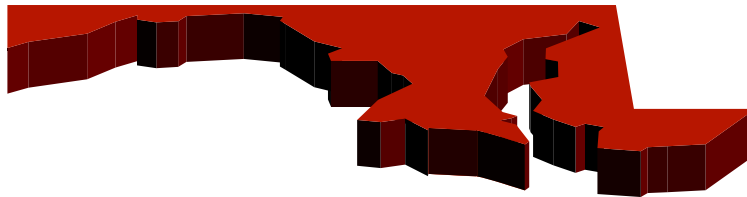


State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners



**Open Session Minutes
November 13, 2020, 10:30 AM
Teleconference Board Meeting**

Board Members: Via Telephone Call-In

Gerard Farrell	Consumer Member, Chair
Karen Richards	Professional Member, Vice Chair
Donald J List	Professional Member, Secretary/Treasurer
Sondra G. Petty	Professional Member
Adrienne Ekas-Mueting	Professional Member
Sherryl Silberman	Professional Member
Allyson Stanton	Professional Member
Maria Cole	Professional Member
Barbara Gassaway	Consumer Member
Susan P. Coppage	Professional Member
April A. Cockrell	Professional Member
Martin P. Schnuit	Professional Member

Board Staff: Stanley E. Weinstein	Executive Director
Rhonda Edwards	OAG, Board Counsel
Kara Brooks-Tyson	Director of Compliance and Investigations
Lillian Reese	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Gail Wovk	Director of Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Director, Certification and Licensing Unit
Tyrone Willoughby	Board Social Work Supervisor
Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate

Guest: Daphne McClellan	Executive Director, NASW-MD Chapter
Kim Link	MDH Liaison To Boards And Commissions
Heather Garner	Maryland Social Worker

CALL TO ORDER:

The Open Session was called to order at 10:38 am. by Board Chair Gerard Farrell

MINUTES:

No minutes to approve-Not completed

BOARD CHAIR

Gerard Farrell

- Gerard Farrell opened the meeting by giving an update about a meeting that he and Dr. Stanley Weinstein had a couple of weeks ago with Delegate Cullison and representatives from the clinical society as well as the National Association of Social Workers, MD Chapter. He added that the President of NASW MD and a lobbyist from NASW MD were present. Gerard Farrell said that the meeting was productive. Delegate Cullison asked questions about the reduction of the number of hours required for licensure as a clinical social worker from 144 hours to 100 hours as proposed in the legislation. The second point of discussion was about removing the designation of 3 seats on the Board which now includes the LBSW, LMSW and LCSW and making the 3 seats open seats so that any level of licensure could fill them. Delegate Cullison wanted more information about it and will have her staff research it and would reach out to Secretary's Appointments coordinator Kimberly Bernardi to get a better sense of how this issue is handled by the Department. He further added that no decisions or conclusions were reached. The Clinical Society representative was to take the issue back to her board and give us input. Dr. Stanley Weinstein confirmed that he had not received any input yet.
- Gerard Farrell added that he sat in the Statute and Regulations Committee meeting on Monday November 9th along with Dr. Weinstein. He asked the Statute and Regulations Committee to take a look at the language in the bill on the designation of the LBSW, LMSW and LCSW seats and see if language could be compromised. He added that everyone was in agreement and that we want one LBSW, LMSW and LCSW on the Board. The question is how to get to that end without hampering the work of the Board. If the seats can't be filled, we would have a hard time getting Committee work done. It was important to look at compromises where we can.
- Gerard Farrell said that the Board counsel Rhonda Edwards received some questions about the legislation from the Senate staffer and the Senator sponsor. Rhonda Edwards said that she received no additional feedback and that Lilian Reese was the point of contact. At this point, Lilian Reese said that there was no feedback, those answers have been accepted and now moving forward.
- Gerard Farrell shared that he had a video conference call with the President of the Maryland Chapter, National Association of Social Workers, Bobby Johnson Lewis. They talked about issues such how the Board goes about testing for licensure. They also discussed the proposed bill that the NASW MD is working on that will authorize temporary Board provisional licenses in a pandemic. The National Association of Social Workers, Association of Social Work Boards along with the Council on Social Work Education were not in favor of provisional or temporary licenses for any number of reasons and the Board has adopted that position. He asked Ms. Lewis why the Maryland NASW Chapter may want to be in opposition to what the National Association is doing in that regard. She wasn't sure and will do more research with her board.

- Gerard Farrell added that Delegate Cullison and one of the lobbyists asked if we could open the Board meetings and have audio visual participation. It was decided to try in December and evaluate what happens.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stanley Weinstein

- Stanley Weinstein talked about the status of the license renewals and said that the statutory renewal date was October the 31st, 2020.
- He asked Gloria Hammel to give the status of the license renewals. He also said he was thankful to Gloria and her staff on how they dealt with e-mails, phone calls and questions and how they addressed the renewal process.
- Gloria said that they started with 7411 social workers license renewals.. She added that 5671 workers renewed, 124 wanted to go inactive or intended not to renew. Therefore, 85% of the licenses are accounted for and 1627 were outstanding (15% of the licenses).
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein said that many people who renew have a lot of questions about Continuing Education and commended Gail and Stacie for having done a good job with all the questions that have come up about Continuing Education and the responses needed to assist the social workers.
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein said that one of the things that the office does is the contracting with ASWB for conducting the audit (10% of social workers). He has been in touch with ASWB and due to Governor's State of Emergency, he has asked that we postpone the audit because he did not want to begin with only the 80% who have renewed. He said that it is conducted by random selection. Therefore the Board would be re-assessing the audit in the New Year depending on the extension.
- He also added that people were wondering if they can come to the building. The offices are still closed to the public because of safety and are also closed on the weekends to have it properly cleaned as part of the pandemic.
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein said that the Department was re-organizing for a modernization of Health Occupation Boards websites. He said that some people have commented that the website is not user-friendly as people would like it to be. It needed to be flexible, accurate, and responsive to changes. The Department has set a plan to change the websites along those lines. A meeting with the executive directors and staff has been assigned in order to fulfil that goal.
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein talked about the Federal legislation protecting state licensing boards from any antitrust damages. The Occupational Licensing Board Antitrust Damages Relief Act of 2020 would be heard in 2021. The legislation seeks to protect state boards, board members and staff from damages. He added that immunity from damages or liability on licensing boards meeting service status has not impacted board.
- Dr. Stanley Weinstein added that it is required by law to report sexual misconduct every year. All the boards are required to do so. See Attachment 3.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

STATUTE AND REUGLATIONS COMMITTEE

Sondra Petty, Chair

- Sondra Petty gave a quick review and said that they met on Monday November 9th 2020, and talked about the bill with Delegate Cullison and insurance company update with LMSW. She said that Stanley Weinstein was making contact and has spoken to the Insurance Commissioner and has written a letter to Blue Cross to get information. Cigna Insurance reimburses LMSWs now. Insurance reimbursement is a concern of the Board. Sondra Petty working with Karen Richards, around proposed cultural competency regulation and talk about clarifying procedures for reinstatement and the 5 year cut off.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Karen Richards, Chair

- Karen Richards said that the Committee met on October 16th and reviewed different learning activities. They continued work on the language around the new regulation. She said the next meeting would be on November the 18th and Rhonda Edwards would be joining them with the draft of the new regulations.
- In regards to the Provisional Sponsorship Program she said that Gail Wowk and Stacie Rigby have been doing a good job with the Provisional Sponsorship Program, phasing it out. As of January the 1st 2021, the Program ended and would be referred to other sponsorship programs such as ASWB, NASW etc.
- She also spoke with Sondra Petty and would be working with the Statute and Regulation Committee on cultural competency.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

Barbara Gassaway, Chair

- Barbara Gassaway said that the Strategic Planning Committee has finished the report. She added that she would present the findings to the Board and would not be meeting again. So she thanked everybody especially Kara who really helped shape the Strategic Planning for the year and all the Committee Members who worked really hard to shape a Strategic Plan that was both sound and durable. She would send the draft report to everyone so that that they would receive it and have it approved in December. Assignments handled by Gerard Farrell and Dr. Stanley Weinstein.

AD HOC COMMITTEE

Donald List, Chair

- After thanking the Board Members and staff he said that the Governor's executive order for licensees to pass the 10/31 renewal day. He said that the Committee met to review that and things are going well from the renewal stand point. He said it looked at concerns concerning Continuing Education and at this time the Committee does not recommend any change to the annual 10/31

renewal date to licensure and also do not recommend any change in the number of CEUs required for renewal.

- He added a reminder that if a licensee renewed their license after 10/31/2020 because of the State of Emergency time period, in order to earn CEUs for their next renewal cycle it would be 11/01/2020 to 10/31/2022. This has always been the case that CEUs can only be used in one renewal cycle.
- He also noted that there would be continued communication with all social workers regarding renewal in 2022. As a Committee they would continue to meet as needed to address and communicate information on any issues relating to the Governor's continuing Executive Order. The Committee would be planning to communicate via email blast, newsletter and other avenues to fully inform licensees so that there would be direct, consistent communication around the issues.
- A question came up on the 2021 requirement on the criminal background checks and the Chair asked the Ad Hoc Committee to review it.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSSION

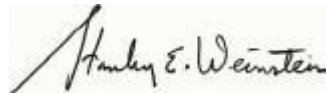
The Open Session adjourned at 11:30 am



Donald List, LCSW-C
Board Secretary/Treasurer

2/12/2021

Date



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

2/12/2021

Date