

Kentucky Board of Social Work  
Monthly Board Meeting  
April 20, 2026

**Board Members Present:**

Hank Cecil, LCSW  
Cowann Owens, LCSW  
Genesia Kilgore-Bowling, CSW  
Laura Guffey, LSW  
Sydney Whitaker, LCSW  
Whitney Cassity-Caywood, LCSW

**Staff Present:**

Marc Kelly, Executive Director  
Vanessa Jones, Executive Assistant  
Mark Brengelman, Board Attorney  
Mike Nickels, Board Attorney

**Call to Order**

Hank Cecil called the meeting to order at 11:37 a.m. ET.

**Board Minutes:**

March 16, 2026, minutes – a motion was made by Laura Guffey and seconded by Sydney Whitaker to approve the March minutes for the March 16<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Operations Report – March 2026 Data:**

Marc Kelly, Executive Director, reported the following for the operations report:

Applications-109

LSW licenses-17

CSW Licenses-84

LCSW Licenses-191

Renewals-11

Temporary permits-5 clinical and 3 non-clinical

Supervision contracts- 72 approved (received both paper contracts and electronic) 0 deferred

CEU providers and sponsors – 7 approved

Total number of active licenses – 8266

Sydney Whitaker made a motion to accept the Operations report. Laura Guffey seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Financial Report – March 2026 Data:**

Cowann Owens reported board expenditures and revenues for the month of March – March income: \$34,942.68; March expenses: \$38,411.48; March fund balance: \$579,477.75.

**Board Members Travel and Per Diem**

Board members per diem and travel for the today's (4/20/2026) meeting –motion made by committee to approve the Board's per diem and travel for the April 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. Laura Guffey seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Whitney Cassity-Caywood made a motion for Board members travel reimbursement who attended the ASWB April meeting. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Kentucky Board of Social Work  
Monthly Board Meeting  
April 20, 2026

**Committees**

**Application Committee**

**Sydney Whitaker, LCSW**

Applicant 1 – The committee recommends that this applicant’s application be deferred to the May meeting due to needing additional information

Applicant 2 – The committee recommends that this applicant’s application be deferred to the May meeting due to needing additional information

Applicant 3 – The committee recommends that this applicant’s application be approved to take the master exam. Motion to approve for exam carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 4 – The committee recommends that this applicant’s application be deferred to the May meeting due to needing additional information and further discussion.

Motion to approve applicants 3 and defer applicants 1, 2, and 4 made by committee. Genesisia Kilgore-Bowling seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Complaint Committee**

**Genesisia Kilgore-Bowling, CSW**

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss Complaint No. 25-48 as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss Complaint No. 25-83 as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to refer Complaint No. 25-91 to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an agreed order on Complaint 25-102. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to refer Complaint No. 26-22 to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an agreed order on Complaint 26-26. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss Complaint No. 26-31 as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss Complaint No. 26-38 as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to refer Complaint No. 26-39 to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Kentucky Board of Social Work  
Monthly Board Meeting  
April 20, 2026

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-40** as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an assurance of voluntary compliance on **Complaint 26-41**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to refer **Complaint No. 26-43** to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an assurance of voluntary compliance on **Complaint 26-44**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

### **Old Business**

**ASWB updates-** Hank Cecil reported.

Whitney Cassity-Caywood shared that she, Hank, Laura and Marc attended the education meeting in Newport last week. She shared she learned new information on supervision and stereotyping groups for the exams. She encouraged all to attend in April of 2027 in Montreal. She state it is a great way to network and learn lots of things about social work. Laura Guffey shared she thought it was informative and gave her the opportunity to interact with other board members and talked with many of them about supervision. She stated it was a great trip and encouraged all to attend. Hank Cecil stated he enjoyed the sessions and said these are things we can look at here. Marc Kelly shared that he attended the administrators forum and that some of the states are doing away with providing official license verifications. He stated Ohio has just done away with it that they point all to their online lookup system. Marc stated the staff will keep doing this because it is important for receive the verifications of license.

**Compact Licensing updates-** Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the final stages of software development is taking place and can take about 7 to 9 months to finalize after design starts. He will keep all updated.

**Regulations update** – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared several draft regulations already reviewed by Mark B and Marc K.

#### **201 KAR 23:020 fees**

All reviewed the draft. Hank stated the section on the compact was added to include the compact license fees and information. Discussion was held on the amount to pay for the compact. He stated an example could be the LSW, CSW, or LCSW pay the normal fee for their license and then if they want compact license they would pay \$150 for it. Another example Cowann Ownes provided was the LSW pays the \$75 for their LSW and then \$75 for the LSW compact; CSW pays \$125 for their CSW and \$125 for the CSW compact; and the LCSW pays \$200 for the LCSW and \$200 for the LCSW compact. Hank stated they will continue to work on this and bring back for all to review.

#### **201 KAR 23:120 equivalency standard**

All reviewed the draft. Hank shared that they added the compact and background information. Discussion held. All want to look at the student language practicum vs. field and etc. and requested section 2 part 5 about the practicum to have at least a minimum of hours under supervision with a field instructor. Hanks stated they will work on and bring back a new draft for review.

Kentucky Board of Social Work  
Monthly Board Meeting  
April 20, 2026

**201 KAR 23:140 per diem for board members**

All reviewed the draft. The only change is to change the per diem amount from \$100 to \$125.

**201 KAR 23:XXX Examination**

All reviewed the draft. Hank shared this is a brand new regulation and asked Mark Brengelman to go over the sections. Mark stated the board needed an examination regulation. He went over the sections. Discussion was held. The board members do not like the remediation plan as it may be an obstacle and not support social workers/graduates in taking the exam. Whitney Cassity-Caywood stated it feels like this would put barriers on social workers and we need to keep the ASWB and it is going since it is going well, there is really no reason to do something different. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling concurred with the barriers.

**HB 424-** Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that this law was passed and signed into law and will go into effect in July. He stated the big piece is student supervision. He shared Sydney Whitaker will lead the committee with Marc Kelly and they will begin working on the regulation and setting up meetings. A field director will be involved, field placement agencies, and students.

**Listening Sessions** Hank reported.

Hank asked all to think about some dates and topics for listening sessions so we can schedule the listening sessions sometime in the remainder of the year and next year. He stated the compact would be a good topic.

**Warrant and Criminal Summons Application** Mark Brengelman, Board attorney, shared that he appeared in court early in April and it was continued until June 9<sup>th</sup>. He stated after filing this the harassing has stopped.

**New Business** Hank reported.

**HB 185 -Criminal background social work law** Hank Reported.

Hank shared this law will require the Board to certify that a person with a criminal background can obtain a social work license prior to starting or finishing their education and applying for a license. He shared it will also require a background check. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling suggested working with schools to identify persons before they go to school. This requirement will be incorporated into the application regulation.

**HB 459 – Data submission to the state** Hank reported.

Hank stated this law requires the board to submit data to the state but it will not begin for two years so it will be discussed more at a later date.

**Announcements – other discussion**

Cowann Owens asked about the LCSW supervisor training and when a person needs to take it. Hank shared they first take an initial 6 hour supervision course and then take a 3 hour refresher course with each renewal period.

Daniell from NASWB-KY and OH Chapter shared they have a list of training for persons to access if needed including a free telehealth 2 hour course. The website to access is


Kentucky Board of Social Work  
Monthly Board Meeting  
April 20, 2026

NASWKY.SOCIALWORKERS.ORG. She shared they will also have an exam prep training soon and they are still working on other topics for trainings. She asked all to share any topic they would like to see. She asked about the exam regulation and requested it be cited as the ASWB exam or National Exam. She encouraged all to use the National exam rather than using ASWB. Hank stated they all use ASWB and are considered both. She then shared that they will have staff for the chapter by the end of this year.

**Adjournment** – Genesia Kilgore-Bowling made a motion to adjourn. Sydney Whitaker seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:24 pm.

**Next meeting:** Monday, May 18, 2026, at 11:30 ET at KY Board office, 125 Holmes Street, Suite 310, Frankfort, KY 40601

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Board Secretary

Board Approved Date: 5/18/2026