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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: 11:32 A.M.

Held at

PENNSYLVANIA DEPARTMENT OF STATE
2525 North 7th Street
CoPA HUB, Eaton Conference Room
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17110

as well as

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

October 14, 2025

1 State Board of Social Workers,
2 Marriage and Family Therapists,
3 and Professional Counselors
4 October 14, 2025
5
6

7 BOARD MEMBERS:
8

9 Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair
10 Kimberly Early, LSW, Vice Chair
11 Matthew Eaton, Deputy Commissioner on behalf of Arion
12 R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
13 Professional and Occupational Affairs
14 Joe Behun, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS - Absent
15 Farida E. Boyer, MS, LMFT, AS
16 Eric DeCriscio, MA, LPC, ACS
17 Andy Gross, LCSW, MSS
18 Tiffany Welch, DSW, MSW, LSW - Absent
19
20

21 BUREAU PERSONNEL:
22

23 Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
24 Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
25 Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
26 Shana Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
27 Prosecution Division
28 Jason C. Giurintano, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel
29 Adrienne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board
30 Prosecutor
31 Berk V. Demiral, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
32 Jason Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
33 Nichole Wray Maloney, Division Chief, Health
34 Licensing Division
35 Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
36 Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State
37 Thomas Miller, Board Administrator
38 Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State
39 CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
40 Liliana Fisher, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
41 Nicolas Kahler, Law Clerk, Department of State Legal
42 Office
43 Ronald Rouse, Esquire, PA Office of General Counsel
44 Andrew LaFratte, MPA, Deputy Policy Director, Office
45 of Policy, Department of State
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State Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists,
and Professional Counselors
October 14, 2025

ALSO PRESENT:

- Johanna Byrd, ACSW, IOM, CAE, Executive Director,
National Association of Social Workers,
Pennsylvania Chapter
- Elizabeth Rosentel, Senior Advisor, Government
Relations, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
- Lisa Hughes Gabler, Senior Advisor, Government
Relations, Buchanan Ingersoll & Rooney
- Stephany Graham, Ph.D, MFT, Life Coach, Awake Therapy
- Wesley Rish, Attorney, Rish Law Office
- Erica Rhoads, Ph.D, LPC, Assistant Professor, Indiana
Wesleyan University
- Edward J. Murphy, Attorney, Goldberg Segalla
- Jessica Seelinger, Government Affairs Specialist,
American Association for Marriage and Family
Therapy
- Ashley Silvka
- Joseph Graham
- Yvette Drescher
- Shardai Green
- Call-in # 1-208-963-2956
- Call-In # 1-801-318-5748
- Jacob Hill, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

1 ***

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

5 October 14, 2025

6 ***

7 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
8 at 8:45 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
9 Session with Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel,
10 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
11 deliberations on a number of matters currently
12 pending before the Board and to receive the advice of
13 counsel. The Board entered into public session at
14 11:32 a.m.]

15 ***

16 The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
17 Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family
18 Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on
19 Tuesday, October 14, 2025. Michelle Santiago,
20 Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair, called the meeting to
21 order at 11:34 a.m.

22 ***

23 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, informed
24 everyone that the meeting was being recorded, and
25 those who continued to participate were giving their

1 consent to be recorded.

2 Ms. Tully noted the Board entered into Executive
3 Session for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
4 deliberations and to receive the advice of counsel on
5 the matters upon which the Board will later vote.]

6 ***

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

11 ***

12 Approval of Minutes

13 MS. TULLY:

14 I believe our first item on the Agenda
15 is the Minutes from September 16, 2025.

16 Were there any corrections?

17 MR. GROSS:

18 Just one correction, on page eight,
19 line seven to correct. It
20 misidentifies me as Dr. Gross, it
21 should be Mr. Gross.

22 MS. TULLY:

23 All right. Any other corrections?

24 I believe our Chairwoman would
25 entertain a motion to accept the

1 Minutes from the September 16, 2025
2 meeting with the correction of removing
3 Dr. from Mr. Gross' title on page
4 eight, line seven.

5 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

6 Could I have a motion for this?

7 MS. EARLY:

8 Kimberly Early, I make that motion.

9 MS. BOYER:

10 Farida Boyer, second.

11 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

12 Could we have the roll call vote
13 please?

14

15 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton,
16 abstain; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye;
17 Gross, aye.

18 [The motion carried. Mr. Eaton abstained from voting
19 on the motion.]

20

21 Report of the Prosecutorial Division

22 [Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution
23 Liaison, presented the VRP Consent Agreement for Item
24 No. 2, Case No. 25-69-010265.]

25

1 [Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair,
2 exited the meeting at 11:37 a.m. for recusal
3 purposes.]

4

5 [Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution
6 Liaison, presented the Consent Agreement for Item No.
7 3, Case No. 25-69-006348.]

8

9

VICE CHAIR EARLY ASSUMED THE CHAIR.

10

11 MS. TULLY:

12

Relative to Item 3, did any Board

13

members see any reason to re-enter

14

Executive Session deliberations on this

15

item?

16

All right. Seeing none, Kim, you

17

can swing to Chair on this one.

18

I believe our Acting Chairwoman

19

would entertain a motion to adopt the

20

Consent Agreement on Case No. 25-69-

21

006348.

22 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

23

I will entertain a motion.

24 MR. GROSS:

25

I'll make the motion.

1 MS. BOYER:

2 I second.

3 ***

4 [Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair,
5 re-entered the meeting at 11:42 a.m.]

6 ***

7

8 Santiago, recused; Early, aye; Eaton,
9 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross,
10 aye.

11 [The motion carried. Dr. Santiago recused herself
12 from deliberations and voting on the motion. The
13 Respondent at Agenda Item No. 3, Case No. 25-69-
14 006348 is Bridget McDonald, LSW.]

15 ***

16 CHAIR SANTIAGO RESUMED THE CHAIR

17 ***

18 MS. TULLY:

19 Moving to Item 2, did any member of the
20 Board want to re-enter Executive
21 Session deliberations on this matter?

22 Seeing none, I believe our
23 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to
24 adopt the VRP Consent Agreement at Case
25 No. 25-69-010265.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 I will entertain the motion.

3 MS. EARLY:

4 I'll make that motion.

5 MS. BOYER:

6 Boyer, second.

7

8 Santiago, nay; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;

9 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

10 [The motion carried. Dr. Santiago opposed the
11 motion.]

12

13 Report of Board Counsel

14 MS. TULLY:

15 I believe, Items 4, 5, and 6, based
16 upon Executive Session deliberations,
17 our Chairwoman would entertain a motion
18 to Draft a Final Adjudication and Order
19 consistent with the Executive Session
20 deliberations in the matters of Robert
21 Cedano, Case No. 24-69-006626;
22 Esmeralda Xhelilaj, Case No. 24-69-
23 016667; and Kendra Cox, Case No. 25-69-
24 000501.

25 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

1 I will entertain those motions.

2 MS. EARLY:

3 Kimberly Early, I make that motion.

4 MS. BOYER:

5 Boyer, second.

6

7 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;

8 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

9 [The motion carried unanimously.]

10

11 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported,
12 relative to Agenda Item No. 7, a Commonwealth Court
13 decision was issued in the matter. The decision
14 upheld the Board's action, which denied licensure.
15 The opinion was provided to the Board. No formal
16 action by the Board was needed.

17 Regarding Agenda Item No. 8, Ms. Tully noted the
18 Agenda needed to be corrected to read James Monahan,
19 not Daniel Monahan. Mr. Monahan has a Commonwealth
20 Court case proceeding. The Board was informed the
21 matter had been stayed by a Commonwealth Court order
22 pending mediation.]

23

24 MS. TULLY:

25 I believe, based upon Executive Session

1 deliberations, our Chair will entertain
2 a motion to grant the Motion to Deem
3 the Facts Admitted and to enter default
4 and to direct Board Counsel to prepare
5 an Adjudication and Order in accordance
6 with the discussions held in Executive
7 Session in the matter of Daniel Arkus,
8 Case No. 23-69-018490.

9 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

10 Could I have a motion please?

11 MS. EARLY:

12 Kim Early, I make that motion.

13 MS. BOYER:

14 Boyer, second.

15

16 Santiago, abstain; Early, aye; Eaton,
17 aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross,
18 aye.

19 [The motion carried. Dr. Santiago abstained from
20 voting on the matter.]

21

22 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted Agenda
23 Item No. 10 would be tabled and relisted in November
24 2025.]

25

1 Regulatory Report

2 [Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
3 reported Regulation 16A-6923, the General Revisions
4 package, is pending at the Office of General Counsel
5 (OGC) and Policy Offices for review. She noted the
6 Board updated the Annex and Preamble provided if they
7 wished to review it, but the edits made were
8 discussed at the previous Board meeting.

9 Regarding Regulation 16A-6927, Licenses Associate
10 Marriage and Family Therapists and Associate
11 Professional Counselors, Ms. Wolfgang noted approval
12 from OGC was received on September 5, 2025, and
13 approval from the Policy Office is still pending.]

14

15 Regulatory Report- 16A-6928 - Supervisory Standards
16 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, explained
17 the Board would be continuing its discussion from the
18 prior month with regards to supervisors and when
19 their degree is in a related field. She noted the
20 Board initially requested information on what other
21 states were allowing as related fields. Ms. Tully
22 compiled the information from Pennsylvania and
23 surrounding states into a chart for the Board's
24 review. The chart included the license class, what
25 Pennsylvania was doing, and then what areas each

1 state is accepting or not accepting for supervisors.

2 Chair Santiago noted, from the chart, it appeared
3 Pennsylvania accepts much more than the surrounding
4 states.

5 Ms. Tully agreed Pennsylvania appears to be more
6 flexible. She added Pennsylvania regulations,
7 especially with regard to licensed professional
8 counselors (LPCs) and marriage and family therapists
9 (MFTs), require 3,000 hours of supervision. Of the
10 3,000 hours, half are mandated to be under the
11 supervision of LPCs or MFTs. She reiterated the
12 areas the Board are discussing only apply to 1,500
13 hours of the clinical experience. She noted the
14 original discussion was if the Board wanted to limit
15 the areas which can supervise the hours not under an
16 LPC or MFT.

17 Mr. Gross noted the supervisors who have a
18 closely-related degree are still licensed by the
19 state on top of the degree. He added the bigger
20 issue is what degrees are eligible for licensure in
21 the first place.

22 The Board discussed whether limiting degrees
23 could restrict licenses. Mr. DeCriscio stated it
24 appeared what area or field the license was earned
25 ultimately mattered most versus the degree of the

1 person.

2 Chair Santiago reviewed the schematics of the
3 chart. She noted, based on the chart's information,
4 Pennsylvania allows LPCs to be supervised by
5 supervisors holding degrees in art therapy,
6 dance/movement therapy, drama therapy, music therapy
7 human services, and counseling education, while
8 Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, and Ohio do
9 not allow the same degree holders to be supervisors.

10 Ms. Tully confirmed Chair Santiago read the chart
11 correctly. She added the difference was Pennsylvania
12 allows those degrees to be licensed as LPCs. She
13 noted, if the Board removes those categories, there
14 may be a Pennsylvania LPC who has one of the degrees
15 who can no longer be a supervisor of clinical
16 practice despite being a licensed LPC.

17 Mr. DeCriscio asked what licensures Pennsylvania
18 accepts. Ms. Tully replied the regulations state a
19 supervisor must hold a license and a masters or
20 doctorate degree in a related field. She added the
21 concern is that there are LPCs whose degree might be
22 in art therapy. Mr. DeCriscio noted, if a person is
23 licensed as an LPC, they have full LPC power and,
24 therefore, can supervise if the required number of
25 years has been met.

1 Dr. Santiago asked if, hypothetically, the Board
2 is diluting who is a professional counselor and their
3 identities by including more creative therapies who
4 could potentially have their own Board.

5 Mr. Gross stated the Board had two different
6 discussions. He stated one discussion, relating to
7 Mr. DeCriscio's opinion, is if the Board should get
8 to a level where supervisors can supervise if they
9 licensed only with certain Master's degrees, because
10 once a person is licensed, they are licensed. He
11 noted Chair Santiago's position is whether there
12 should be a review of what degrees make a person
13 eligible for a license.

14 Ms. Tully added another consideration for the
15 Board is if there is concern if someone coming into
16 Pennsylvania might not have all of the training
17 Pennsylvania expects a supervisor to have for a
18 specific license.

19 Ms. Maloney asked if the Board needed to look at
20 the way the regulations connect how they tie together
21 holding a license and the type of degree a person
22 holds. She noted separating the components in the
23 definition might be useful.

24 Chair Santiago stated her concern is that the
25 Board is not giving LPCs a clear identity like it had

1 given social workers and MFTs.

2 Ms. Wolfgang pointed out the statutes do have the
3 language of a closely-related field, and she is not
4 sure if the other states have the same language. She
5 added the Board was tasked to define related fields
6 and closely-related fields.

7 Ms. Tully noted the prepared chart was based on
8 the Board's definition of closely-related fields.
9 She referenced the social worker code, and there is a
10 requirement for the supervisor for a licensed
11 clinical social worker, that the supervisor be
12 qualified by training and experience to practice in
13 the supervisee's areas of supervised practice.

14 Mr. DeCriscio noted it was challenging with
15 related fields, because there are many different
16 degrees with different titles that differ by
17 institution. He added the Board permits five
18 licensure classes to provide supervision, which is
19 where the focus should be.

20 Ms. Tully performed a quick review of LPC and MFT
21 regulations and noted the same requirement of
22 licensed social worker supervisors.

23 Mr. DeCriscio reiterated the rules and
24 regulations state the requirements a person must meet
25 in order to be a supervisor. Ms. Tully added, if the

1 supervisor is not qualified for some reason, it is
2 vetted during the application process.

3 It was noted, if the Board would review the broad
4 range of backgrounds allowed for LPCs, there would be
5 many individuals and groups who would have opinions
6 to share.

7 Chair Santiago commented the Board allows
8 licensees of the Medical Board to supervise licenses
9 for half of their hours, but the Medical Board does
10 not allow the same of licensees of the Board. She
11 reiterated her concern at how professional counseling
12 is looked at in Pennsylvania.

13 Mr. DeCriscio commented LPCs are a specialized
14 field not recognized as such in a number of states.
15 He added Pennsylvania is identifying social work and
16 marriage and family therapy as specialized fields,
17 while not recognizing license counseling as also
18 being specialized.

19 Chair Santiago stated such things as dance
20 therapy, music therapy, and art therapy are
21 incredibly valuable; however, she wondered why they
22 did not have their own Board. Mr. DeCriscio noted
23 the Board already combines LMFT, LCSW and LPC. He
24 noted creative therapies can be incorporated into the
25 work of LMFTs, LCSWs and LPCs, but they are not the

1 same degrees as what professional counseling
2 requires.

3 Ms. Wolfgang noted it is not unusual for Boards
4 to have a number of different professions. She used
5 the example of the Medical Board, which has athletic
6 trainers, behavior specialist, perfusionists,
7 orthodontists, and other professions. She suggested
8 a solution may be expanding the regulation
9 requirement that the supervisor be qualified by
10 training and experience practice in the supervisee's
11 area of practice. She added drafting regulations
12 would start a dialogue for the Board. Board Members
13 agreed Ms. Wolfgang had a good idea. Ms. Tully will
14 review the regulations to note where qualifications
15 touch on or overlap with supervisors. She will
16 prepare a draft for the Board to potentially review
17 at the next meeting.]

18 ***

19 Review of Applications

20 MS. TULLY:

21 We'll start at Item No. 14.

22 Based upon the Executive Session
23 deliberations, I believe our Chair is
24 going to entertain a motion to
25 provisionally deny the Application of

1 Shayna Tinsley.

2 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

3 I will entertain that motion. Could I
4 have the motion please?

5 MS. EARLY:

6 Early, so moved.

7 MS. BOYER:

8 Boyer, second.

9

10 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;
11 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

12 [The motion carried unanimously.]

13 ***

14 MS. TULLY:

15 Moving on to Item 15.

16 Based upon the Executive Session
17 deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
18 would entertain a motion to deny the
19 Application of Tyrone Johnson to
20 practice as an Associate Professional
21 Counselor.

22 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

23 I will entertain that motion. Could I
24 have a motion please?

25 MS. EARLY:

1 Early, so moved.

2 MS. BOYER:

3 Boyer, second.

4

5 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;

6 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

7 [The motion carried unanimously.]

8

9 [Ms. Tully noted Item No. 16 was removed from the

10 Agenda.]

11

12 MS. TULLY:

13 Moving on to Item 17.

14

15 I believe our Chairwoman would
16 entertain a motion to grant the
17 Application of Nicole Bialecki to
18 practice as a Professional Counselor.

18 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

19 I'll entertain the motion. Could I
20 have the motion please?

21 MS. EARLY:

22 Early, so moved.

23 MS. BOYER:

24 Boyer, second.

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MS. TULLY:

Item 20, I believe our Chairwoman would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Application of Michelle Bonilla to practice as a Professional Counselor.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

I will entertain that motion. Another motion please.

MS. EARLY:

Early, so moved.

MS. BOYER:

Boyer, second.

Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

MS. TULLY:

Item 21, based upon the Executive Session deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Application of Amy Seligson.

1 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

2 I will entertain that motion. Could I
3 have a motion please?

4 MS. EARLY:

5 Early, so moved.

6 MS. BOYER:

7 Boyer, second.

8

9 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;
10 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, nay; Gross, aye.

11 [The motion carried. Mr. DeCriscio opposed the
12 motion.]

13

14 MS. TULLY:

15 Item 22, based upon the Executive
16 Session deliberations, I believe our
17 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to
18 grant the Application of Tyler Puryear
19 to practice as a Professional
20 Counselor.

21 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

22 I will entertain that motion. Could I
23 have the motion please?

24 MS. EARLY:

25 Early, so moved.

1 MS. BOYER:

2 Boyer, second.

3

4 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;

5 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

6 [The motion carried unanimously.]

7

8 MS. TULLY:

9 Item 23, I believe based upon the
10 Executive Session deliberations, our
11 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to
12 provisionally deny the Application of
13 Breeanne Montoya to practice as a
14 Professional Counselor.

15 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

16 I will entertain that motion. Could I
17 have a motion please?

18 MS. EARLY:

19 Early, so moved.

20 MS. BOYER:

21 Boyer, second.

22

23 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;

24 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

25 [The motion carried unanimously.]

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[Ms. Tully noted Item 24 would be tabled to obtain additional information.]

MS. TULLY:

Item 25, I believe our Chairwoman would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the Application of Michael Catanzarito to be approved as an Individual Course Provider of Continuing Education Credits.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Yes, I will entertain that motion. Can I have a motion please?

MS. EARLY:

Early, so moved.

MS. BOYER:

Boyer, second.

Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

MS. TULLY:

Relative to Item No. 26, I believe our

1 Chairwoman would entertain a motion to
2 grant the Application of Hannah Prativa
3 Spielberg to sit for examination to be
4 a Licensed Clinical Social Worker under
5 Case No. 25-69-008482, as the applicant
6 has completed the supervised clinical
7 experience under her Application that
8 the Board had previously rejected as
9 insufficient.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 I will entertain that motion. Could I
12 have a motion please?

13 MS. EARLY:

14 Early, so moved.

15 MS. BOYER:

16 Boyer, second.

17

18 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;
19 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21

22 MS. TULLY:

23 Moving on to Item 27.

24

25

I believe our Chairwoman would
entertain a motion relative to the

1 Application of Natalie Lefeher to be a
2 Professional Counselor, to grant the
3 Application for an unrestricted license
4 under Act 41, as since the meeting last
5 month, she's updated her resume and has
6 established the require amount of
7 competency. This would rescind the
8 provisional denial the Board voted on
9 last month.

10 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

11 I would definitely entertain that
12 motion. Could I have a motion please?

13 MS. EARLY:

14 Early, so moved.

15 MS. BOYER:

16 Boyer, second.

17

18 Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye;
19 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21

22 MS. TULLY:

23 Moving on to Item 28.

24

25 Based upon the Executive Session
deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman

1 would entertain a motion to deny the
2 request for Examination Waiver of
3 Stephany Graham.

4 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

5 I entertain the motion. Could I have
6 the motion?

7 MS. EARLY:

8 Early, so moved.

9 MS. BOYER:

10 Boyer, second.

11

12 Santiago, aye; Early, nay; Eaton,
13 abstain; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, nay;
14 Gross, aye.

15 [The motion carried. Ms. Early and Mr. DeCriscio
16 opposed the matter. Mr. Eaton abstained from voting
17 on the matter.]

18

19 MS. TULLY:

20 If I can just circle back to Item 8,
21 the correction I made to the name.

22 If I can, if the Chairwoman would
23 entertain a motion to officially Amend
24 the Agenda for this meeting to switch
25 the name from Daniel Monahan to James

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Monahan.

CHAIR SANTIAGO:

Yes, I will entertain that motion to change it to the correct name.

MS. EARLY:

Early, so moved.

MS. BOYER:

Boyer, second.

Santiago, aye; Early, aye; Eaton, aye; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

[The motion carried unanimously.]

Legislative Report - No Report

Report of Board Chairperson

[Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair, explained she had asked the Board Administrator for a count of the number of unencumbered licensees in Pennsylvania broken down by field of license. She reported the following numbers as of October 13, 2025: 52 BSW licensees; 9,697 licensed social workers; 11,479 licensed clinical social workers; 1,562 associate licensed professional counselors; 15,268 licensed professional counselors; 88 associate

1 marriage and family therapists; and 1,312 licensed
2 marriage and family therapists.]

3 ***

4 Report of Commissioner - No Report

5 ***

6 Report of Board Administrator - No Report

7 ***

8 Old Business - No Old Business

9 ***

10 New Business - ASWB Discussion

11 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, explained
12 comments had been made at a previous Board meeting
13 regarding the exam the Association of Social Work
14 Boards (ASWB) proctors. She noted the suggestion was
15 made to have ASWB attend the November meeting to
16 review the changes and answer questions. However,
17 the timing of the meeting puts it after the ASWB
18 conference, which two Board members are attending.
19 She added the hope that there would be an update at
20 the conference, which the Board members could report
21 back on. She further added there was a survey from
22 ASWB, which the Board Administrator received and
23 forwarded.

24 Ms. Maloney reported there had been a limited
25 time for the survey, which happened in between Board

1 meetings. Due to the time frame, she was unable to
2 respond directly to the survey with Board input. She
3 provided a summary of proposed amendments ASWB would
4 be considering and voting on at the annual meeting.
5 She stated Board members could provide Chair Santiago
6 feedback to take to the meeting.

7 Chair Santiago noted, if Board members had input
8 or comments, they could email her with the comments.
9 Ms. Tully cautioned the Board against back and forth
10 discussion outside of the public Board meetings.
11 Chair Santiago requested Ms. Tully review the
12 feedback from Board members before sending it on to
13 Chair Santiago. Ms. Tully agreed to filter the
14 feedback to avoid any possible email chains.

15 Mr. Gross and Ms. Early noted they were generally
16 in favor of the proposed amendments but would conduct
17 a closer review. Ms. Early was interested in any
18 conversation at ASWB around the exam including an
19 update on where they are with the exam in general and
20 the plans moving forward.

21 Chair Santiago offered to take copious notes at
22 ASWB and provide an update to the Board at its
23 November 2025 meeting.]

24 ***

25 New Business - CE Committee Discussion

1 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, explained,
2 at the prior meeting, it was announced Dr. Dinse was
3 leaving the Board due to scheduling conflicts. Dr.
4 Dinse was a member of the Continuing Education (CE)
5 Committee, so there was now an opening on the
6 committee. The committee reviews the pre-approved
7 providers of CE credits. Due to the lengthy process
8 of CE applications, the committee generally reviews
9 applications for completeness before the application
10 come before the Board.

11 Ms. Maloney stated there tended to be an average
12 of two to five applications to review each month but
13 the amount did vary.

14 Chair Santiago asked if there was potential to
15 delegate the committee to outside of Board members.

16 Ms. Tully stated, because the applications have
17 to be reviewed by the Board, the committee had to be
18 Board members. She noted the committee was useful in
19 making sure applications were in order but also to
20 make recommendations.

21 Ms. Early commented the committee does not take
22 up much time compared to preparing for Board
23 meetings.

24 Ms. Maloney explained there is a drastic volume
25 difference between the CE Committee and the

1 Application Committee, which has three members. She
2 recommended the three members on the Application
3 Committee, Ms. Boyer, Dr. DeCriscio and Mr. Gross, do
4 not serve on the CE committee.

5 The Board discussed who might want to switch
6 committees and what committees each member currently
7 serves on.

8 Ms. Maloney noted, if someone switches from the
9 Application Committee, that would leave an opening
10 needing to be filled. She recommended the
11 Application Committee stay at three members for tie-
12 breaking purposes and due to the volume of work. She
13 stated the CE Committee could function with one
14 person temporarily.

15 Ms. Tully added if Ms. Early received too many CE
16 applications, for the time being, the Board might
17 have to review some without her guidance. She noted
18 the discussion could be relisted for the November
19 meetings to allow absent members to be present.

20 Ms. Maloney recommended the Board consider a
21 yearly committee review at the November meeting. She
22 added it was a good to rotate members between
23 committees for experience, general exposure, and a
24 variety of input.

25 Ms. Tully explained the Board usually does a

1 review at the first meeting each year, but it could
2 be done at the November meeting with appointments
3 lasting from November through the end of 2026. She
4 added meeting dates for 2027 could also be discussed
5 at the November meeting.

6 Ms. Boyer asked if the Board was looking to add
7 new members.

8 Mr. Eaton stated they are always looking to add
9 members.

10 Ms. Tully noted vacant positions are listed on
11 the website as well as the front page of the Agenda.
12 Current vacant positions are for an MFT, a social
13 worker, and two public members.

14 Mr. Gross requested, whenever an email goes to a
15 committee member's Commonwealth email, a notification
16 is also sent to their alternate email. Ms. Tully
17 confirmed his request could be done.]

18 ***

19 Public Comment

20 [Stephany Graham thanked the Board for reviewing her
21 Application and asked about the appeal process or how
22 to provide additional documentation.

23 Ms. Tully explained she would receive a letter
24 explaining the denial. The letter would also include
25 steps for Ms. Graham to follow to challenge the

1 Board's decision.]

2

3 [Yvette Drescher asked about her application for
4 review under Act 41. Ms. Tully noted her application
5 was not reviewed for the October meeting. Ms.
6 Maloney stated Ms. Drescher could email the Board to
7 check on the status of her application.]

8

9 [Shardai Green thanked the Board for reviewing her
10 application. She asked if Pennsylvania would allow a
11 person to build on their current master's degree to
12 fulfill requirements if they have the majority of the
13 course requirements for the LPC.

14 Ms. Tully stated the Board generally does not get
15 into specifics on anyone's application in the public
16 meeting. She noted the letter provided to the
17 applicant would explain any deficiencies and
18 generally gives guidance on remediation of the
19 deficiencies. She was not permitted to give legal
20 advice, but if once Ms. Green received her letter,
21 she would assist her if possible.]

22

23 [Ms. Maloney explained she had been invited, on
24 behalf of the BPOA, to present information on
25 licensure processes relating to Associate

1 Professional Counselors at the annual meeting for the
2 Pennsylvania Counselors Association. She added Dr.
3 Behun would also attend the same meeting. She
4 offered to provide the Board with feedback from the
5 meeting and report on her presentation.]

6 ***

7 Adjournment

8 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

9 I'm going to adjourn the meeting at
10 1:01 p.m. on October 14.

11 MR. EATON:

12 All right, we do need to make a motion.

13 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

14 Yes, can I get a motion please?

15 MR. EARLY:

16 Early, so moved.

17 MR. BOYER:

18 Boyer, second.

19 CHAIR SANTIAGO:

20 Now the Board is adjourned. All right,
21 thank you Board members for all of your
22 work, service and dedication. I will
23 see everybody next month.

24 ***

25 [There being no further business, the State Board of

1 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
2 Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at 1:01
3 p.m.]

4 ***

5
6 CERTIFICATE

7
8 I hereby certify that the foregoing summary
9 minutes of the State Board of Social Workers,
10 Marriage and Family Therapists and Professional
11 Counselors meeting, was reduced to writing by me or
12 under my supervision, and that the minutes accurately
13 summarize the substance of the State Board of Social
14 Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists and
15 Professional Counselors meeting.

16
17
18 Jacob Hill

19 Jacob Hill,
20 Minute Clerk
21 Sargent's Court Reporting
22 Service, Inc.

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

October 14, 2025

	TIME	AGENDA
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2		
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4		
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6		
7		
8		
9		
10	8:45	Executive Session
11	11:32	Return to Open Session
12		
13	11:32	Official Call to Order
14		
15	11:33	Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
16		
17		
18	11:35	Approval of Minutes
19		
20	11:37	Report of Board Prosecution
21		
22	11:44	Report of Board Counsel
23		
24	11:47	Regulatory Report
25		
26	12:22	Report of Applications
27		
28	12:35	Report of Chairperson
29		
30	12:36	New Business
31		
32	12:54	Public Comment
33		
34	1:01	Adjournment
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