

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



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

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

Gerard Farrell	Consumer Member, Chair
Karen Richards	Professional Member, Vice Chair
Donald J. List	Professional Member, Secretary/Treasure
Sherryl Silberman	Professional Member
Wrenn Skidmore	Professional Member
Letha Moszer	Professional Member
Maria Cole	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 (absent)
	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 (absent)
	Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate

<b>Guest:</b>	Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW-MD Chapter
	Brittany Dukes	NASW – MD Chapter

## **CALL TO ORDER:**

The Open Session was called to order at 10:30 am. by the new Board Chair Gerard Farrell

## **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

June 12, 2020 Board Minutes - approved

## **ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA**

None

## **BOARD CHAIR**

**Gerard Farrell**

- Donald List, Board Secretary/Treasurer was asked to conduct the roll call of all Board Members. 20 Guest attendees included Daphne McClellan, Executive Director and Brittany Dukes both members of the NASW – Maryland Chapter.
- Gerard Farrell introduced himself as the new Board Chair.
- Mr. Farrell acknowledges Governors Larry Hogan’s new appointee to the Board, Maria Cole, LMSW who resides in Howard County, Maryland. Maria Cole first official date will begin on August 14, 2020. Marie Cole shared with the Board that she is currently employed at the Shady Grove Adventist Medical Center located in Montgomery County. She is currently working on her Ph.D. in Public Policy.
- Gerard Farrell gives a special shout out and appreciation to Sherryl Silberman for her dedication, leadership, guidance and attention to detail as Board Chair. Her many accomplishments that help moved the Board forward in several areas especially during the beginning staged of the COVID-19 pandemic. Sherryl Silberman’s generous support and assistance as Mr. Farrell transition into his new role as Board Chair.
- Opening remarks was shared by Gerard Farrell which included topics such as “ Where Are We Heading” :
  - a) Economic Recession
  - b) Social and Racial Tension and how it impacts the Social Work profession
  - c) The Board continues to operate under the Governors guidelines with the possibly of a renewal extension for licensees.
  - d) Transitioning to teletherapy as well as virtual meeting
  - e) Growing addictions such as alcohol, drug, opium addictions which will require more mental health assistance.
- In addition, Gerard Farrell shared that the future is uncertain, change is coming-change is hard but is almost always good and finally, the most important role of the Board is to always to protect the public and will continue to be a constant”.
- Gerard Farrell shared upcoming goals of the Board which included:
  - a) Getting the Strategic Planning process back on track to improve the Boards operation and function

- b) Good news is that the citizens of Maryland is represented by a dedicated and passionate Board members and staff who goal is and will continually be to protect the public
  - c) The Board and staff members have ensured that licensees hold the highest standard of the Social Work profession.
- Gerard Farrell announced the newly appointed Committee Chairs effected August 14, 2020

Statute & Regulations Committee Chair – Sondra Petty  
 Continuing Education Committee Chair - Karen Richards  
 Disciplinary Case Review Committee Chair - Susan Coppage

It was noted that all board members should have received their assignments on this week. Gerard Farrell requested to be apprised of all committee meetings as he will be an ex officio off all committee meetings.

- A review of policies and procedures was proposed by Gerard Farrell in light of current events across the nation. In particular Cultural sensitivity – to ensure there is no bias of any kind whether gender, ethnic, minority, race, arrest records etc. especially when sanctioning complaints. Mr. Farrell would like to explore the option of Morgan State University School of Social Work taking the lead on reviewing the policy and procedure review. A vote was held to ask Morgan State to review the policy and procedures.
- Revisiting the Client Satisfactory Survey was suggested to determine how the Board serve our social work community as well as the public. To get feedback on the quality of service provided. A survey is currently listed on the Board’s website which requires some tweaking once the renewal cycle is over. The question was asked who could analyze the data. Maria Cole, new Board member requested to be a part of the team as she has experience analyzing client survey data.
- Gerard Farrell shared at question that was presented at the Disciplinary Case Review concerning how the Board handles licensees who are schedule to renew but failed the previous Post renewal audit.  
 Also, how do we handle those licensees that have not met the requirements within a 2 year period prior to renewing their license?

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

**Stanley E. Weinstein**

- Stanley Weinstein took the opportunity to thank Sherryl Silberman for her dedication to the Board during her tenure. He also congratulated Gerard Farrell on his appointed position as Board Chair.
- Stanley Weinstein asked Karen Richards to lead the discussion on should there be a new required 3 CEU credit in light of the events surrounding the George Floyd movement. The CEU committee has received several emails regarding if the social work profession has become complacent.
- Karen Richards shared the CEU committee held a discussion as to whether a 3CEU credit in Social Justice Systemic Racism should be required in light of current events. Karen Richard encourages social workers and their colleagues to email their feedback to the committee for

discussion. The next Continuing Education meeting will be held on July 17, 2020. After further discussion revisions will need to be made to the current CEU regulations. Language is important when making the revisions.

- Gerard Farrell, asked Karen Richards to write an article for the upcoming newsletter encouraging social workers to begin taking culture sensitivity courses.
- Stanley Weinstein asked Gloria Jean Hammel to lead the discussion on whether the Credentialing Committee and the Licensing Review Committee should be combined. Gloria Jean Hammel shared. After further discussion it was acknowledge that both committees serve the same purpose and therefore should be combined and function as one committee called the Licensing Review Committee.
- Comparing the Maryland Procedure with the Florida State Procedure for out of state social workers was shared by Wrenn Skidmore and Gloria Jean Hammel. So far 233 applications have been received and approved for out of state teletherapy. Wrenn Skidmore shared that she applied for out of state teletherapy for the state of Florida. The application was a quick process which included verifying your required liability insurance, must have a registered agent who can receive mail, contact you, etc. Restriction includes you may not open an in-person practice in Florida.

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

**Wrenn Skidmore, Chair**

- Wrenn Skidmore informed the Board that Sondra Petty is the new Committee Chair and will continue moving the Committee forward. Sondra shared that the committee will continue to meet the second Monday each month before the Board meeting.

#### **Continuing Education Committee**

**Karen Richards, Chair**

- Karen Richards shared with the Board that the committee met on June 29<sup>th</sup> with Board counsel, Rhonda Edwards to discuss the COVID -19 Emergency and its impact. She informed the Board there were no changes made to the CEU requirements. The committee was asked to review trainings which included: a pre-recorded lecturer training that did not meet the Category I requirement however the training met the Category II requirement. The next meeting will be held on July 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

Gerard Farrell revisited the questions presented to the DCRC committee as to how the Board handles licensees who: failed the previous Audit from the prior cycle and is currently up for renewal cycle? The response is: When a licensee fails the audit their license is immediately flagged and the licensee cannot renew until the requirements are met.

How does the Board handle licensees who have renewed, yet fail the audit from the renewal cycle? Rhonda Edwards, Board Counsel was asked to share with the Board, the Board's options. A licensee who does not meet the requirements after being notified will not be able to renew during the next renewal cycle and therefore cannot practice. A licensee can also be charged.

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

The Open Session adjourned at 11:54 am

*Donald G List*

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**Donald List, LCSW-C**  
**Board Secretary/Treasurer**

10/09/2020

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**Date**

*Stanley E. Weinstein*

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

10/09/2020

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**Date**