

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE
BUREAU OF PROFESSIONAL AND OCCUPATIONAL AFFAIRS

F I N A L M I N U T E S

MEETING OF:

**STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS,
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS,
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS**

TIME: 11:30 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE

2525 North 7th Street

CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

In Person

March 3, 2026

State Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists,
and Professional Counselors
March 3, 2026

BOARD MEMBERS:

Dr. Joe Behun, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, Chair
Kimberly Early, LSW, Vice Chair
Arion Claggett, Acting Commissioner of Professional
and Occupational Affairs
Dr. Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC
Farida E. Boyer, MS, LMFT, AS
Dr. Tiffany Welch, LSW
Johnnie Geathers, MSW, LSW

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Thomas Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel
Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Thomas Miller, Board Administrator
Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Jason T. Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State
CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Courtney Idle, Therapist
Ronald Rouse, Esquire, PA Office of General Counsel
Todd Kriner, Esquire, Senior Prosecutor-In-Charge
Nicholas Kahler, Law Clerk, Department of State Legal
Office

ALSO PRESENT:

Brittani Berkeley, LMSW, Investigator, US Federal
Public Defender
Christie Edwards, Addiction Counselor
Nichole Maloney, Administrator Officer, 3
Melissa Wilcox
Stephany Graham, Public Comments
Matt DeCarlo, Public Comments
Padmini Kunnathully, Applicant
Matteo DeWitt, Public Comments
Demi Babatunde, Public Comments
ML
Kira Dawson
Cathy
Quianna Daniels, Assistant Professor, MSW Program
Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

State Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists
and Professional Counselors

March 3, 2026

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
at 8:45 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
Session with Thomas Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel,
for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
deliberations on a number of matters currently
pending before the Board and to receive the advice of
counsel. The Board entered into public session at
11:30 a.m.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family
Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on
Tuesday, March 3, 2026. Dr. Joe Bohun, Ph.D., LPC,
NCC, ACS, Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:32
a.m.

[Thomas Davis, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed
everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and
those who continued to participate were giving their

1 consent to be recorded. He stated any AI programs
2 that are disruptive to the meeting would be removed.]

3 ***

4 Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
5 [Thomas Miller, Board Administrator, provided a roll
6 call of Board members and introduction of attendees.
7 A quorum of Board members was present.]

8 ***

9 Approval of Minutes

10 CHAIR BEHUN:

11 The Board members have been provided a
12 copy of the minutes last meeting at
13 this time.

14 I'll entertain a motion to accept
15 those minutes.

16 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 So moved.

18 MS. SANTIAGO:

19 Second.

20
21 Santiago, abstain; Early, abstain;
22 Claggett, abstain; Behun, aye; Boyer,
23 aye; Welch, abstain; Geathers, aye.

24 [The motion carried. Chair Behun, Ms. Santiago, Ms.
25 Early, and Ms. Welch abstained from voting on the

1 motion.]

2 ***

3 Report of the Prosecutorial Division

4 [Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution

5 Liaison, presented the Consent Agreements for Agenda

6 Item No. 2, Case No. 26-69-006799; and Agenda Item

7 No.3, Case No. 25-69-017209.]

8 MR. DAVIS:

9 Based on the Board's discussion and
10 Executive Session, I believe the Chair
11 would accept a motion to approve the
12 Consent Agreement in the following
13 matter, which is Case No. 22-69-006799.

14 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

15 So moved.

16 MS. SANTIAGO:

17 Second.

18
19 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
20 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
21 aye; Geathers, aye.

22 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondent's
23 name at Agenda Item No. 2, Case No. Case No. 22-69-
24 006799, is Ashley Bryan, LCSW.]

25 ***

1 MR. DAVIS:

2 Based on the Board's discussion and
3 Executive Session, I believe the Chair
4 would accept a motion to approve the
5 VRP Consent Agreement in the following
6 Case No. 52-69-017209.

7 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

8 So moved.

9 MS. SANTIAGO:

10 Second.

11
12 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
13 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
14 aye; Geathers, aye.

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 Report of Board Counsel - No Report

18 ***

19 Regulatory Report

20 [Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
21 reported on the general revision's proposed
22 rulemaking, 16A-6923. This regulation was approved
23 by the Board and moved through the regulatory
24 process. The regulation was published as proposed on
25 February 28, 2026. She advised that the comment

1 period ends on March 30, 2026. The Independent
2 Regulatory Review Commission (IRRC) then has 30 days
3 in which to comment. After the comment period has
4 ended, she will come back to the Board and place
5 those comments on the agenda for discussion.

6 Ms. Wolfgang noted the American Association for
7 Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) Code of Ethics,
8 which was adopted by the AAMFT on January 1, 2026.
9 She requested the Board review the 2026 Code of
10 Ethics, given that it had adopted the 2015 Code of
11 Ethics and anticipated an update. She stated if the
12 Board wanted to adopt the updated Code of Ethics
13 between the proposed rulemaking and final rulemaking
14 it could be accomplished after the Board's review and
15 discussion.

16 Ms. Wolfgang reported on an update on the
17 Associate Marriage and Family Therapist and
18 Professional Counsel licenses. This regulation was
19 published as proposed on January 10th, 2026. The
20 comment is due on March 11th, 2026. She noted
21 comments were received, which could be discussed at a
22 later date.

23 Ms. Wolfgang addressed regulation 16A-6928, the
24 Supervisor Qualification regulation. Ms. Santiago
25 had a question regarding Section 49.3, number 2. She

1 questioned if this was related to education or
2 experience sufficient to establish competency in the
3 practice of professional counseling. She asked, what
4 exactly is experience sufficient to establish
5 competency? Ms. Wolfgang responded it would
6 basically be enough experience or education to meet
7 the standard of application knowledge, skills and
8 professional judgement as defined in Section 49.1.
9 Ms. Santiago questioned why a supervisor who was not
10 seeing individual clients is not always considered
11 competent. Ms. Wolfgang stated this definition of
12 competence, as stated above, was a defining term for
13 a qualification of a supervisor. She explained her
14 discussions with the new Board Counsel regarding the
15 language. She understood the acceptable standards of
16 professional counseling is determined by the standard
17 of care and not a term for qualification of a
18 supervisor.

19 Ms. Wolfgang continued by giving the Board some
20 background on this regulation. She stated the draft
21 annex was sent out on an exposure draft on January
22 23, 2026. She explained the regulatory process as
23 being three separate stages in a regulation. The
24 first is the exposure draft under Executive Order
25 1996-1. The Bboard is required to do public outreach

1 before they publish a regulation as proposed. That
2 is where this current regulation stands. She
3 suggested the Board members review the comments
4 submitted about the regulation in combination with
5 the annex. Mr. Davis suggested Ms. Wolfgang meet
6 with the Board between then and the next board
7 meeting to discuss the comments.

8 Ms. Wolfgang noted the Board's stakeholder list
9 included in the Board's agenda packet. She requested
10 that the Board review the stakeholder list and
11 determine if there were any additional stakeholders
12 or associations to be included for outreach purposes.
13 Ms. Wolfgang added there was also a link on the
14 Board's website for anyone interested in becoming a
15 stakeholder.

16 Commissioner Claggett requested Mr. Miller share
17 the list with the Board members.]

18 ***

19 Legislative Report - No Report

20 ***

21 Report of Board Chair - No Report

22 ***

23 Report of Commissioner - No report.

24 ***

25 Report of Board Administrator - No report.

Report of Committees - No report.

Applications

MR. DAVIS:

For applications Carol Larach,
Application No. AA000658936;
Oluwademilade Babatunde, Application
No. AA0006402721; Christie Edwards,
Application No. AA0006575900; Rochelle
Coles, Application No. AA0006688640 and
Padmini Kunnathully, Application No.
AA0006060821, and based on the Board's
discussion in Executive Session, I
believe the Chair would accept a motion
provisionally denying those
applications.

CHAIR BEHUN:

Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

MS. SANTIAGO:

Second.

Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,

1 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
2 aye; Geathers, aye.

3 [The motion carried unanimously.]

4 ***

5 MR. DAVIS:

6 For applications Stephanie Ball
7 Mitchell, Application No. AA0006306112;
8 Jeffrey Copeland, Application No.
9 AA0006395879; based on the Board's
10 discussion and Executive Session, I
11 believe the Chair would accept a motion
12 to approve those applications.

13 CHAIR BEHUN:

14 Is there a motion?

15 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

16 So moved.

17 MS. SANTIAGO:

18 Second.

19
20 Santiago, abstain; Early, aye;
21 Claggett, aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye;
22 Welch, aye; Geathers, aye.

23 [The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Santiago
24 abstained from voting on the motion.]

25 ***

1 MR. DAVIS:

2 The application for licensure of
3 Benjamin Wilcox has been tabled.

4 ***

5 Applications - Act 41

6 MR. DAVIS:

7 Act 41 applications for licensure by
8 endorsement are Harriet Swan,
9 Application No. AA0006653555; Derek
10 Gibson, Application No. AA0006123027;
11 and Nishie Brown, Application No.
12 AA0006771154.

13 Based on discussions and Executive
14 Session, I believe the Chair would
15 accept a motion provisionally denying
16 those applications.

17 CHAIR BEHUN:

18 Is there a motion?

19 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

20 So moved.

21 MS. SANTIAGO:

22 Second.

23
24 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
25 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,

1 aye; Geathers, aye.

2 [The motion carried unanimously.]

3 ***

4 MS. SANTIAGO:

5 Mr. Chair, not everybody's voting the
6 same on these items that are all
7 packaged.

8 MR. DAVIS:

9 That is a great point. I will go ahead
10 and start the approvals for Act 41 and
11 do them individually.

12 With regard to No. 16, the
13 following application, Katherine Kerwin,
14 Application No. AA0006279333, based on
15 the Board's discussions in Executive
16 Session, I believe the Chair would
17 accept a motion to approve the
18 application.

19 CHAIR BEHUN:

20 Is there a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

22 So moved.

23 MS. SANTIAGO:

24 Second.

25

1 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
2 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
3 aye; Geathers, aye.

4 [The motion carried unanimously.]

5 ***

6 MR. DAVIS:

7 With regard to No. 17, the following
8 application, Megan Lawrence,
9 Application No. AA0006653056, based on
10 the Board's discussions in Executive
11 Session, I believe the Chair would
12 accept a motion to approve the
13 application.

14 CHAIR BEHUN:

15 Is there a motion?

16 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

17 So moved.

18 MS. SANTIAGO:

19 Second.

20
21 Santiago, nay; Early, aye; Claggett,
22 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
23 aye; Geathers, aye.

24 [The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Santiago
25 opposed the motion.]

MR. DAVIS:

With regard to No. 19, the following application, Rachel Levine, Application No. AA0006377721, based on the Board's discussions in Executive Session, I believe the Chair would accept a motion to approve the application.

CHAIR BEHUN:

Is there a motion?

COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

So moved.

MS. SANTIAGO:

Second.

Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch, aye; Geathers, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

MR. DAVIS:

With regard to No. 22, the following application, August Irving, Application No. AA0006423169, based on the Board's discussions in Executive Session, I

1 believe the Chair would accept a motion
2 to approve the application.

3 CHAIR BEHUN:

4 Is there a motion?

5 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

6 So moved.

7 MS. SANTIAGO:

8 Second.

9
10 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
11 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
12 aye; Geathers, aye.

13 [The motion carried unanimously.]

14 ***

15 MR. DAVIS:

16 With regard to No. 23, the following
17 application, Eli Pena, Application No.
18 AA0006693570, based on the Board's
19 discussions in Executive Session, I
20 believe the Chair would accept a motion
21 to approve the application.

22 CHAIR BEHUN:

23 Is there a motion?

24 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

25 So moved.

1 MS. SANTIAGO:

2 Second.

3

4 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
5 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
6 aye; Geathers, aye.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8 ***

9 MR. DAVIS:

10 I will note that Item No. 18 on the
11 Agenda, the application for licensure
12 of Leah Laner has been tabled.

13 ***

14 Applications - CE - None

15 ***

16 Applications - Ratifications - None

17 ***

18 Miscellaneous - Examination Waiver

19 MR. DAVIS:

20 Based on the Board's discussions and
21 Executive Sessions I believe the Chair
22 would accept a motion denying the
23 request for waiver examination
24 submitted by Stephanie Graham.

25 CHAIR BEHUN:

1 Is there a motion?

2 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

3 So moved.

4 MS. SANTIAGO:

5 Second.

6

7 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Claggett,
8 aye; Behun, aye; Boyer, aye; Welch,
9 aye; Geathers, aye.

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 ***

12 Old Business - No Report

13 ***

14 New Business - No Report

15 ***

16 Public Comments

17 [Matt DeCarlo, social worker, inquired if there was
18 any follow up to the communication he had with
19 Attorney Tully regarding the ASWB, (Association of
20 Social Work Boards), changing their examination
21 rules, timing and break policies without notifying
22 test takers for 15 days. Mr. DeCarlo stated, at the
23 last board meeting, there was talk about this issue
24 along with any potential impact to Pennsylvania test
25 takers.

1 Commissioner Claggett explained that he had
2 missed the last meeting. He advised that Ms. Tully
3 no longer works for the Department of State. He
4 requested Mr. DeCarlo resend the information that he
5 sent Ms. Tully onto himself and Mr. Miller.
6 Commissioner Claggett would share the information
7 with Board Counsel, Thomas Davis, Esquire. He also
8 apologized to Mr. DeCarlo for the lapse.

9 Demi Babatunde contacted the Board and asked for
10 clarification as to the terminology being used in two
11 of the sections of her application for LAPC,
12 (Licensed Associate Professional Counselor),
13 which was in the appeal process. Mr. Davis stated he
14 could not answer her question, because the Board had
15 already discussed this matter in Executive Session.
16 He advised her that she would be receiving a
17 provisional denial letter in the mail describing why
18 her application was denied. He stated the letter
19 would explain what she could do as a next step and
20 this was not the end of the road for her application.

21 Mr. Miller stated Christie Edwards, Addiction
22 Counselor, was in the same situation as Ms. Babatunde
23 and advised Ms. Edwards that she would be receiving
24 the same provisional denial letter as Ms. Babatunde
25 explaining why the Board made the determination it

1 did. He suggested, once she received the letter, she
2 could decide whether to appeal it or not.

3 Ms. Stephanie Graham contacted the Board asking
4 if there would be an explanation of the next steps to
5 be taken after having received a denial letter for
6 reconsideration. The denial letter did not specify
7 as to why she was denied, just that she could take
8 the exam again. Mr. Davis informed Ms. Graham he
9 would have to produce the letter again, but he was
10 certain there would be some type of synopsis as to
11 the Board's reasoning. He suggested she contact him
12 directly.

13 Matteo Dewitt tried contacting the Board but was
14 unable to unmute his computer. His fictitious name
15 was delivered into the chat room, and Mr. Davis again
16 advised him to email him directly on the Board's
17 website.]

18 ***

19
20 Adjournment

21 CHAIR BEHUN:

22 That concludes public comments. Having
23 completed our agenda and hearing no new
24 business, then I will entertain a
25 motion to adjourn the meeting of the

1 State Board of social Workers, Marriage
2 and Family Therapists and Professional
3 Counselors at 12:15 p.m.

4 COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

5 So moved.

6 MS. SANTIAGO:

7 Second.

8 CHAIR BEHOU:

9 Thank you. And that is all that we
10 require. Meeting is adjourned.

11 ***

12 [There being no further business, the State Board of
13 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
14 Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at 12:15
15 p.m.]

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CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that the foregoing summary minutes of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors meeting, was reduced to writing by me or under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately summarize the substance of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional Counselors meeting.



Erin Badstuebner,

Minute Clerk

Sargent's Court Reporting
Service, Inc.

STATE BOARD OF SOCIAL WORKERS,
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS,
AND PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS
REFERENCE INDEX

March 3, 2026

TIME

AGENDA

8:45	Executive Session
11:30	Return to Open Session
11:32	Official Call to Order
11:33	Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
11:34	Approval of Minutes
11:35	Report of Prosecutorial Division
11:41	Regulatory Report
11:54	Applications
12:02	Miscellaneous
12:03	Public Comments
12:15	Adjournment