

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 11, 2026

This meeting was held in-person at the State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 150 1st Floor, Albany, NY 12234 and via WebEx at the following locations:

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

Board members present:

Susan Boxer Kappel, Chair
Melissa Dukofsky, LMHC, LCAT
Angela Musolino, LP
Christopher Smith, LMHC, LMFT
Helena Boersma, LMHC
Smita Bhatt, M.D.
Shirley Disu, LP, PsyD
John Cerio, Public Member
Sharon Marianetti-Leeper, LMFT & LCAT

Denise Murphy McGraw
Theresa Cosgrove
Pam Madeiros
Diana Georgia
Katy Coleman, Esq.
Steven Perdek
Gilliam Hamilton
Sophia Maddalon

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary
Kate Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education
Annie Connors, Education Program Assistant 1
Amy Viscusi, Education Program Assistant 1

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 01:05PM. Board members and staff introduced themselves. Public members and stakeholders attending the meeting were welcomed.

Review of the March 13, 2026, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of March 13, 2026, 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

- a. Staffing and Processing: Introduction of Amy, the new evaluator hired on by the Board Office. The Board Office is currently exploring internal process improvements in partnership with the Division of Professional Licensing's modernization project. Recommendations for improvements to processing will be reported to the Board in the Fall meeting. We are up to date on processing Limited Permit applications but are currently no more than 8 weeks out on processing Experience, Endorsement and Diagnostic Privilege applications.
- b. The State Board is actively in the process of recruiting new members – especially looking for interested Licensed Psychoanalysts. 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.

There is a need for more public members.

*Discipline and being available to OPD: reminder that this is a requirement of a Board Member to volunteer for OPD panels

Legislation and Regulation affecting Mental Health Practice

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

→ S8899-A9321 AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to supervision by certain marriage and family therapists and mental health counselors.

- Discussion that educational focus between these professions and discussion on profession overlap in knowledge base and scope of practice.
- Discussion on shortage of supervisors and how this could be a potential benefit for overall growth in the field.
- Consideration made supervisors have true experience in the other's scope to provide proper supervision.

→ S9123-A9566 An Act to extend the duration of limited permits to practice licensed clinical social work.

Discussion Topics

Progress Related to Diagnostic Privilege, educational requirements and grandfathering

- Diagnostic Privilege applications are being reviewed and processed – currently 8 weeks out for review time.
- Discussion on scope of practice within the mental health practitioner professions and the ideal experience and exposure required to ensure competence, safety & ethical diagnosis.

Other Business

Scheduling for future board meetings was discussed. The Fall board meeting will take place either in the beginning or middle of November.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Executive Secretary thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 3:06PM.