

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, October 24, 2025

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

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 146 1st Floor, Albany, NY 12234
Office of the Professions, 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018

Board members present:

Susan Boxer Kappel LCAT
Smita Bhatt, MD
Melissa Dukofsky, LMHC, LCAT
Angela Musolino, LP
Jasmin Thomas, Public Member
Sharon Marianetti-Leeper LMFT, LCAT
Shirley Disu, LP PsyD

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary
Kate Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst
Henry Phillips, Education Program Assistant 1
Annie Connors, Education Program Trainee 2

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:11 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves. Public members and stakeholders observing the meeting were welcomed.

Review of the June 6, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 6, 2025, Board meeting were 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. New Education Program Assistant 1 trainee Annie Connors has come on board. Board Office now has 3 evaluators. Processing volume should increase accordingly.

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 LMHC or LMFT. 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.

Presentation – Professional Assistance Program (PAP) from Director Jennifer Granato

Director Jennifer Granato gave a presentation on the PAP and its' duties. The PAP protects the public and supports professionals in recovery.

- PAP program is an alternative to professional discipline program.
- Professionals must not have caused patient harm.

Legislation and Regulation affecting Mental Health Practice

Executive Secretary made Board members aware of two bills in State Legislature.

A8484 An act to amend the education law, in regulating the use of artificial intelligence in the provision of therapy and psychotherapy services.

- Board discussed details of the bill – the possible merits and drawbacks, implication for the public, etc.
- Board members discussed their professional and personal experiences with AI related to the field of psychotherapy.

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

- This legislation was signed into law by the Governor mid-June 2025.
- Extends the diagnostic exemption period for licensees to 6/24/2027.

Discussion Topics

Progress Related to Diagnostic Privilege

- New evaluator is helping with limited permits and will free up time for other evaluators to process Diagnostic Privilege experience reviews.

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.

Other Business

Scheduling for future board meetings was discussed

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Executive Secretary thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 11:12am.