



MARYLAND Department of Health

Board of Social Work Examiners
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[MD Board of Social Work Website](#)

OPEN SESSION MINUTES July 10, 2026

Jamie Willson called the meeting to order at 11:03am. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Jamie Wilson, Chair; Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Kori Olszewski, Board Secretary/Treasurer; Stephen Liggett-Creel, Board Member; Kevin Daniels, Board Member; Kara Frome, Board Member; Heather Garner, Board Member; 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; Joey Orlandi, CE Coordinator; Stacie Rigby CE Coordinator; Mary McLaughlin, Health Occupations Investigator; Johnita Gray, Health Occupations Administrator; Ulysses Preston, Health Occupations Investigator; Samuel Mitchell, Health Occupations Investigator; Lee Nyguen, Database Specialist; Brenda Neal, Licensing Social Worker; Glendia Cook, Licensing Coordinator; Jean James, Licensing SW Supervisor; Marianne Graham, Licensing Director; Kellie Peay, Administrative Assistant

Community Members: Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C & CE Sponsor

Approval of Minutes: The board approved the minutes from the June 2026 open session.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Jamie Wilson, Board Chair

- Jamie introduced herself to the board, highlighting her seven-year tenure as a board member, her background as a Licensed Clinical Social Worker, and their professional experience leading a Human Resources department at a nonprofit.
- Two new board members, Heather Gardner and Frome, were introduced to the board.
 - Heather Gardner (Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical) noted 20 years of experience in social work, ranging from crisis intervention to private practice.
 - Kara Frome (Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical) also noted 20 years of experience, including work at the University of Maryland College Park counseling center and Holy Cross Hospital.
- The seat for a customer member remains vacant, and the board is working to fill it. Regarding committee assignments, Heather Gardner will join the Disciplinary Committee (DCRC), and Kara Frome will join the Continuing Education (CE) committee.
- Jamie outlined expectations for the upcoming year, stressing the necessity of punctuality for meeting start times at 11:00 AM and the importance of consistent attendance at monthly board meetings. Furthermore, members were urged to prioritize attendance at their respective committee meetings to ensure the board can conduct business and support the staff effectively, particularly during busy legislative sessions.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Licensing Renewal Online Portal opens July 15 for 2026 renewals
 - IT recently updated to make ADA accessible and to allow for mobile friendly version
- On June 30, presented to “Social Work and Law” virtual class at University of Maryland School of Social Work class on covering the licensure overview, the discipline unit, and the social work practice act. Plan to do an in-person presentation in the fall.
- Regulation Change – Fee Schedule: The board voted to approve a change to the fee schedule regarding the Maryland Health Care Commission (MHCC) fee. The update mandates that Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSW) are no longer exempt from the \$26 MHCC fee
 - Jamie Wilson called for vote on proposed regulation change
 - The board voted 10 to 0 to accept proposed change to 10.42.05.02 and 10.42.05.04
- As of July 6, the board reported the following active license counts: 412 Licensed Baccalaureate Social Workers (LBSW), 5,955 Licensed Master Social Workers (LMSW), 269 Certified Social Workers (CSW), and 14,517 Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical (LCSW-C), for a total of 21,160 active licenses
- Staff Retreat and Newsletter: A staff retreat is scheduled for July 17, and the offices will be closed on that date. Additionally, thank you to retired social worker – Gail Martin for submitting an article for the monthly digital newsletter regarding Licensed Baccalaureate Social Worker independent status.

Statutes and Regulations Subcommittee:

Kevin Daniels, Committee Chair

- Committee met on July 9th
- Sub-committee focused on drafting regulations for a new provisional license met on July 6th

Continuing Education Committee:

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

- Committee met on June 16th
- Vote called to approve changes to regulation 10.31.03 to standardize Continuing Education requirements across all 20 health occupation boards. This regulation change will be in the General Health Occupation articles and will apply to all Health Occupation Boards including social work
 - Board voted 10 to 0 to approve the proposed changes
- Staff is working on implementing internal audit processes for the annual CE Audit – following the model used by the Physical Therapy board
- CE Committee chair and Gail Wowk, Director of CE continue to provide outreach to local universities and social work programs that offer continuing education courses.

One public question was received prior to the meeting. This question was routed to appropriate staff and answered directly. No other public questions submitted in advance of the meeting.

The open session was adjourned at 11:24 a.m., with the board scheduled to reconvene for an administrative session at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Jamie Wilson, LCSW-C, Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director