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

<u>Board</u>: Kevin Meenan, Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Leslie lampieri, 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

<u>Board Staff:</u> 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

<u>Community:</u> 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 lampieri, 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
 - o ADA Compliant by April 2026
 - o 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 Johnta Gray, Mary McLaughlin, and Adam Yates attended four-day John Reid Investigator training in Baltimore –
- Renewal Updates Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing & Certification
 - o 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
 - o If you OPT OUT of the RapBack, you will have to fingerprint at every renewal
 - o 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
 - o 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
- o 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
 - o 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