

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, March 4, 2026

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

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 146, 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
Buffalo ACCESS Office, 508 Main Street, Buffalo, NY 14202

Board members present:

Tracyavon Ford LCSW
Austen LaBarge LCSW
Michelle Manley Belge LMSW
Robyn Wiktorski-Reynolds LMSW
Mohini Mishra LMSW
Susan Nayowith LCSW
Virginia Spielman LMSW

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary (New York)
Kathleen Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education (Albany)
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst (Albany)
Annie Connors, Education Program Assistant Trainee 2 (Albany)

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Executive Secretary called the meeting to order at 10:08 AM. The meeting was streamed live and recorded. Board members and staff introduced themselves. Members of the public and stakeholders attended to observe the meeting. Questions can be emailed to SWBD@nysed.gov. There were no changes in the agenda.

Introduction

No new board members introduced.

Review of the October 29, 2025 Board Meeting Minutes

A quorum of Board members was present. Motion to accept minutes was made. Firsted by Virginia Spielman; seconded by Susan Nayowith. Motion passed and minutes accepted.

Executive Secretary's Report

- a. Staffing and Processing: One evaluator was promoted to another position outside of the Board Office; interviewing for a new evaluator will take place this month. Volume of applications is still high and reviews for each of the six professions are currently managed by two evaluators. Experience reviews are currently at an 8-week timeframe for evaluation.
- b. Recruitment: Looking for LMSW Board members. Reminder that Board member's responsibilities can also include availability for consultation during Office of Professional Discipline hearings. There is space for two additional Public Members (non-licensed individuals who have used SW services). Board members can refer those interested to Executive Secretary for further information. Board member applications can be found online.

Legislation and Regulation Affecting Social Work

Executive Secretary presented the following proposals for discussion:

→ S9123- Proposed act to extend the duration of limited permits to practice licensed clinical social work and use the title licensed clinical social worker to twenty-four months with the ability to be renewed for up to two additional one-year periods. This would mirror the Mental Health Practitioner limited permit duration.

→S9124 - Proposes the establishment of a limited work permit for students in a Master of Social Work program to allow for interns to continue working at a setting while waiting for a limited permit to be issued. Intent is to bridge the gap and allow for continuity of retention of interns.

→S9125 - a voucher program which intends to assist individuals with their licensing exam fees.

→S988 - Proposal to repeal the requirement that applicants must pass an examination to qualify as a LMSW

→A780 - Proposal to allow an LMHC who has been granted the diagnostic privilege the ability to supervise an applicant towards licensure in clinical social work.

- Discussion on the differences of scope of practice between the professions; some members believe it could be appropriate in certain settings and others believe there is a need to be protective of the social work profession

→ S1113- An Act to provide loan forgiveness for social workers who commit to work in counties with less than two hundred thousand population or cities with a population of less than one hundred fifty persons per square mile.

- Discussion on applicability of this given recent changes to federal loan forgiveness and acknowledgment of the existence of individual agency policies on student loan forgiveness

Discussion Topics

Ethics Training Course

- No further questions or discussion

Other Business

Scheduling for future board meetings was discussed. The June board meeting will take place either in the beginning or middle of the month, depending upon when the legislative session ends.

Adjournment

Motion to adjourn. Chair Tracyavon Ford firsted. Seconded by Mohini Mishra. The meeting was adjourned at 11:17am.