

**State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners**



**Open Session Minutes  
April 3, 2020, 10:33 AM  
Teleconference Board Meeting**

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**Board Members: Via Telephone Call-In**

Sherryl Silberman	Professional Member, Chair
Wrenn Skidmore	Professional Member, Vice Chair
Karen Richards	Professional Member, Secretary/Treasurer
Letha Moszer	Professional Member
Donald J. List	Professional Member
Gerard Farrell	Consumer Member
Jamie Wilson	Professional Member
Sondra G. Petty	Professional Member
Barbara Gassaway	Consumer Member
Susan P. Coppage	Professional Member
April A. Cockrell	Professional Member
Martin P. Schnuit	Professional Member

<b>Board Staff:</b> Stanley E. Weinstein	Executive Director
Rhonda Edwards	OAG, Board Counsel
Kara Brooks-Tyson	Director of Compliance and Investigations
Donna Ridgell	Administrative Aide
Lillian Reese	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Gail Wowk	Director of Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Director, Certification and Licensing Unit
Tyrone Willoughby	Board Social Work Supervisor
Earnest Ford Sr.	Board Investigator
Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate

**Guest:**

Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW-MD Chapter
Giselle Ferrretto	University of Maryland

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Open Session was called to order at 10:33 am. by Board Chair Sherryl Silberman

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Minutes of February Minutes – approved unanimously

## **ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

## **BOARD CHAIR**

**Sherryl Silberman**

- Sherryl Silberman shared with the Board Happy Social Work Month!
- Sherryl Silberman opened the meeting by acknowledging graduate students from several Maryland Universities, NASW and the social work community.
- Board members shared some of the ways the COVID-19 has affected their profession.
  - Several police officers who have contracted the virus are in quarantine which has caused many shift changes as well as redirecting officers to other locations. State courts are closed, and court hearings are being conducted via teleconference.
  - Hospitals are seeing a large increase in substance abuse
  - There are still some substance abuse and mental health facilities that are still accepting inpatient clients.
  - Students are feeling the impact by not being able to complete their field placements, a lot of uncertainty regarding academic courses, how they can serve their communities, etc.
- Sherryl Silberman informed the Board that the ASWB Education Conference was postponed and is being combined with the 2020 Annual Meeting of the Delegate Assembly held on November 19-21, 2020, in Scottsdale Arizona.
- Nominations and election of Board officers were briefly discussed
- A reminder that financial disclosures are due on April 30, 2020. As of today, the State Ethics Commission has not extended the deadline.
- Sherryl Silberman opened the floor for questions and concerns from the public: some concerns are as follows:
  - Gloria Jean Hammel, suggested that the Board should consider allowing graduate students to practice social work temporarily without a license, postponing the exam and getting fingerprinted.
  - Graduate students are concerned about not being able to take the exam due to the closing of the Pearson testing sites.
  - Other concerns were the inability to complete field placement hours etc
- The Board acknowledged the concerns of the students and the social work community. However, these issues are more complex and will require further discussion with legal counsel. At this time the Board is unable to make a final decision. The Board will hold an emergency close session to

discuss how to move forward and what the Board's options are while remaining in compliance with the Governor's Executive Order.

- The Board will send out an email blast updating the public with its findings and solutions.

#### **Executive Director**

**Stanley Weinstein**

- Stanley Weinstein informed the Board that the Governor has appointed 3 new Board members. The start date has not been issued due to the COVID-19. Until the new Board members have been sworn in and given a start date. The current Board members who terms end on 6/30/2020 can continue to serve until replaced.
- The Board has received numerous calls and emails from out of state social workers requesting to provide teletherapy to their clients residing in the State of Maryland. A discussion was held to approve a new application allowing out of state social workers to practice temporarily during the COVID pandemic. This Board's application fee would be waived.
- Stanley Weinstein informed the Board that the General Assembly ended its session on March 18<sup>th</sup> due to the COVID -19 virus. Therefore, several bills were not heard.
- Lillian Reese provided a summary of 2020 legislative bills that passed.
- Reminder the 2020 Spring News Letter was discussed. Articles need to be submitted to Gail Wowk by May 6, 2020

#### **ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSION**

- A motion was made to close the Open Session at 12:15 pm

#### **Statute and Regulations Committee**

**Wrenn Skidmore, Chair**

The Statute and Regulations Committee will be meeting on next Monday, April 6, 2020

#### **Continuing Education Committee**

**Karen Richards, Chair**

A summary of February and March CEU Committee Meetings were discussed. University of Maryland School of Social Work Continuing Education Office presented a new training for the Committee's consideration and discussed CE issues. In addition a presentation was made by the Board Counsel on current CEU Regulations and the Committee's authority to implement those Regulations.

**Ex:** Focus on licensee that refused to sign the PCCO or LOA with (conditions) within the designated time frame.

**Note:** Once the Board votes and charges the licensee they will be flagged and noted in the licensee database.

The next Continuing Education Meeting will be held on April 17, 2020

**Licensing Review Committee**

**Sherryl Silberman**

The Licensing Review Committee reviewed 11 cases on March 6, 2020. The committee will be meeting monthly.

**Note: The Board held an Emergency Close Session Meeting to further discuss the concerns from the public during the morning open session meeting**

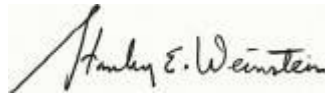
**ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSSION**

The Open Session reconvened at 2:00 pm and adjourned at 3:00 PM



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**Karen Richards, LCSW-C**  
**Board Secretary/Treasurer**

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09/14/2020  
**Date**



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**Stanley E. Weinstein, Ph.D., LCSW-C**  
**Executive Director**

\_\_\_\_\_  
09/14/2020  
**Date**