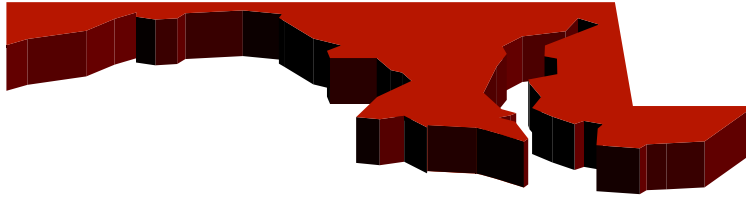


State of Maryland Board of Social Work Examiners



**Open Session Minutes
March 12, 2021, 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/Treasure
Sherryl Silberman	Professional Member
Adrienne Ekas Mueting	Professional Member
Allyson Stanton	Professional Member
Maria Cole	Professional Member (absent)
Sondra G. Petty	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
Lillian Reese	Legislation and Regulations Specialist
Kara Brooks-Tyson	Director of Compliance and Investigations
Gail Wovk	Director of Planning and Continuing Education
Gloria Jean Hammel	Director, Certification and Licensing Unit
Tyrone Willoughby	Board Social Work Supervisor
Donna Ridgell	Administrative Aide
Stacie Rigby	Continuing Education Associate

Guest: Kimberly B. Link	MDH Liaison to Board and Commissions
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CALL TO ORDER:

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 11, 2020 and February 12, 2021 Board Minutes - approved unanimously

ADJUSTMENT AND ADDITIONS TO AGENDA

None

BOARD CHAIR

Gerard Farrell

- Gerard Farrell opened the meeting by acknowledging this month is “National Social Worker’s Month”. This month is an opportunity for the nation to reflect on the critical contributions social workers have made especially during the pandemic. He gave a brief definition on the duties of a social worker and how ironic, it is, we are celebrating social workers during a time when a spotlight has been place on an increase of cases of anxiety, depression and suicide. Gerard Farrell saluted the dedication and commitment of all social workers during the pandemic and the days ahead.
- Gerard Farrell shared that his term as Board Chair ends June 2021. He is however eligible for a second term as a Board member. After much thought and consideration he has decided to decline the seat and enable a new appointee, a fresh start with a 4- year term. Karen Richards the current Vice Chair will assume the position as the new Board Chair. This will create a vacancy for the Vice Chair seat. The Board has the options to leave the seat vacant or appoint someone to the position. Gerard Farrell stated he has enjoyed his time on the Board and has learned so much about the profession and has earned even a greater respect for social workers. The Board members shared how deeply Gerard Farrell will be missed by the members and staff.
- Legislative and Regulations Coordinator, Lillian Reese was asked to give an update on the current Legislative Bills. Lillian Reese shared the following:
 - a) **HB 132 / SB 41 - Health & Mental and Emotional Disorders – Consent (Mental Health Access Initiative)** A hearing was held on 2/16/2021. The Senate passed the Bill and the Bill was sent over to the House for approval. There has been no further movement.
 - b) **HB 344/SB 72 - Open Meetings Act – Requirements for State Agencies and Local Boards of Elections (Maryland Transparency Act of 2021)** This Bill was heard in February by both Committees however there has been no movement by either Committee.
 - c) **HB 537/SB 398 – Mental Health Law – Petitions for Emergency Evaluation- Procedures** This Bill was heard in February by both Committees. The Board of Social Work joined Professional Counselors to oppose this Bill. A letter was sent to the Bill sponsors with the concerns. This Bill would provide clinical social workers, licensed clinical counselors and/or licensed therapists the ability to transport an emergency individual to a facility. After speaking with Dr. Stanley Weinstein the opposing issues identified were safety concerns when transporting an individual in crises and the lack of training necessary for practitioners to provide this service.

- d) **HB 689/ SB 466 - Certificates for Involuntary Admission - Licensed Certified Social Worker-Clinical** This Bill has been amended by adding Professional Counselors. The Bill passed the House and the Senate. Currently on the floor for a vote.
- e) **HB 701 - Child Abuse and Neglect - Training of Health Care Professionals** This Bill was heard on February 11, 2021. The Bill was passed by the House and crossed over to the Senate.
- f) **Governor’s Bill/HB 732/SB 568 - Health Care Practitioners - Telehealth - Out-of-State Health Care Practitioners** The House Bill was heard on February 10th and the Senate Bill was heard on February 16th, 2021. Neither Bill has moved from the committees at this time.
- g) **HB 811/ SB 597 - State Board of Social Work Examiners – Practice Act** This Bill has passed the House and has crossed over to the Senate. There has been no further movement. Only one Committee approval is needed for this Bill to be signed by the Governor.
- h) **HB 1006/SB 938 - Health Occupations – Service Members, Veterans, and Military Spouses – Temporary Licensure, Certification, and Registration** The hearing for the House Bill was held on 2/25/2021. There has been no movement. The hearing for the Senate is scheduled for March 16, 2021.
- i) **SB 167 State Board of Social Work Examiners – Temporary License to Practice Social Work** -This Bill has passed the Senate and has crossed over to the House. Currently waiting for a hearing date.

- Sherryl Silberman asked, are there any Bills that the Board has taken a position on, as the Board members have not been getting regular updates. Lillian Reese replied, the Board has taken a position on most of the aforementioned Bills with the exception of a few she added. Sherryl is concerned the Board members have not had an opportunity to take a position on the Bills. Gerard Farrell explained the turnaround for a response for some Bills has been rapid, sometimes within 24 hours and therefore the Executive Committee had to make an Administrative decision.
- Lillian Reese informed the Board that the Legislative Session will be ending on April 12, 2021.
- Gerard Ferrell shared with the Board, a LCSW-C social worker whose license was revoked due to inappropriate behavior and boundary issues with a married client is now currently married to the client. It was discovered that the social worker is now calling himself a “life coach” and is performing the same duties as a social worker. This was brought to the attention of some legislators. The Senator contacted Gerard Farrell and the Delegate contacted Stanley Weinstein both seeking advice. Stanley Weinstein and Gerard Farrell sent letters to the Senator and the Delegate pointing out that the Board’s Statute only provides for Title protection (in which a person may or may not use the title social worker) not the functionally (function of duties). A copy of the Statute was sent to the Senator. In the future there may be further discussions by the Legislative Committee as this has become a growing concern.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Stanley E. Weinstein

- Dr. Stanley Weinstein informed the Board that the Governor’s Greenbag Appointee’s included giving Barbara Gassaway a full four-year term.

Also, former Board member Jamie Wilson will be returning to the Board effective July 1, 2021. In addition, a consumer member has been identified and may be appointed.

- A reminder that **Financial Disclosure Reports** are due by April 30, 2021.
- Stanley Weinstein informed the Board that the last Executive Order given by Governor Hogan stated the **extension of licenses from 10/31/20 renewal** will end effective **June 30, 2021**. There are 871 social workers who have not renewed their license. An email blast is being sent informing social workers of the deadline.
- Stanley Weinstein shared with the Board the idea of a **Social Work Compact**. A **compact** is an agreement which is currently being used by The Board of Physicians. The Board of Physicians has a compact/agreement with 33 states whereas members have streamlined the process, which allows Physicians to be licensed in multiple states. The compact includes the application process, how to handle complaints, etc. The Psychology, Professional Counselors, Audiology, Physical Therapy and Occupational Therapy Boards are moving towards a **compact**. Stanley Weinstein has contacted ASWB to see where we might be in the process.
- Kimberly Link, MDH Liaison to Board and Commissions shared the Department of Defense is behind most **compacts** due to the portability for veterans and their spouses.
- Sherryl Silberman asked if this was due to the pandemic or is this going to be permanent. The reply was permanent. Kimberly Link gave a brief history on the origin of the **Compact**.

STATUTE AND REGULATIONS COMMITTEE

Sondra Petty, Chair

- The Committee met on Monday. Discussion was held on the **Mental Health Law Bill** which resulted in Stanley Weinstein writing a letter opposing the Bill. The Committee had an opportunity to review the aforementioned Bills discussed by Lillian Reese. Sondra Petty shared there was a lengthy discussion on the District of Columbia Scope of Practice for LGSW's who are in private practice and the LMSW who are practicing psychotherapy. She stated there is an urgency to hold discussions, since insurance companies have begun to pay for these services.

CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE

Karen Richards, Chair

- Karen Richards shared the Committee met on February 17th with Board Counsel, Rhonda Edwards reviewing CEU Regulation 10.42.06. There were no changes made, just language clarification to ensure the language was clear. She acknowledged Gail Wovk and Rhonda Edwards for their hard work with the revisions. The Committee voted and approved the changes and sent the regulation to the Statute and Regulations Committee on March 11, 2021. Discussions were held on training topics that are not covered by the Board. The next meeting is scheduled for March 17, 2021.

**** Prior to adjourning the meeting Gerard Farrell opened the floor for Questions and Answers:**

Sherryl Silberman asked who will be following up to ensure the Strategic Planning plan is moving forward. Gerard Farrell stated it is the full Boards responsibility. He suggested possibly reviewing it once a year to see if any progress has been made.

ADJOURNMENT OF THE OPEN SESSSION

The Open Session adjourned at 11:21 am

Donald J List

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

__4/9/2021_____
Date

Stanley E. Weinstein

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

__4/9/2021_____
Date