/2025
 - 10.42.02 Social Work Practice
 - After public comment – a lot to review and discuss
 - Due to the breadth of comments, committee decided to withdraw and re-work regulation

- As a result of the significant public comments and concerns, committee voted to withdraw current proposal and re-work it for a future submission
- Kevin made the motion to withdraw the proposal and rework
- Shannon Webb seconded the motion
- Motion was approved by ten members present – motion carried

Continuing Education Committee

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

- August 4 – CE Sponsor Registration went live for the Maryland agencies and non-profits that employ MD Social Workers
- 8 registrations approved – 6 school districts; 1 MDH Health Department in Western MD; and 1 Non-profit
- Staff did a good job getting the information out and working to get the approvals out in a timely manner
- CE staff did presentation about the inner workings of the work they do every day in the CE unit
 - This was beneficial for new members of the CE committee
- CE committee is not meeting in September – next meeting October 30th

QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS

- After consultation with Board Legal Counsel, Kevin Meenan shared the following about public comments and attendance at Board meetings
- Per regulation 10.01.14.02:
 - *Except in instances when a public body expressly invites public testimony, questions, comments, or other forms of public participation, or when public participation is otherwise authorized by law, a member of the public attending an open session may not participate in the session.*
- There were questions leading up to the meeting; however, additional time is needed to respond
 - Board meets once per month
 - Please keep sending in questions – the Board will respond – just understand that it takes time to formulate an appropriate response

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

- At 11:27 am, Kevin Meenan made a motion to adjourn the open session and it was seconded by Jamie Wilson.



Kevin Meenan, LCSW-C
Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C
Executive Director, BSWE