

The University of the State of New York
State Education Department
Office of the Professions

**State Board for Mental Health Practitioners
Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

Friday, March 14, 2025

This meeting was held in-person via WebEx at the following locations:

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 201, Albany, NY 12234
Office of the Professions, 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Rochester Regional Office, 109 S. Union Street 2nd Floor, Rochester, NY 14607

Board members present:

Susan Boxer Kappel
Melissa Dukofsky
Helena Boersma
Smita Bhatt
Angela Musolino
Jasmine Thomas
Sharon Marianetti-Leeper

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary
Kate Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst
Henry Phillips, Education Program Assistant 1
Kayla Apple, Licensing Services Clerk

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Evan Seiden called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Review of the September 20, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the September 20, 2024, Board meeting was reviewed. There were no questions or changes requested. There was not a quorum of members present. Minutes kept in draft.

Executive Secretary's Report

Reviewed board office staffing.
Volume of applications has increased
Board Office is staying mindful of application dates.

The State Board is actively in the process of recruiting new members – looking for 1 LMHC, 1 Psychoanalyst, and one public member. Nomination forms for potential Board members are being reviewed and additional candidates continue to be recruited. Board nomination forms can be found on the NYSED website.

Legislation and Regulation affecting Mental Health Practice: Mental Health Practitioners' Diagnosis Privilege (Chapter 230 of the Laws of 2022)

Executive Secretary Evan Seiden made Board members aware of two bills in State Legislature related to the field of Mental Health.

A701/S988 An act to repeal the requirement that applicants must pass an examination as part of LMSW requirements is currently with the Legislature.

A3906/S1725 Extends confidentiality privileges to certain communications to or from a licensed mental health counselor (Civil Practice laws and rules).

Discussion: Tele-Supervision

Regulations to make tele-supervision allowed permanently were adopted and went into effect on 9/25/2024.

Executive Secretary asked for volunteers among the Board members to form a small committee to provide their input and draft guidelines on best practices regarding tele-supervision.

Ethics Training Course for Board Members

Board members are required to take Ethics training course. Members were given information on training course. Office of Human Resources Management plans to have monthly virtual offerings for convenience.

Other Business

No other business.

EXECUTIVE SESSION (Closed session)

Executive Session for active Board members and Board office staff only was held.

Catherine Slattery, Director of Prosecutions from Office of Professional Discipline attended to provide information and field Board members' questions. Catherine gave a description of OPD from investigations to prosecutors and investigators, and the role of Board members in relation to OPD investigations. 2023 - 2024 Enforcement Actions of licensees were reviewed.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Evan Seiden thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:10pm by Board Chair Susan Boxer Kappel.