

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, June 6, 2025

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

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 211, Albany, NY 12234
Office of the Professions, 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Syracuse OPD Office, 333 East Washington Street, Suite 211, Syracuse, NY 13202
NYS Department of Education Access-VR, 109 S. Union Street 2nd Floor, Rochester, NY 14607

Board members present:

Susan Boxer Kappel, LCAT
Helena Boersma, LMHC
Smita Bhatt, MD
Angela Musolino, LP
Sharon Marianetti-Leeper, LMFT, LCAT
Ann Canastra, LMHC
John Cerio, Public Member
Christopher L. Smith, LMFT, LMHC

Staff present:

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

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:15 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves.

Review of the March 14, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the March 14, 2025, 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 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

Executive Secretary made Board members aware of four bills in State Legislature and one proposed regulation change related to the field of Mental Health.

A8183 An act to amend the education law, in relation to requirements for certain mental health practitioners to be issued privilege to diagnose and develop assessment-based treatment plans.

- Would add alternate pathway for diagnostic privilege – different education requirements allowed. Intended to possibly be a remedy and create a pathway for people with 45 or 48 credit degrees.
- Psychoanalyst institutes not mentioned.

A780 An act to amend the education law, in relation to enacting the “Supervising Upcoming Professionals for Practice in Official Roles in Therapy (SUPPORT) act”

- Would allow Mental Health Practitioners with “D” privilege to supervise MSWs and LMSWs.
- Board discussed possible supervision implications for MHPs with “D” privilege.

A8045 An act to amend chapter 230 of the laws of 2022, amending the education law relating to diagnostic privilege, in relation to extending the effectiveness of certain provisions thereof

- Would extend the so-called “diagnostic exemption period” to 6/24/2027.
- New expiration date would align with expiration date for 36 months pathway.

A5545 An act to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to a qualified mental health associate.

- Board discussed details of the bill – the possible merits and drawbacks, implication for the public, etc.

Proposed Amendment of Section 74.2 of the Regulations of the Commissioner of Education Relating to the Licensing Examinations and Testing Accommodations in the Social Work Professions

- Would allow ESL accommodation for SW exams.
- MHP not included in the regulation.

Discussion Topics

Progress Related to Diagnostic Privilege

- Executive Secretary proposed converting one staff title which would add one evaluator to help with production issues.

Ethics Course

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.

Cap on Continuing Education Requirements

- Some licensees have a large amount of CE that they owe to become re-registered.
- Board discussed possible change to CE requirements and a possible cap on number of CE a licensee would need.

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.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Executive Secretary thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:45am by Board Chair Susan Boxer Kappel.