



**OPEN SESSION MINUTES**  
**April 10, 2026**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Kevin Meenan called the meeting to order at 11:11am.

**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 (absent); Shannon Webb, Board Member; Tonya Hill, Board Member; Barbara Tunstall, Consumer Board Member

**Board Staff:** Karen Richards, Executive Director; Kara Brooks-Tyson, Director of Compliance; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Joey Orlandi, CE Coordinator; Mary McLaughlin, Health Occupations Investigator; Johnta Gray, Health Occupations Administrator; Ulysses Preston, Health Occupations Investigator; Jacqueline Monroe-Moore, Fiscal Administrator; Lee Nyguen, Database Specialist; Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing; Jean James, Licensing SW Supervisor; Brenda Neal, Licensing Social Worker; Kellie Peay, Administrative Assistant

**Community Members:** Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C & CE Sponsor; Gail Martin, Pikesville, MD

**Approval of Minutes:**

February 13, 2026, Open Session Minutes: Kevin Meenan motioned to approve the minutes, which Jamie Wilson seconded, and the motion passed.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

**Kevin Meenan, Board Chair**

- Kevin Meenan welcomed Board members, staff and guest to the April Open Session.
- Reminded Board members to check Board email regularly – several Case Resolution Conferences which require 2 Board members to attend – Kara sends out email requests – please sign up

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Karen Richards, Executive Director**

- Staffing
  - A new health occupation investigator is scheduled to begin on April 29th.
- An all-staff workshop was held on March 20, 2024, focused on adapting to workplace changes and utilizing new technology.
- Efforts are underway to make the board's website more user-friendly and compliant with federal ADA regulations – thank you to staff members Lee and Joey
- The board managed 201 new complaints for 2025 and is on track to exceed that number in 2026, averaging 17 to 23 new cases per month.
  - Thank you to the Board members for taking the time to read and review the cases to make the important decisions needed regarding social workers' licenses and livelihoods

**Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing & Certification:**

- Updated Forms: New supervision verification and contractual agreement forms for LCSWC and bachelor's level candidates will be rolled out in May 2026.

**Statutes and Regulations Subcommittee:**

**Kevin Daniels, Committee Chair**

- Subgroup looking at the Independent/Private practice regulation change met on April 6 and made recommendation for the Stats and Regs committee
- Stats and Regs meeting rescheduled to April 29
- The committee reviewed 13 pieces of pending legislation and plans to provide a full report at the May meeting.

**Continuing Education Committee:**

**Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair**

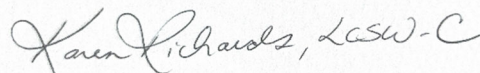
- Met on March 18, 2026
- Structural Racism Requirement for renewals: a one-time legislative requirement per House Bill 783 (Chapter 478) a Structural Racism training for renewals. This is added to the Implicit Bias training already required. These are one-time only training courses that are required of ALL health occupation license holders.
- Go to the MD Minority Health and Health Disparities website for more details: [MHHD Structural Racism and Implicit Bias resources](#)

**Questions:** Kevin Meenan reiterated that members of the public should email any questions for future open sessions to the board in advance so that time can be allocated for them on the agenda.

- A public inquiry raised concerns regarding candidates who narrowly miss passing the ASWB exam and requested information about alternative pathways to licensure.
- The board discussed SB118 and HB769, which propose a provisional license allowing candidates to become licensed right after graduation without taking the exam. This will allow practice for up to two years before having to pass the licensing exam to become fully licensed.

Kevin Meenan made a motion to adjourn the open session, which was seconded and approved – session ended at 11:31am.

Respectfully submitted,



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**Kevin Meenan, LCSW-C, Board Chair**

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**Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director**