



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
May 8, 2026

CALL TO ORDER

Kevin Meenan called the meeting to order at 11:11am. There were no adjustments to the agenda.

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; Shannon Webb, Board Member; Tonya Hill (absent), 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; Mary McLaughlin, Health Occupations Investigator; Johnta Gray, Health Occupations Administrator; Ulysses Preston, Health Occupations Investigator; Samuel Mitchell, Health Occupations Investigator; Lee Nyguen, Database Specialist; Marianne Graham, Director of Licensing; Jean James, Licensing SW Supervisor; Pamela Price-Murray, Licensing Coordinator; Deborah Evans, Licensing Coordinator; Brenda Neal, Licensing Social Worker; Kellie Peay, Administrative Assistant

Community Members: Bracha Poliakoff, LCSW-C; Will Doyle, LICSW; Rachel Doyle, LICSW; Karen Wilson, LMSW

Approval of Minutes:

April 10, 2026, Open Session Minutes: Jamie Wilson made a motion to approve the April minutes, Shannon Webb seconded and the minutes were approved.

BOARD CHAIR REPORT

Kevin Meenan, Board Chair

- Kevin Meenan welcomed Board members, staff and guest to the May Open Session
- Discussion of Regulatory changes to 10.42.02, 10.42.05, and 10.42.06
 - Subgroup which included Gisele Ferrato from University of MD School of Social Work and Karessa Proctor from NASW-MD met several times to discuss prior changes and public comments received on Maryland Register – met on January 6, February 9, March 9 and April 6, 2026
 - There were several public comments about the use of “non-clinical” in the original proposal
 - Recommendation was to make more minor changes – remove use of non-clinical and expand language in Code of Ethics regulation around how an LMSW can promote themselves
 - A second recommendation was to remove larger section on private practice as regulations already have private practice defined
 - Proposed regulation changes were in Open Session Google Drive folder for Board Members to review
- Stephen Liggett-Creel made a motion to approve regulation changes, Shannon Webb seconded and the motion carried

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Karen Richards, Executive Director

- Staffing

- o New Health Occupations Investigator introduced – Samuel Mitchell
 - Started April 29 – experience as police officer, working at DSS and
- The licensing portal for renewals is scheduled to open on July 15, 2026
- Board Member 2025 attendance report due to Governor's Appointment Office on May 29
 - o Board members need to verify attendance on sheet sent out by ED
- Please refer any LMSWs who might be interested in serving to the Governor's Appointment office – this seat is still vacant
- Social Work Compact – full Commission meeting on June 10
 - o Members of the public are encouraged to attend and submit public comments via the Social Work Compact website
 - [Social Work Compact Information](#)
 - o No multi-state licenses have been issued to date
 - 1st seven states to join will roll out first with multi-state licenses
 - No definite time frame
 - o Board website, digital newsletter, and emails will provide updates when we have them
- As of May 4th, 2026, there are 20,703 total active licenses
 - o 408 Licensed Bachelor Social Workers
 - o 5,712 Licensed Master Social Workers
 - o 272 Licensed Clinical Social Workers
 - o 14,312 Licensed Clinical Social Worker-Clinical practitioners

Jean James, Licensing Social Work Supervisor:

- ASWB Conference: attending the Association of Social Work Boards education conference held from April 16th to April 18th conference theme was "Social Work Supervision is a Superpower"
 - o Participated in Administrators Forum and exchanged ideas regarding jurisdiction operations, supervision impacts, and growth strategies
 - o Obtained many takeaways around supervision that she will be sharing with Board staff and members

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison

- HB 557 – Criminal History Pre-Determination – passed – effective July 1, 2026
- SB 18/HB 769 – Provisional License – passed – effective April 28th
- HB 771 – Human Trafficking Awareness Training – effective June 1 – not a mandated training but the law is saying that the Boards must put in regulation that if it is taken – it will count towards CEUs
 - o She is working with regulations office and legislative coordinators to make a change to COMAR 10.31 – Health Occupation Articles
 - Easier to do under general health articles to avoid changing each individual boards' regulations
 - Should be ready by late summer for all boards to review
- HB119/SB 874 Scope of Practice – did not pass – will come back next session
- HB1325/SB522 – LCSW-Cs being able to evaluate for Workman's Comp – did not pass
- HB1372 – MD Health Centralization Commission – effective when Governor signs – impacts all of the Health Occupation Boards – purpose is to look at improve collaboration with MDH among boards
- Lillian asked to clarify the Board's vote on the proposed regulation changes voted on earlier
 - o Kevin called a second vote to clarify the sections that have the proposed changes – 10.42.02, 10.42.03.03 and 10.42.03.06
 - o Jamie Willson made a motion to accept the changes
 - o Stephen Liggett-Creel seconded the motion, and it passed unanimously
- Lillian will complete paperwork to send to Karen and Joshua for signatures

- o She will sign off and send to the MDH regulations office downtown, need Secretary to sign off
- o Once signed off by the Secretary, it will go to Governor's office and AELR committee for review
- o Once approved by AELR, it is posted in Maryland Register for public comments

Statutes and Regulations Subcommittee:

Kevin Daniels, Committee Chair

- Met on April 29th
- Review of legislative bills
- Discussion and moving sub-group recommendations forward
- Next meeting is May 14th

Continuing Education Committee:

Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair

- Met on March 18
- Structural Racism requirement discussion
 - o Licensees will attest to taking one time requirement at end of renewal application
 - o Email sent to licensees and Board Authorized Sponsors
 - o MDDH website has seven sponsors listed
 - o Licensees can take a 3 credit Category I training on Structural Racism from a Board Authorized Sponsor that would satisfy the one-time requirement AND the Anti-Oppressive CEU requirement
 - o Information added to FAQs on the Board website

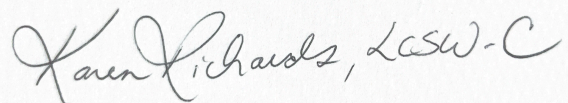
No public questions submitted in advance of the meeting.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Kevin Meenan, LCSW-C, Board Chair



Karen Richards, LCSW-C, Executive Director