Maryland State Board of Examiners of Psychologists Open Meeting Minutes –September 11, 2026

The 739th Open Meeting of the Maryland Board of Examiners of Psychologists was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Trent Evans, Ph.D.

Board Members Present
LaKeita Deneen Carter, Psy.D.
Matthew Edelstein, Psy.D.
Chenere Evans, Psy.D.
Lisa Greene Henderson, Psy.D.
Braxton Carl Street, Public Member
Mackenzie Sommerhalder, Ph.D.

Absent
Li Ying Kathy Diao, MA, MPH Public Member

Board Staff
Tamika Davis, Licensing Coordinator, Deputy Director
Patricia Morris English, MS, Investigator
Erin Turner, Administrative Aide
Patricia Bennett, Administrator
Brett Felter, J.D., AAG, Board Counsel
Lillian Reese, Legislative Liaison/Regulations Coordinator

Public
Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH
Laurie Donze, MPA

The Board meeting was held via teleconference.

A. Minutes

Minutes of the Open Meeting held on June 26, 2026, were reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and a vote was called to accept the minutes with changes: For- 6: Abstentions – 0

B. Announcements

The list of registrants for the Jurisprudence exams in June, July, August, and September 2026 was reviewed. A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to approve.

Lillian Reese provided a legislative update on the regulatory package for COMAR 10.31.03 General Continuing Education Requirements. Twenty Health Occupations Boards have approved the proposal, which has been submitted to the Governor's office for review and approval. Once signed, it will be submitted to the AELR Committee and published in the October 30 Maryland Register for a 30-day public comment period.

The proposed regulations implement the following legislation:

· Implicit bias and structural racism training programs pursuant to HB 783 Health Occupations - Implicit Bias and Structural Racism Training (2025)
· Human trafficking awareness training pursuant to HB 771 Health Occupations - Human Trafficking Awareness Training (2026)
· Training on women's health conditions pursuant to HB 1365 Health Occupations, Public Health, and Insurance - Menopause - Provider Training Coverage Requirements, Policy Initiatives, and Access to Care and HB 1118 Health, Health Insurance, and Health Occupations - Perinatal Behavioral Health Conditions

Dr. T. Evans welcomed new board members; Mackenzie Sommerhalder, PhD., Lisa Greene Henderson, Psy.D and Braxton Carl Street.

Dr. T. Evans provided several updates regarding the Association of State and Provincial Psychology Boards (ASPPB):

- ASPPB Open Board Meeting & EPPP Transition: On August 5, 2026, Board members Drs. T. Evans, C Evans, and Carter, along with staff, attended the ASPPB Open Board meeting. Key takeaways regarding the transition from EPPP Part 1 & Part 2 to the EPPP Integrated exam include:

  - Beta testing will be available from March to April 2027 for $100, with scores released in late June 2027.
  - The Board will discuss at a later date whether these scores will be accepted.

- Candidate Registration Portal Migration: ASPPB is transitioning to a new EPPP candidate registration portal. A blackout period is scheduled from September 24 through September 29, 2026. During this window, candidate scheduling and access to Certemy will be unavailable as all stored data is migrated to Clarus.

- ASPPB Annual Meeting: The annual meeting is scheduled for October 14–18, 2026, in Reno, Nevada.

- PSYHub Access: All Board members have been assigned a PSYHub account granting system access.

Dr. Edelstein announced that he was selected as a member of the ASPPB AI Task Force. Artificial intelligence is increasingly being utilized in psychology as an administrative tool. The primary responsibility of the task force is to gather evidence and evaluate how AI can be safely and ethically implemented.

Dr. T. Evans announced the Open Meetings Act training requirement, noting that at least one board member must complete the training provided by the Office of the Attorney General regarding closed sessions. Dr. Greene-Henderson and Mr. Street volunteered to complete the training.

Ms. Bennett announced the Executive Director's vacancy has selected a candidate. Human Resources is in the salary negotiating process.
Budgeting and Financial Updates

- FY 2026 Appropriation: $1,361,831.
- FY 2026 Carryover: $1,819,399 rolled over to FY 2027.
- Behavioral Health Transfers:
  - FY 2025: $465,315 transferred from Psychology's Special Fund to Behavioral Health.
  - FY 2026: $588,761 transferred from Psychology's Special Fund to Behavioral Health.
- FY 2028 Proposed Budget Allocations:
  - Board Member Training: $64,000
  - Staff Training: $5,000
  - Special Projects (Digitization): $400,000
- JCR Report: Due in December 2026. The required report will outline how the loss of funds impacted Board operations.

Dr. T. Evans proposed restructuring the committees.

Previous Committees:

- Licensing
- Legislative and Regulation
- Disciplinary
- Public Relations

Proposed Committees:

- Operations and Management
- Licensure and Disciplinary
- Communications
- Legislation and Regulation
- Executive

After discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to proceed with the committee restructure as outlined.

Dr. T. Evans announced that applications denied at the staff level under the previous executive director will be reviewed by the Licensure and Disciplinary Committee. All pending applications will undergo an initial review, followed by a review of all previously denied applications.

Public Comment

Dr. Donze inquired about which law exam candidates were approved to sit for the Jurisprudence

exam.

Approved candidate lists were dated June, July, August, and September.

Requested to repeat COMAR 10.31.03 General Continuing Education Requirements (Health Occupations Boards). This continuing education requirement applies to all boards and has been voted on and forwarded to the Governor for review and approval.

Dr. Donze announced that MPA is preparing to offer courses on structural racism.

Mr. Felter defined under the Open Meetings Act, outlining specific topics permissible for discussion in closed session.

What is a quorum

It's the minimum number of board members required to be present at a meeting to validate session

Administrative Session/Adjournment

A motion was made, seconded, and unanimously carried to enter a closed session to discuss Board matters and consult with Counsel. The open meeting was closed at 10:02 a.m. Unless they were recused, those attending the open session remained for the Administrative session.