

**State of Maryland**  
**Board of Social Work Examiners**  
**Open Session Meeting**  
**December 8, 2023**  
**10:30 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

The Open Session was called to Order at 10:36 AM

**ADJUSTMENTS AND ADDITIONS TO THE AGENDA**

A motion was made to edit the agenda. It was seconded.

- Lillian Reese will give a Legislative Report after the report from Kara Brooks-Tyson, Acting Executive Director.

**ATTENDANCE**

Board: Adrienne K. Ekas, Vice Chair; Jamie Wilson, Board Secretary/Treasurer; Leslie Lampieri, Board Member; Kevin Meenan, Board Member; Kori Olchezweski, Board Member; Allyson Stanton, Board Member; David Goldman, Board Member.

Board Staff: Kristen Fon Lim, Board Counsel; Kara Brooks-Tyson, Acting Executive Director; Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education; Stacie Rigby, Continuing Education Associate; Wanda Franklin, Continuing Education Associate; Marianne Graham, Social Work Supervisor; Linda Beyer, Fiscal Officer;

MDH Staff: Zakiyyah Holmes, MDH-Office of the Secretary; Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations Coordinator; Kimberly Link, Senior Advisor for Health Boards

Community: Shannon Webb, Social Worker.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Jamie Wilson, Secretary/Treasurer**

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the November 17, 2023 Board meeting minutes. It was seconded and unanimously approved. A modification was made to add Maria Cole, Board Member, as an attendee.

**BOARD CHAIR REPORT**

**Adrienne Ekas, Vice Chair**

- Adrienne Ekas welcomed everyone to the open session meeting and asked if anyone had any adjustments or additions to the meeting agenda. None were proposed.
- She reported that the Board is meeting with 2 candidates for 30 minutes with each candidate for the second interview in the administrative meeting being held at 12:30pm today for the Executive Director position. The Board will vote today after the presentations.

- The next Board meeting will be in person at the same location on Friday, January 12, 2024.

#### **ACTING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

**Kara Brooks-Tyson, Acting  
Executive Director**

- Interviews have been completed for the Fiscal position. Gail Wowk, Director of Continuing Education, was the chair for the hiring committee and will complete the necessary HR documents, calls to referrals, and follow up.
- Paperwork has been submitted for 2 Investigator positions and an Administrative Aide position will be presented to Human Resources soon.

#### **LEGISLATIVE REPORT**

**Lillian Reese, Legislative and Regulations  
Coordinator**

- Lillian Reese announced that Continuing Education Requirement Regulation 10.42.06 had final print documented in the Maryland Register and will go into effect on Monday, December 11, 2023.
- She also announced that the Legislative Open Session begins Wednesday, January 10, 2024. There will be 2 bills discussed, the Sunset Bill and the Cleanup Bill. She has sponsors for the Cleanup Bill. She does not need sponsors for the Sunset Bill because it is a departmental bill. The Cleanup bill will comprise of adding LMSW Independent Practice candidates and deleting the CLSW references where appropriate. There will be a representative from the Board in attendance at the hearings and someone will need to testify at each Bill Hearing.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

##### **Statutes and Regulations Committee**

**Maria Cole, Committee Chair**

- No report this month.

##### **Continuing Education Committee**

**Adrienne Ekas, Committee Chair**

- Adrienne reported that the new Continuing Education Requirements states that 3 of the required Category I continuing education units shall have anti-oppressive social work practice content focusing on race, culture, or equity. The Board will review the cycles of renewal to give licensees time to choose a training prior to renewal.
- The next Committee meeting will be held on January 18, 2024. They plan to go over procedures and processes that will alert the public about the new requirements and when the requirements will go into effect.

#### **QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS**

- The question was asked to give an update on the work group meetings on the licensing exam. Adrienne Ekas and Kara Brooks-Tyson attended the third meeting that was held on Tuesday, December 5, 2023.

The work group wants an alternative to the exam. They are hoping to have a report by December 31, 2023. The meetings are open to the public and a legislative link can be provided. Kara Brooks-Tyson provided Samuel Paul with information, and he presented an overview on the licensure history which included grandfathering of licensees; when the clinical exam began; and CEUs needed for each license. The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, December 19, 2023. There will most likely be a bill coming related to this.

- NASW National is supporting eliminating exams for LBSW and LMSW. There is no information stating this in writing to date.
- Gail Wowk reiterated that the Continuing Education committee plans to look at the cycles of renewal to give everyone time to choose a training and that the committee is planning to send a message out to the public.

### ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION

- A motion was made to adjourn the open session at 10:50 AM and seconded.



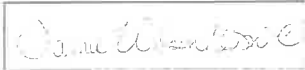
01/17/2024

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Susan Coppage, LCSW-C  
Board Chair

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Date



01/17/2024

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Jamie Wilson, LCSW-C  
Secretary/ Treasurer

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Date