

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: 11:34 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

September 16, 2025

State Board of Social Workers,
Marriage and Family Therapists,
and Professional Counselors
September 16, 2025

BOARD MEMBERS:

Michelle Santiago, Psy.D., NCC, CCMHC, LPC, Chair -
Absent
Kimberly Early, LSW, Vice Chair
Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
Professional and Occupational Affairs
Richard Joseph Behun, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS
Farida E. Boyer, MS, LMFT, AS
Eric DeCriscio, MA, LPC, ACS
Andy Gross, LCSW, MSS
Tiffany Welch, DSW, MSW, LSW - Absent

BUREAU PERSONNEL:

Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel
Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor
Shana Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
Prosecution Division
Adrianne Rachelle McClendon, Esquire, Board
Prosecutor
Jason Anderson, Esquire, Board Prosecutor
Nichole Wray Maloney, Division Chief, Health
Licensing Division
Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel
Willow Marsh, Legislative Aide, Department of State
Thomas Miller, Board Administrator
Holly Hoffman, Law Clerk, Department of State
CJ Restemayer, Esquire, Office of General Counsel
Piri Pantoja Jr., Deputy Policy Director, Office of
Legislative Affairs
Liliana Fisher, Esquire, Board Prosecution Liaison
Nicolas Kahler, Law Clerk, Department of State Legal
Office

ALSO PRESENT:

Matt DeCarlo, PhD, MSW, Clinical Assistant Professor,
MSW Program Director, Saint Joseph's University
Johanna Byrd, ACSW, IOM, CAE, Executive Director,
National Association of Social Workers,
Pennsylvania Chapter

State Board of Social Workers,
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ALSO PRESENT: (Cont.)

Rheanna Schmidt, LPC, Hope Canyon Counseling
Anna Schubbe, LPC, LMFT, BSP, RPA-CA, DBT-C
Lis Santamaria, IBHS Clinical Coordinator, Family
Therapy and Consultation Services
Edward J. Murphy, Attorney, Goldberg Segalla
Jessica Seelinger, Government Affairs Specialist,
American Association for Marriage and Family
Therapy
Lauren Cunkelman, MA, BC-DMT, LPC, NCC, Clinical
Coordinator, Pediatric Psychology Center of Chester
County
Amy Tielemans, LMFT, Amy Tielemans and Associates
Jocelyn Waldes, LCSW, The Therapy Group
Melissa Pinera, MS, Bowman and Associates
Padmini Kunnathully, Counselor
Colin Christian Vesterfelt, LCSW
Tiffany Lara, MS, CCTP
Ashley Thompson, LCSW
Tyrone Norris, MSW, Vocational Rehabilitation
Specialist, Veterans Administration
Georgiana Abdelmoety, LSW
Taariq Bouy, MA
Susan Harwood, Mental Health Counselor
Laura Clark
Sherri Green
Shardai G.
Susan H.
SH
PK
Call-in # 1-484-903-4107
Call-in # 1-717-858-4879
Call-In # 1-610-248-8938
Call-In # 1-484-903-3183
Call-In # 1-724-968-7063
Erin Badstuebner, Sargent's Court Reporting Service,
Inc.

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

September 16, 2025

[Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
at 8:45 a.m., the Board entered into Executive
Session with Cathy A. Tully, 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
11:34 a.m.]

The regularly scheduled meeting of the State
Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family
Therapists, and Professional Counselors was held on
Tuesday, September 16, 2025. Kimberly Early, LSW,
Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 11:34 a.m.

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

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

5 ***

6 Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
7 [Nichole Wray Maloney, Division Chief, provided a
8 roll call of Board members and introduction of
9 attendees. A quorum of Board members was present.]

10 ***

11 Appointment - Introduction of Deputy Chief Counsel,
12 Shana Walter Esquire
13 [Shana Walter, Esquire, Deputy Chief Counsel,
14 Prosecution Division, provided the Board with a brief
15 update of her change in position with the
16 Commonwealth.]

17 ***

18 Regulatory Report
19 [Jacqueline Wolfgang, Esquire, Regulatory Counsel,
20 explained the Board had five pending regulations:
21 16A-6923, General Revisions; 16A-6924, Volunteer
22 Licenses; 16A-6925, Licensure by Endorsement (Act
23 41); 16A-6927, Licensed Associate Marriage and Family
24 Therapists and Associate Professional Counselors; and
25 16A-6928, Supervisory Standards. She noted updates

1 on the regulations in the Board's packet for review.

2 Ms. Wolfgang discussed the General Revisions
3 package. She reviewed the steps of the package after
4 the Board's approval earlier in the year. She noted
5 the receipt of feedback from OGC Budget and Policy
6 Offices to review with the Board.

7 Ms. Wolfgang explained the first feedback
8 referred to Section 47.12c (b) (5) and (b) (5.1). She
9 noted the same provision was also drafted for
10 Sections 48 and 49. She read the drafted language to
11 the Board and noted the word "concurrently" had been
12 flagged as being potentially vague and confusing.
13 Ms. Wolfgang asked for clarification on the Board's
14 intention with the drafted language. She stated the
15 intention was that at least one of the two hours of
16 supervision needed to be done with the supervisee
17 individually.

18 Ms. Tully confirmed she was not with the Board at
19 the time the changes were drafted; however, she
20 understood the meaning to be one hour of supervision
21 must be done individually and one hour can be done in
22 group supervision.

23 Ms. Early asked for clarification on how Ms.
24 Wolfgang proposed to solve the issue. Ms. Wolfgang
25 proposed the sentence using the word "concurrently"

1 be removed entirely and adding language reading "at
2 least one of the two hours in each 40 hours of
3 supervised clinical experience shall be with the
4 supervisee individually."

5 The Board agreed with Ms. Wolfgang's proposed
6 revisions. She stated she would ask for a vote on
7 the revisions as a whole at the end of the
8 discussion.

9 Ms. Wolfgang directed the Board's attention to
10 Section 49.11 regarding examinations. She noted the
11 Board proposed to eliminate a number of examinations
12 and limit the examinations to the two national
13 examinations for professional counseling, the NCE and
14 the NCMHCE. She added the Policy Office raised
15 concerns that eliminating the exams might cause
16 issues with respect to workforce development at a
17 time when the administration is working to strengthen
18 the behavioral health pipeline. She noted there was
19 concern eliminating the exams may increase burdens to
20 licensure. She also noted there may be potential
21 impact on individuals who are already on a path to
22 licensure and now cannot take those examinations.

23 Dr. Behun explained the standard for other boards
24 in the United States is to offer either the NCE or
25 NCMHCE. He added anyone, who completes the education

1 requirements under Section 49.2 for licensure in
2 Pennsylvania, should be able to pass either the NCE
3 or NCMHCE. He noted overwhelming support for the
4 changes not just by the Board but also the
5 Pennsylvania Counseling Association and other
6 licensed counselors in Pennsylvania.

7 Mr. Gross asked, if the changes were to be made,
8 would there be a public notice to allow individuals
9 already in the process the time to complete their
10 exams? Ms. Wolfgang replied a time period was not
11 proposed in the regulation as written but could be
12 given consideration. Ms. Wolfgang proposed the Board
13 consider the exam regulations as a competency piece
14 related to the Code of Ethics as opposed to
15 eliminating examinations. She added the Policy
16 Office was concerned about eliminating exams as there
17 had not been any public comments on the exposure
18 draft. Ms. Wolfgang suggested the Board consider
19 pulling the exam regulations out of the General
20 Revisions package. She noted her concern that the
21 potential controversy surrounding the elimination of
22 certain exams might hold up the General Revisions
23 package.

24 Mr. DeCriscio noted he had taken the Advanced
25 Alcohol and other Drug Abuse Counselor Examination,

1 and from his viewpoint, the exam does not cover what
2 one needs to be a professional counselor. He also
3 noted he had not seen any applicants take any exams
4 other than the NCE and the NCMHCE in his four years
5 with the Board.

6 Ms. Wolfgang stated Mr. DeCriscio's comments were
7 excellent points. She added it would be helpful to
8 research what the Board was considering when the
9 regulation was first drafted. She also noted the
10 rationale behind eliminating certain exams is not
11 addressed in the preamble, which makes the regulation
12 vulnerable.

13 Dr. Behun reiterated, by the Board offering seven
14 or eight different exam options, it would be
15 operating outside of the standards of other boards
16 who license counselors in other states.

17 Ms. Wolfgang added she could look for regulatory
18 documents from when the exam decisions were first
19 made to gain insight into the reasoning behind the
20 decisions.

21 Dr. Behun did not believe the exams listed for
22 elimination are the equivalent of the national
23 standard for licensure.

24 Ms. Wolfgang suggested pulling the provision from
25 the regulation to allow for additional work on it.

1 She stated more research is needed. She would look
2 into competency as a potential solution.

3 Acting Commissioner Claggett agreed with Ms.
4 Wolfgang's approach. He noted the Board could put
5 the information in a newsletter.

6 Ms. Wolfgang stated the last issue in the General
7 Revisions related to other sources of continuing
8 education being in all three chapters, but she
9 directed the Board to Section 47.36a(a). She stated
10 the Board proposed to change the current regulation
11 allowing a licensee to accrue up to 30 hours of
12 continuing education units (CEUs) biennium through
13 services as a preceptor, lecturer or speaker to 15
14 hours. She noted a preceptor is different than a
15 lecturer or speaker as they are a licensee who
16 provides supervision, mentorship or practical
17 training in a practice or clinical setting to help
18 bridge the gap between theoretical knowledge and
19 real-world experience. She added the Policy Office
20 was concerned that limiting the preceptor hours to 15
21 might discourage preceptorship and have a negative
22 impact.

23 Ms. Wolfgang suggested the Board consider
24 separating preceptors from lecturers and speakers.
25 She recommended the Board keep preceptor CEU hours at

1 30 while changing lecturer and speaker CEU hours to
2 15. She noted, if approved, the section would be
3 revised and not pulled out of the General Revisions
4 like the exam portion.

5 Ms. Early and Acting Commissioner Claggett agreed
6 with her recommendation of keeping the current
7 regulation for preceptors while limiting the change
8 to 15 hours for lecturers and speakers.

9 Ms. Wolfgang clarified she could come back to the
10 Board again with an amended Annex before moving
11 forward or she could make the amendments and push
12 forward in the regulatory process. She added the
13 Board will still see the amendment changes after the
14 process is moved forward as there are still several
15 steps before the final rulemaking, including a public
16 comment period.

17 Mr. Gross was not sure about the idea of a
18 preceptor never doing actual CEUs and just receiving
19 credit based on preceptor duties. Ms. Wolfgang noted
20 it was not a change from the current regulations.
21 She added other boards have very similar regulations
22 for preceptors.]

23 ***

24 MS. WOLFGANG:

25 I believe the Chair would entertain a

1 motion of approve the amendments to the
2 proposed regulations, the Preamble and
3 Annex at 16A-6923 and direct Regulatory
4 Counsel to make those amendments as
5 discussed during Public Session today
6 and move this regulation through the
7 regulatory process.

8 VICE CHAIR EARLY:

9 I will entertain a motion.

10 ACTING COMMISSIONER CLAGGETT:

11 Claggett, so moved.

12 MS. BOYER:

13 Boyer, second.

14 VICE CHAIR EARLY:

15 Does anyone have any items for
16 discussion?

17 [Richard Joseph Behun, Ph.D., LPC, NCC, ACS, asked
18 for additional clarification on the regulatory
19 process and whether amendments would be allowed after
20 the regulation goes through the Attorney General's
21 office. He reiterated his concern for the
22 elimination of certain exams.

23 Ms. Wolfgang explained the General Revisions
24 regulations has taken a number of years to complete
25 as it is a comprehensive 71-page regulation. If the

1 exam requirements are treated as its own regulation,
2 it would be about five pages, making the time needed
3 for it much shorter.

4 Dr. Behun stressed that the counseling exam
5 requirements needed to be changed to the same as the
6 social work and marriage and family therapist
7 requirement of national exams.

8 Ms. Tully clarified the exam changes were being
9 pulled out of the General Revision package to move
10 the package forward. She noted the Board would be
11 revisiting the exam changes in a separate package
12 after additional research. She also noted this meant
13 the exam portion of the regulation would not be
14 changing from the current regulations with the
15 General Revisions package.

16 Mr. DeCriscio had similar concerns to Dr. Behun.
17 He added the licensed professional counselors (LPC)
18 on the Board are adamant changes are needed in the
19 Board's LPC exam standards.]

20 VICE CHAIR EARLY:

21 Okay, I think we are back to the roll
22 call. Yes or no?

23
24 Early, aye; Claggett, aye; Behun, nay;
25 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, abstain; Gross,

1 aye.

2 [The motion carried. Dr. Behun opposed the motion.
3 Mr. DeCriscio abstained from voting on the motion.]

4 ***

5 Report of the Commissioner

6 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
7 Professional and Occupational Affairs, reported Dr.
8 Ling Dinse, LSW, had resigned from the Board due to
9 scheduling conflicts. He had to exit the meeting,
10 and Nicole Wray, Division Chief, Health Licensing,
11 would remain as his designee.]

12 ***

13 [Arion R. Claggett, Acting Commissioner, Bureau of
14 Professional and Occupational Affairs, exited the
15 meeting at 12:30 p.m.]

16 ***

17 Approval of Minutes

18 MS. TULLY:

19 Based upon the Executive Session
20 deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
21 would entertain a motion to Approve the
22 Draft Minutes from the July 15, 2025
23 meeting.

24 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

25 I will entertain a motion of Approval

1 of Minutes.

2 MR. GROSS:

3 So moved.

4 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

5 And is there a second?

6 MR. DECRISCIO:

7 Second.

8

9 Early, abstain; Maloney, aye; Behun,

10 aye; Boyer, abstain; DeCriscio, aye;

11 Gross, aye.

12 [The motion carried. Ms. Early and Ms. Boyer

13 abstained from voting on the motion.]

14 ***

15 Report of the Prosecutorial Division

16 [Patrick M. Greene, Esquire, Board Prosecution

17 Liaison, presented the Consent Agreements for Item

18 No. 3, Case No. 23-69-017701; Item No. 4, Case No.

19 24-69-009203; and Item No. 5, Case No. 25-69-011022.]

20 ***

21 [Todd P. Kriner, Esquire, Senior Board Prosecutor,

22 presented the Consent Agreement for Item No. 6, Case

23 No. 25-69-008611.]

24 ***

25 MS. TULLY:

1 Based upon the Executive Session
2 deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
3 would entertain a motion to Adopt the
4 Consent Agreements presented at Case
5 No. 23-69-017701; Case No. 24-69-
6 009203; Case No. 25-69-011022; and Case
7 No. 25-69-008611.

8 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

9 I will entertain a motion.

10 MR. GROSS:

11 Gross, so moved.

12 MR. DECRISCIO:

13 DeCriscio, second.

14

15 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

16 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

17 [The motion carried unanimously. The Respondents'
18 names are as follows: Item No. 3, Case No. 23-69-
19 017701, Sarah Theresa Cook, LCSW; Item No. 4, Case
20 No. 24-69-009203, Erika Huth, LPC; Item No. 5, Case
21 No. 25-69-011022, Jeffery Joseph Leoni; and Item No.
22 6, Case No. 25-69-008611, Herman Rushing, LSW.]

23

24 Report of Board Counsel - Draft Adjudications and
25 Orders

1 MS. TULLY:

2 Relative to Item No. 7 on the Agenda, I
3 believe our Chairwoman, based upon the
4 Executive Session deliberations, would
5 entertain a motion on Case No. 24-69-
6 016669, the matter of Keven Mancini, a
7 motion to Adopt the Draft Adjudication
8 and Order and issue it as the Final
9 Adjudication and Order in this matter.

10 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

11 I will entertain that motion.

12 MR. GROSS:

13 Gross, so moved.

14 MR. DECRISCIO:

15 DeCriscio, second.

16

17 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
18 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

19 [The motion carried unanimously.]

20

21 Report of Board Counsel - Hearing Examiner Proposals

22 MS. TULLY:

23 Relative to Item 8 on the Agenda, I
24 believe based upon Executive Session
25 deliberations, our Chairwoman would

1 entertain a motion to Adopt with a
2 correction the Hearing Examiner's
3 Proposed Adjudication and Order issued
4 in the matter of Graziella Reis Sanga
5 at Case No. 24-69-015545.

6 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

7 I will entertain a motion.

8 MR. GROSS:

9 Gross, so moved.

10 MR. DECRISCIO:

11 DeCriscio, second.

12
13 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
14 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 MS. TULLY:

18 Relative to Item No. 9 on the Agenda, I
19 believe based upon the Executive
20 Session deliberations, our Chairwoman
21 would entertain a motion to authorize
22 Counsel to Draft an Adjudication and
23 Order consistent with the Executive
24 Session deliberations in the matter of
25 Lis Cristina Santamaria Garcia at Case

1 Nos. 24-69-011689 and 24-69-011691.

2 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

3 I will entertain a motion.

4 MR. GROSS:

5 Gross, so moved.

6 MR. DECRISCIO:

7 DeCriscio, second.

8

9 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

10 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye.

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 Report of Board Counsel - Matters for Deliberation

14 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the

15 Matters for Deliberation on the Agenda were

16 informational matters addressed in an Executive

17 Session and no formal Board action needed to be

18 taken.]

19 ***

20 Regulatory Report (cont.) - 16A-6928 Supervisory

21 Standards

22 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, reported on

23 working on Regulation 16A-6928 regarding degree

24 requirements for supervisors for various license

25 groups, as a separate regulation from the General

1 Revisions package. She noted the Board had asked her
2 to research what surrounding states require for each
3 of the license classes. She researched relevant
4 Practice Acts and Board Regulations from Delaware,
5 Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Ohio and West
6 Virginia. She compiled her research into a document
7 and presented it to the Board as part of the meeting
8 packet.

9 Ms. Tully explained how the spreadsheets were
10 organized for social workers, marriage and family
11 therapists, and licensed professional counselors. In
12 addition to compiling the supervisory degrees for
13 each license class, she compiled miscellaneous
14 information pertinent to the discussion, such as
15 required continuing education.

16 Mr. Gross asked why Ms. Tully chose the states
17 listed. She explained it was narrowed down to the
18 states which share a border with Pennsylvania. She
19 added, if the Board would like information from other
20 specific states, she would be able to look into them.

21 Ms. Tully reviewed why the Board had wanted the
22 information. Vice-Chair Early confirmed the Board
23 wished to make sure they were not outliers in their
24 supervisory requirements and were similar to other
25 states.

5 | Legislative Report

6 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, provided the
7 Board with updates on several pieces of pending
8 legislature.

9 The Social Work Compact under House Bill 554 was
10 amended to an 18-month effective date from a 60-day
11 effective date. It moved to the Senate and referred
12 to Consumer Protection on Professional Licensures.
13 Ms. Tully noted the effective date change is due to
14 the database system still being in development which
15 is required.

16 Senate Bill 583, seeking to introduce the Social
17 Work Compact, was reported as committed from
18 Appropriations on June 24, 2025.

19 House Bill 668, regarding the National Counseling
20 Compact, moved to the Senate and referred to Consumer
21 Protection on Professional Licensures.

22 Senate Bill 986, introduced August 25, 2025,
23 seeks to add licensed recreational therapist under
24 the Board and to increase the Board size to 15
25 members.

1 House Bill 1733, introduced July 14, 2025, seeks
2 to add the professional art therapist licensure under
3 the Board.

4 House Bill 1707 was referred to the Human
5 Services Committee on July 8, 2025, and would
6 establish a social worker educational enrollment in
7 trade training pilot program within the Department of
8 Human Services.

9 Senate Bill 579, introduced August 9, 2025, would
10 establish a musical therapist license class and would
11 expand the Board to 15 members.

12 Mr. Gross requested clarification on the
13 potential new license classes. Ms. Tully confirmed
14 the classes before the Senate are recreational
15 therapist and music therapist while the class before
16 the House is art therapist. She noted, if they pass,
17 there would be an amendment to the Practice Act, and
18 the Board would work on related regulations.

19 Mr. Gross asked if Ms. Tully knew the status of
20 the pending license classes in other states. She
21 stated, in her research for 16A-6928, she noted
22 mention of music and art therapists but not
23 recreational therapists. She will double-check her
24 research for verification.]

25

1 Public Comment

2 [Lis Santamaria, IBHS Clinical Coordinator, Family
3 Therapy and Consultation Services, asked if it was
4 possible to know the outcome of her cases which came
5 in front of the Board. Ms. Tully responded the
6 motion of the Board was for Counsel to Draft the
7 Adjudication and Order that will render the decision,
8 which generally takes a couple of months.

9 Ms. Santamaria asked if the Board reviewed
10 specific information submitted with the Hearing
11 Examiner's proposal. Ms. Tully noted the Board does
12 not comment on what occurs during Executive Session.
13 She added any relevant information that is part of
14 the Final Adjudication and Order would be included.

15 Ms. Santamaria requested the Board provide
16 specific information with the Final Adjudication, so
17 if she does not receive her license, she knows what
18 steps she needs to take.]

19 ***

20 [Tyrone Norris, MSW, Vocational Rehabilitation
21 Specialist, Veterans Administration, stated he had
22 received notice his case would be reviewed at the
23 meeting but had not heard anything thus far. Ms.
24 Tully noted the Application reviews would be after
25 the next Executive Session.]

[Matt DeCarlo, PhD, MSW, Clinical Assistant Professor, MSW Program Director, Saint Joseph's University, stated he was following up on his public testimony from the prior two meetings. He provided Ms. Tully with information showing ASWB and the Maryland work group admitted under oath that they had changed examination rules with negative 15 days of notice. He added the Board cannot rely on test scores if the test rules were changed without notifying test takers. He noted being provided additional documentation on the issue. He expressed his opinion of the importance of the issue as it impinges on the defensibility of the Board's licensing decisions.

Ms. Tully noted Item No. 56 on the Agenda for after Executive Session is the ASWB discussion.]

[Georgiana Abdelmoety, LSW, inquired as to obtaining information regarding dual licensure. She is licensed in New Jersey and would like information on being licensed in Pennsylvania.

Ms. Tully responded that information can be located on the website where there are links to the Practice Act and the regulations for each licensure

1 group. The social worker link includes a description
2 of the pathways for licensure under endorsement. She
3 added Act 41 information can also be found on the
4 website.]

5 ***

6 [Shardai G. stated she had submitted an appeal for
7 her application and questioned whether her case would
8 be reviewed. Ms. Tully noted her case was not on the
9 Agenda for this meeting. She noted Ms. Shardai could
10 put in a ticket through PALS with the inquiry or
11 email Ms. Maloney or herself for a procedural
12 update.]

13 ***

14 [Taariq Bouy, MA, noted his Application was No. 34 on
15 the Agenda. He asked if he was permitted to provide
16 additional information from his employers for his
17 case.

18 Ms. Tully noted any information to be considered
19 at the meeting needed to be provided prior to the
20 meeting for review. She added, if Mr. Bouy disagrees
21 with the Board's decision, there is an appeal process
22 during which he can submit additional items.]

23 ***

24 [Melissa Pinera, MS, Bowman and Associates, discussed
25 applying for LPC. She had started an application for

1 LAPC and did not complete it. She asked if the LAPC
2 application would interfere with her LPC application.

3 Ms. Maloney replied all applications are
4 considered independently. She added Ms. Pinera could
5 email her with information for an update outside of
6 the public.]

7 ***

8 [Pursuant to Section 708(a)(5) of the Sunshine Act,
9 at 1:11 p.m., the Board entered into Executive
10 Session with Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel,
11 for the purpose of conducting quasi-judicial
12 deliberations and to receive the advice of Board
13 Counsel. The Board returned to open session at 2:22
14 p.m.]

15 ***

16 Report of Board Chairperson - No Report

17 ***

18 Report of Board Administrator -

19 [Nicole Wray Maloney, Division Chief, Health
20 Licensing Division introduced the new Board
21 Administrator, Thomas Miller.]

22 ***

23 Review of Applications

24 MS. TULLY:

25 Relative to Item 15 on the Agenda, I

1 believe based upon the Executive
2 Session deliberations, our Chairwoman
3 would entertain a motion to grant the
4 Application of Ashley Thompson to
5 practice as a Social Worker.

6 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

7 I will accept a motion.

8 MR. GROSS:

9 Gross, so moved.

10 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

11 Is there a second?

12 MR. DECRISCIO:

13 DeCriscio, second.

14

15 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

16 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18 ***

19 MS. TULLY:

20 Moving on to Item No. 16, I believe
21 based upon Executive Session
22 deliberations, our Chairwoman would
23 entertain a motion to provisionally
24 deny the Application of Tyrone Norris
25 to practice as a Social Worker.

1 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

2 I will entertain a motion.

3 MR. GROSS:

4 Gross, so moved.

5 MR. DECRISCIO:

6 DeCriscio, second.

7

8 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

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

10 [The motion carried unanimously.]

11 ***

12 MS. TULLY:

13 Moving on to Item No. 17, I believe

14 based upon the Executive Session

15 deliberations, our Chairwoman would

16 entertain a motion to provisionally

17 deny the application of Colin

18 Vesterfelt to practice as a Clinical

19 Social Worker.

20 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

21 I will entertain a motion.

22 MR. GROSS:

23 Gross, so moved.

24 MR. DECRISCIO:

25 DeCriscio, second.

1

2

Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

3

Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

4

[The motion carried unanimously.]

5

6

MS. TULLY:

7

Moving on to Items 22 and 25 of the

8

Agenda.

9

Based upon the Executive Session

10

Deliberations, I believe our Chair

11

would entertain a motion to grant an

12

Associate Professional Counselor

13

License to Nur Abir Greene and David

14

Barnes.

15

VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

16

I will entertain that motion.

17

MR. GROSS:

18

Gross, so moved.

19

MR. DECRISCIO:

20

DeCriscio, second.

21

22

Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

23

Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

24

[The motion carried unanimously.]

25

1 MS. TULLY:

2 Based upon the Executive Session
3 Deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
4 would entertain a motion to
5 provisionally deny the following
6 Applications to Practice as an
7 Associate Professional Counselor; Item
8 18, Chyna Laney Smith; Item 19, Elaina
9 McCoulskey; Item 20, Eman Hasan; Item
10 21, Megan Soring; Item 23, Tiffany
11 Marie Lara; Item 24, Chabreena Dixon;
12 and Item 26, Shonyah Hawkins-Cottman.

13 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

14 I will entertain that motion.

15 MR. GROSS:

16 Gross, so moved.

17 MR. DECRISCIO:

18 DeCriscio, second.

19
20 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
21 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

22 [The motion carried unanimously.]

23 ***

24 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted Item
25 No. 27 would be tabled.]

MS. TULLY:

Relative to Items 34 and 35, based upon Executive Session deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman would entertain a motion to grant the Applications to Practice as a Professional Counselor of Taariq Bouy and Michelle Chisholm.

VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

I will entertain that motion.

MR. GROSS:

Gross, so moved.

MR. DECRISCIO:

DeCriscio, second.

Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

[The motion carried unanimously.]

MS. TULLY:

Based upon the Executive Session Deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman would entertain a motion to provisionally deny the following Applications to Practice as a

1 Professional Counselor; Item 28, Ian
2 Vereen; Item 29, Jeffery Wheeler; Item
3 30, Krystyn Wartluft; Item 31, Latosha
4 Nichole Green; Item 32, Rebecca Lynne
5 Baker; Item 33, Simera Carol Edmonds;
6 Item 36, Susan Harwood; and Item 37,
7 Juliette Gamble.

8 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

9 I will entertain that motion.

10 MR. GROSS:

11 Gross, so moved.

12 MR. DECRISCIO:

13 DeCriscio, second.

14

15 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

16 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

17 [The motion carried unanimously.]

18

19 MS. TULLY:

20 Relative to Item 38 on the Agenda,
21 based upon the Executive Session
22 deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
23 would entertain a motion to grant a
24 License to Practice as a Clinical
25 Social Worker through Act 41 to Kory

1 Bradley.

2 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

3 I will entertain that motion.

4 MR. GROSS:

5 Gross, so moved.

6 MR. DECRISCIO:

7 DeCriscio, second.

8

9 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

10 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

11 [The motion carried unanimously.]

12 ***

13 MS. TULLY:

14 Moving on to Item 40 of the Agenda, I
15 believe based upon Executive Session
16 deliberations, our Chairwoman would
17 entertain a motion to grant a License
18 to Practice as a Professional Counselor
19 to Gwendolyn Gause.

20 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

21 I will entertain that motion.

22 MR. GROSS:

23 Gross, so moved.

24 MR. DECRISCIO:

25 DeCriscio, second.

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Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

[The motion carried unanimously.]

MS. TULLY:

Moving on to Items 43 and 45 of the
Agenda, I believe based upon Executive
Session deliberations, our Chairwoman
would entertain a motion to grant a
Provisional License to Practice as a
Professional Counselor to Melissa
Weaver and Natalie Lefehr, but provide
them an opportunity to establish the
two years of practice to qualify for an
unrestricted license.

VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

I will entertain that motion.

MR. GROSS:

Gross, so moved.

MR. DECRISCIO:

DeCriscio, second.

Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

1 [The motion carried unanimously.]

2 ***

3 MS. TULLY:

4 Moving on to Item 46 of the Agenda, I
5 believe based upon Executive Session
6 deliberations, our Chairwoman would
7 entertain a motion to grant a
8 Provisional License to Miranda Phillips
9 to Practice as a Professional Counselor
10 under Act 41.

11 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

12 I will entertain that motion.

13 MR. GROSS:

14 Gross, so moved.

15 MR. DECRISCIO:

16 DeCriscio, second.

17

18 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

19 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

20 [The motion carried unanimously.]

21 ***

22 MS. TULLY:

23 Moving on to Items 39, 41, and 42,
24 based upon Executive Session
25 deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman

1 would entertain a motion to
2 provisionally deny the Applications of
3 Allen Davis, Jennilyn Harvey, and Kyle
4 Lamb.

5 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

6 I will entertain that motion.

7 MR. GROSS:

8 Gross, so moved.

9 MR. DECRISCIO:

10 DeCriscio, second.

11

12 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

13 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted Item
17 Nos. 44 and 47 would be tabled.]

18 ***

19 MS. TULLY:

20 Based upon the Executive Session
21 Deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
22 would entertain a motion to approve the
23 Applications of the Center for Teaching
24 and Learning, The Courageous Heart
25 Institute, The Nest Clinic at CSIU,

1 Leslie Chaundy, and The Therapy Group
2 to be Pre-Approved Providers of
3 Continuing Education at Items 48, 49,
4 50, 52, and 53.

5 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

6 I will entertain that motion.

7 MR. GROSS:

8 Gross, so moved.

9 MR. DECRISCIO:

10 DeCriscio, second.

11

12 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

13 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

14 [The motion carried unanimously.]

15 ***

16 MS. TULLY:

17 Based upon the Executive Session
18 Deliberations, I believe our Chairwoman
19 would entertain a motion to
20 provisionally deny the Application of
21 the Lancaster-Lebanon IU 13 to be Pre-
22 Approved Providers of Continuing
23 Education at Item 51.

24 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

25 I will entertain that motion.

1 MR. GROSS:

2 Gross, so moved.

3 MR. DECRISCIO:

4 DeCriscio, second.

5

6 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;

7 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

8 [The motion carried unanimously.]

9

10 New Business - Elect Board Delegate for Pennsylvania

11 Counseling Association conference, November 7-9

12 MS. TULLY:

13 I believe our Chairwoman would
14 entertain a motion to send Joseph Behun
15 as the elected delegate to the
16 Pennsylvania Counseling Association
17 conference on November 7th through the
18 9th of this year in Bethlehem.

19 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

20 I will entertain that motion.

21 MR. GROSS:

22 Gross, so moved.

23 MR. DECRISCIO:

24 Second, DeCriscio.

25

1 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun,
2 abstain; Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye;
3 Gross, aye

4 [The motion carried. Dr. Behun abstained from voting
5 on the matter.]

6 ***

7 New Business - Act 41 Discussion

8 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, noted the
9 list of applications for consideration at the Board
10 meetings is becoming quite lengthy. For someone to
11 be considered for licensure under Act 41, the first
12 inquiry the Board makes is whether or not the state
13 that issued the license is substantially equivalent
14 to the requirements of the Commonwealth.

15 Ms. Tully stated Board Administration keeps a
16 running list of what states have been considered for
17 which license classes as well as a record of which
18 meeting the state was evaluated. She asked if the
19 Board would be interested in publishing a list of
20 states it has already determined are substantially
21 equivalent. She noted there would be a disclosure
22 stating the Board reevaluates the law from each state
23 for every application.

24 Mr. Gross stated the more information the public
25 has the better people can make informed decisions

1 about their next steps.

2 Vice-Chair Early commented the disclosure would
3 also need to state that there is not an automatic
4 approval based on the state being on the
5 substantially equivalent list.

6 Ms. Tully noted everyone can apply even, if their
7 state is not on the list. She added the Board can
8 still issue provisional denials even if the state is
9 on the list as there are five criteria a person needs
10 to meet to qualify for approval under Act 41. She
11 will start the process for creating a list for
12 publication.

13 Ms. Tully also suggested the Board consider
14 starting a procedure where Act 41 applications from
15 states, who are not considered substantially
16 equivalent, are delegated to the Application
17 Committee for review. The Committee could review the
18 application, and if the laws are the same as when the
19 Board last considered the state, the Committee could
20 issue the provisional denial. By doing this, the
21 applicant could start the appellate process sooner
22 instead of waiting for a decision from a Board
23 meeting. It was agreed expediting the process would
24 be good for all parties involved.]

25 ***

1 New Business - ASWB Discussion

2 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, addressed
3 Mr. DeCarlo's concerns regarding ASWB changing their
4 exam at the beginning of 2025. She noted he had
5 provided documentation, which the Board was given the
6 opportunity to review prior to the meeting. She
7 asked how the Board would like to proceed and if
8 there was any action it wished to take.

9 Mr. Gross was in favor of inviting a
10 representative from ASWB to a Board meeting to
11 present directly to the Board about the changes and
12 projected impact of the changes. He added it would
13 not just educate the Board but allow the opportunity
14 for questions.

15 Ms. Tully explained the next meeting is October
16 14, 2025; however, there are two Board members
17 attending the ASWB conference the first week of
18 November. She suggested the Board consider inviting
19 a representative to the November 25, 2025 meeting.

20 Vice-Chair Early agreed to waiting for the
21 November meeting to allow the delegates to bring back
22 information from the conference.

23 Ms. Tully noted ASWB sent out a survey for Board
24 members to review prior to the conference. She added
25 it would be on the October Agenda for the delegates

1 to be informed of the Board's position prior to the
2 conference.]

3 ***

4 MS. TULLY:

5 Would someone want to make a motion to
6 invite an ASWB representative to a
7 meeting post-conference in November?

8 MR. GROSS:

9 So moved, Gross.

10 MR. DECRISCIO:

11 Second, DeCriscio.

12
13 Early, aye; Maloney, aye; Behun, aye;
14 Boyer, aye; DeCriscio, aye; Gross, aye

15 [The motion carried unanimously.]

16 ***

17 New Business - CE Committee Discussion

18 [Cathy A. Tully, Esquire, Board Counsel, advised the
19 Board of a vacancy on the Continuing Education (CE)
20 Committee. She noted, if anyone was willing to
21 dedicate the time to the committee, their review
22 would be limited to the CE pre-approved providers and
23 not the individual courses.

24 Ms. Maloney recommended if someone volunteered,
25 they should not be on the application committee to

1 balance out the referrals.

2 Ms. Tully stated, if there were no volunteers,
3 the discussion could be relisted for the next meeting
4 at which time there may be new Board members and the
5 absent members may be attendance. She added it would
6 give everyone a chance to review their schedules. It
7 was noted Vice-Chair Early could remain the only
8 committee member for the time being.]

9 ***

10 Public Comment

11 [Taariq Bouy, MA, voiced his thanks to the Board.]

12 ***

13 [Colin Christian Vesterfelt, LCSW, thanked the Board
14 for taking the time to review his application. He
15 asked if specifics would be provided in his
16 notification.

17 Ms. Tully responded, procedurally, a provisional
18 denial would be issued. The provisional denial will
19 go through a review process and will list areas where
20 the Board thought there were deficiencies. She
21 explained all denials are done without prejudice, and
22 the letter will explain his rights to appeal and what
23 would happen if he chose not to appeal.]

24 ***

25 Adjournment

1 MS. TULLY:

2 Madam Chair, would you entertain a
3 motion to adjourn until our next
4 scheduled meeting on October 14th?

5 VICE-CHAIR EARLY:

6 Yes, I will. I will entertain that
7 motion.

8 MR. GROSS:

9 Gross, so moved.

10 MR. DECRISCIO:

11 DeCriscio, second.

12 MS. TULLY:

13 We don't have to vote on the
14 adjournment.

15 ***

16 [There being no further business, the State Board of
17 Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and
18 Professional Counselors Meeting adjourned at 2:54
19 p.m.]

20 ***

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26

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

September 16, 2025

TIME	AGENDA
8:45	Executive Session
11:30	Return to Open Session
11:34	Official Call to Order
11:34	Roll Call of Board Members/Introduction of Attendees
11:37	Appointment - Introduction of Deputy Chief Counsel
11:40	Regulatory Report
12:28	Report of Commissioner
12:29	Approval of Minutes
12:30	Report of Board Prosecution
12:38	Report of Board Counsel
12:42	Regulatory Report (cont.)
12:57	Public Comment
1:11	Executive Session
2:22	Return to Open Session
2:23	Review of Applications
2:34	New Business
2:52	Public Comments
2:54	Adjournment