

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 13, 2026

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

- State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 150 1st Floor, 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, 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
Angela Musolino
Jasmin Thomas, Public Member
Christopher Smith
Tracey Schimpff
Helena Boersma
Denise Murphy McGraw
Sharon Marianetti-Leeper
Jenny Speice
Theresa Cosgrove

Staff present:

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

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves. Public members and stakeholders observing the meeting were welcomed.

Review of the October 24, 2025, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the October 24, 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. Annie Connors has come on board as of October 2025 as an evaluator for MHP. Board Office will be interviewing for third evaluator next week. Processing is currently 8 weeks out, but volume will increase once the third processor is hired and trained. Board Office is staying mindful of application dates.

The State Board is actively in the process of recruiting new members – looking 1 Psychoanalyst, 1 LMHC and 1 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.

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.

- **S6999, 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”.
 - to supervise.
- **A9321** - Allowing supervision by certain LMFTs and LMHCs (cross-supervision across professions)
 - Discussion that this is perhaps a benefit to the public to allow for greater cross-supervision to support greater growth in the field
- **S1001** – An act to amend the insurance law in relation to including outpatient care provided by LCATs.
 - Discussions on the variances in insurance contracts
- **8183** - act to amend education law for the education & experience requirements to be issued the Diagnostic Privilege

Discussion Topics

Progress Related to Diagnostic Privilege

- Diagnostic Privilege applications are being reviewed and processed – currently 6-8 weeks out

Other Business

Scheduling for future board meetings was discussed – meeting dates and topics. Tentative date of June 5th (in-person in Albany) was discussed. The June board meeting proposed to be held later in the afternoon to accommodate travel time for board members.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Executive Secretary thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 12:05pm.