

Kentucky Board of Social Work
Monthly Board Meeting
August 17, 2026

Board Members Present:

Hank Cecil, LCSW
Cowann Owens, LCSW
Sydney Whitaker, LCSW
Laura Guffey, LSW
Jill Seyfred, Citizen At Large

Staff Present:

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

Call to Order

Hank Cecil called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. ET.

Board Minutes:

July 20, 2026, minutes – a motion was made by Laura Guffey and seconded by Sydney Whitaker to approve the July minutes for the July 20th meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Operations Report – July 2026 Data:

Marc Kelly, Executive Director, reported the following:

Applications-158

LSW licenses-19

CSW Licenses-137

LCSW Licenses-106

Renewals-189

Temporary permits-4 clinical and 0 non-clinical

Supervision contracts – 41 approved (paper and electronic); 2 deferred (one for marking the pre-approval box, one for entering a percentage instead of hours)

CEU providers and sponsors – 5 approved

Total number of active licenses – 9820

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

Background checks – Marc Kelly presented options for obtaining the background checks now required of all applicants, either through the FBI or the Kentucky State Police (KSP). Discussion was held on each option. Motion by Cowann Owens to use KSP for background checks for applicants who apply for the LSW, CSW, or LCSW license only and to use the FBI for background checks for applicants who apply for the compact license once it is in place. Sydney Whitaker seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Financial Report – State Year end June 2026 and New Year July 2026 Data:

Cowann Owens reported board expenditures and revenues for the state year end July 1, 2025 to June 30, 2026 – final income: \$425,455.04; final expenses: \$619,992.80; final unexpended budget \$218,607.20; and final fund balance: \$479,858.65.

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He also reported board expenditures and revenues for July, the first month of the new state fiscal year – July income: \$39,877.98; July expenses: \$53,151.98; July unexpended budget: \$600,226.04; and July fund balance: \$466,352.69.

Board Members Travel and Per Diem

A motion was made by committee to approve the Board's per diem and travel for the August 17, 2026 meeting. Sydney Whitaker seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committees

Application Committee

Laura Guffey, LCSW

Applicant 1 – Deferred from the July meeting pending additional probation documents. The documents were received, and the committee recommended approval for Applicant 1 to take the examination. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 2 – Deferred from the July meeting pending a summary of information related to felony charges. Upon review, the committee found the applicant has outstanding fines and fees. Consistent with Board policy requiring all felony obligations be satisfied prior to licensure, the committee recommended denial until the applicant provides proof that all fees are paid and the felony record is complete, at which time the applicant may reapply for licensure. Motion to deny applicant until proof of completion is received and applicant reapplies carried by unanimous voice vote.

Laura Guffey presented for Board review a document outlining the information required from applicants with convictions. The document will be sent to the applicant before the application is presented to the Board. Motion to accept the conviction information document was made by the committee. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Complaint Committee

Hank Cecil, LCSW

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an assurance of voluntary compliance on **Complaint 26-15**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve **Complaint 26-71** to board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-72** 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. 26-73** 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 agreed order on **Complaint 26-76** with settlement authority given to attorney. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-77** as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

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A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve **Complaint 26-80** to board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve **Complaint 26-82** to board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-83** 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 approve **Complaints 26-84 and 26-89** to board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-86** 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. 26-87** as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

ASWB updates- Hank Cecil reported.

Hank Cecil reported the examination format changed in August; no information regarding its implementation has been received to date. The delegate assembly will be held in November, and members were encouraged to register if they wish to attend.

Compact Licensing updates- Hank Cecil reported.

The next compact meeting will be held November 4 at the annual meeting, prior to the delegate assembly. The data system is under development, work continues on the process for onboarding states and the requirements for Board participation in the data system, and the target start date remains March 2027.

Regulations update – Hank Cecil reported.

The applications regulation has been submitted; public forums are expected in October.

201 KAR 23:080 Code of Ethics

Hank Cecil presented the updated code of ethics regulation. The technology section was removed and will be established as a separate regulation; the draft technology regulation was distributed for review. The ethics regulation remains largely clinical in focus and does not address dual-relationship duties applicable to other license types. The five-year relationship provision was retained for the LCSW license type, and a two-year provision was added for the LSW and CSW license types. Members were asked to review this area and bring recommendations for Board discussion at the next meeting.

201 KAR 23:070 qualifying experience and supervision

Hank Cecil presented the updated draft supervision regulation, noting it does not address the compact or permit compact licensees to supervise Kentucky CSWs. Discussion was held. Members agreed supervisors should be Kentucky LCSWs only. Members were asked to review the dual-

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relationship provision addressing a supervisor who serves as both supervisor of record and director (the person who hires and terminates employees) and whether supervision should be permitted in that arrangement, as the Board has seen such supervisees fail to receive supervision hours or be abandoned. Discussion was held. Members will review and bring recommendations to the next meeting. Hank Cecil noted instances of supervisors declining to recommend supervisees for the clinical examination and asked how the Board should address this. Marc Kelly reported a CSW submitted supervised experience documentation forms from three supervisors. Two supervisors submitted favorable reviews and recommendations to take the examination; one did not recommend approval. Following his review, he approved the CSW-LCSW applicant to take the clinical examination and advised the objecting supervisor that the approval was justified. Discussion was held. Members noted the forms reflect supervisor opinion and that a supervisor who believes a supervisee requires additional supervision should file a complaint. Work on this section of the regulation will continue.

201 KAR 23:150 complaint procedure, disciplinary action, and reconsideration

Hank Cecil presented the draft complaint process regulation and asked members to review the anonymous complaint section for updating and to consider adding compact licensing to the complaint process. The Board will review this regulation at the next meeting.

Student Supervision Work Group- Sydney Whitaker reported.

Sydney Whitaker reported the work group is progressing well and received favorable feedback at its recent meeting. Two questions were brought to the Board. First, regarding whether supervision logs should be retained or submitted to the Board, Marc Kelly stated the logs should be retained at the university unless the Board requests them. Second, regarding circulating the draft regulation for feedback, Hank Cecil stated the draft will be open to public comment once filed, and members had no objection to sharing it now. Feedback received may be reviewed by the Board, and the draft may be circulated again for review before it is formally submitted.

Sydney Whitaker thanked members for their suggestions and encouraged attendance at work group meetings. Jill Seyfred and Laura Guffey stated they would like to attend.

New Business Hank Cecil reported.

Election of officers

Hank Cecil opened the election of officers. He asked to be considered to remain as Chair, and Laura Guffey asked to remain as Secretary. Whitney Cassity-Caywood will step down as Vice Chair due to other obligations, and Genesia Kilgore-Bowling asked to be considered for the Vice Chair position. All agreed.

Cowann Owens made a motion to nominate Genesia Kilgore-Bowling as the Vice Chair. Sydney Whitaker seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Sydney Whitaker made a motion for Hank Cecil to resume his position as the Chair and Laura Guffey to resume her position as the Secretary. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Announcements

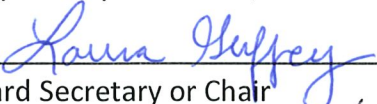
Brenda Rosen announced the mental health taskforce will celebrate its second year and that KSWE will be held September 17-18 in Bowling Green at WKU.

Adjournment – Laura Guffey made a motion to adjourn. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:18 pm.

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Next meeting: Monday, September 21, 2026, at 11:30 ET at KY Board office, 125 Holmes Street, Suite 310, Frankfort, KY 40601

Respectfully submitted,



Board Secretary or Chair

Board Approved Date: 9/21/2026