



MARYLAND Department of Health

MARYLAND BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS

4201 Patterson Avenue,
Baltimore, Maryland 21215

Website: <http://www.health.maryland.gov/bswe>

Phone Number: 410-764-4788

Toll Free: 1-877-526-2541

Fax: 410-358-2469

OPEN SESSION MINUTES February 13, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

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

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Kevin Meenan, Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas (absent), 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 (absent, 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; 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; Brenda Neal, Social Worker; Kellie Peay, Administrative Assistant

Community Members: Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C & CE Sponsor; Rachel Doyle, LICSW; Meghan Co, LICSW, LCSW-C, BAS; Elisabet Martinez, LCSW-C, UMSSW CPE; Gail Martin, Pikesville MD; Tawna Lee, LMSW, LICSW; Meredith Phillips-Woodard, LCSW-C, Tidal Health

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Kevin Meenan made a motion to approve the minutes for January Open Session – no changes. Jamie Wilson seconded and full Board approved.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

- Kevin Meenan welcomed members of the public, staff, and Board members.
- Kevin Meenan reported that the month had been very busy, particularly with the legislative session, noting that Lillian assists in advising the board on materials that require review.
- The chair attended a health subcommittee hearing on January 27th with Karen Richards, where they presented the work of the board staff, which was well received without any questions.
- They also reported that board representatives spent approximately six hours at the Senate Finance Committee providing oral testimony for Senate Bill 18, and they are working towards an agreement regarding the bill, with a hearing for the cross-House bill forthcoming.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

- **Report on Processing Times and Legislative Audit Follow-up:**
 - Karen Richards reported that the board is currently well within the 60-day target for approving licensure applications, noting that the average processing time for approval for the LCSW-C exam was 56 days for calendar year 2025.

- Average time for full licensure, including the exam and fee payment by the applicant, was 106 days.
- The licensing unit is fully staffed and complaints about licensing processing times have significantly decreased.
- Karen Richards and Kara Brooks-Tyson met with staff from Department of Budget & Management (DBM) regarding the 2019-2023 legislative audit and reported significant progress in clearing the backlog of compliance cases, which are now all assigned for investigation thanks to the compliance unit staff.
- **Updates on Staffing and Social Work Compact:**
 - The board is currently down one health occupation investigator: interviews for the position are about to begin.
 - Update on the social work compact, noting that it now involves 30 states, with the hope that an initial license will be issued by the spring or summer of 2026, and updates will continue to be posted on the website.
- **Active licenses in Maryland as of February 6, 2026:**
 - 20,339 total
 - 13,966 - LCSW-Cs.
- **Multifactor Authentication:**
 - Board members must check email and update mandatory multifactor authentication, which must be completed by the upcoming weekend.
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COMMITTEE REPORTS

Statutes and Regulations Committee

Stephen Ligget -Creel, Committee Chair

- Stats and Regs committee met on January 8, 2026.
- The subcommittee reviewed and discussed common feedback and themes from registered public comments concerning the COMAR adjustments for 10.42.06 – Independent Practice
- The next steps involve scheduling a follow-up meeting and creating an action plan to introduce new proposed regulations.
- Legislative priorities discussed with upcoming Legislative Session starting soon.

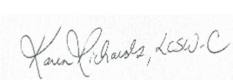
Continuing Education Committee

- No report this month.

ADJOURNMENT

- The board received no requests for public comments.
- Kevin reminded public members to submit questions via email and if time allows, the Board will respond at the next Open Session or via email
- Kevin made a motion to close the meeting at 11:21 a.m. Motion seconded and approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Meenan, LCSW-C, Board Chair

Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director