

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

**New York State Board of Social Work
Draft Meeting Minutes**

Wednesday, June 11th, 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 Regional Office, 333 East Washington Street, Suite 211, Syracuse, NY 13202
NYS Dept. of Education Access-VR 109 S. Union Street, 2nd Floor, Rochester, NY 14607

Board members present:

Tracyavon Ford
Susan Nayowith
Laura Eastman-Follis
Michelle Manley Belge
Mohini Mishra
Liz Espinoza
Mary Owen

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary (New York)
Kathleen Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education (Albany)
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst (Albany)
Henry Phillips, Education Program Assistant 1 (Albany)

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:21 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves. There were no changes in the agenda.

Review of the March 5th, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

A quorum of Board members were present. A change to correct the year date in the minutes of the last meeting from 2024 to 2025 was made. With that change included a motion to accept all draft minutes and previous drafts was made. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Staffing and Processing: Executive Secretary has proposed to convert one title and add another title which would add 2 evaluators to the 2 we currently have. There has been at least a 50% increase in workload. This has caused increased delays in processing times.
- b. Board Member Recruitment: LMSWs and public members are needed. As a reminder, public members are consumers of SW services (not licensed). Board members can refer those interested to Executive Secretary for further information. Board member application can be found online.

Legislation and Regulation Affecting Social Work

Executive Secretary made Board members aware of five bills in State Legislature and one proposed regulation change related to the field of Social Work.

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.

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 for “C”.
- Board discussed details and implications of bill.

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.
- Licensees would not need “D” permit until 6/24/2027.

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.

A701/S988 An act to repeal paragraph (d) of subdivision 1 of section 7704 of the education law requiring applicants to pass an examination in order to qualify as a licensed master social worker.

- Board members discussed details of bill, ethics, concerns of equity and access.

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

- Currently out for 60-day public comment period
Emergency regulation was adopted on 5/6/2025.

- Emergency regulation change can be viewed on website under Advisory Notices in red.

Discussion Topics

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.
- CE law and requirement started Jan. 1 2015.
- Board discussed what kind of CE cap might make sense.
- Other professions have CE caps.
- Board discussed merits and drawbacks of a CE cap.

Other Business

No other business.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54am by Chair Tracyavon Ford.