

Kentucky Board of Social Work  
Monthly Board Meeting  
January 12, 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 11:30 a.m. ET.

**Board Minutes:**

December 13, 2025, minutes – a motion was made by Genesia Kilgore-Bowling and seconded by Cowann Owens to approve the December minutes for the December 13<sup>th</sup> meeting with amendments. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Operations Report – December 2025:**

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

Applications-64

LSW licenses-3

CSW Licenses-39

LCSW Licenses-66

Renewals-29

Temporary permits-3 clinical and 1 non-clinical

Supervision contracts- 73 approved (received both paper contracts and electronic) 0 deferred

CEU providers and sponsors – 5 approved

Total number of active licenses – 8585

Hank Cecil shared that staff is working on the annual report. The issues with new license application system are still being worked on by IT and resolution is being done as quickly as possible. The self service portal for CEUs from the old system could not be migrated, however, it may be re-done. Currently CEUs must be added at the time of license renewal. Marc Kelly asked all to be patient as staff is still learning the new system and working on the issues they can as well. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling made a motion to accept the Operations report. Whitney Cassity-Caywood seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Exam Prep Workshop**

Hank Cecil shared that there were 106 participants in January. Brooke Jones used a list of failed exam form ASWB reports and reached out to them. This may have added to the large registration. Dr. D has a study group that participants can join after the workshop. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling shared that several UPike students attended.

**Financial Report – December 2025:**

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Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported board expenditures and revenues for the month of December 2025 – December income: \$23,641.46; December expenses: \$36,553.80; December fund balance: \$616,697.22.

Hank Cecil shared a spreadsheet to show potential fees for the compact license. He asked all to think about and review it. Discussion of worksheet was held with further explanation.

**Board Members Travel and Per Diem**

Board members per diem and travel for the today's (1/12/2026) meeting –motion made by committee to approve the Board's per diem and travel for the January 12<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cowann Owen seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Hank Cecil and Genesis Kilgore-Bowling per diem and travel to attend LRC January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Motion made by the committee to approve per diem and travel for Hank and Genesis January 13<sup>th</sup> meeting. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Committees**

**Application Committee**

**Sydney Whitaker, LCSW**

Applicant 1 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be approved to take the master exam.

Applicant 2 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be approved to take the master exam.

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 February meeting due to needing additional information.

Motion to approve applicants 1, 2 and 3 and defer applicant 4 made by committee. A motion from a committee of more than one does not need a second. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Complaint Committee**

**Whitney Cassity-Caywood, LCSW**

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 25-111** 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. 25-112** to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to refer **Complaint No. 25-113** to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 25-114** 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 refer **Complaint No. 25-115** to the board investigator for further investigation. Board attorney to issue an order for return to work evaluation by a psychologist. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to refer **Complaint No. 25-116** to the board investigator for further investigation. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-02** as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Committee shared this is the same complainant that filed a prior complainant but did not provide additional information so it was discussed during the committee meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an agreed order on **Complaint 25-14**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to submit a rejection on the recommendation from the hearing officer to close case on **Complaints 21-20 and 21-62** and remand it for further proceedings. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Old Business**

**ASWB updates-** Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared the exam is changing in August. He stated Dr. D should have information on this in the next workshop. There will be 3 content areas; 3 options for multiple choice questions; only 110 questions ; 12 pre test questions; and will have 4 hours to take it. Check the ASWB website for more information. He shared that a social worker can contact ASWB to ask about being a question writer.

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

Hank shared that the data system needs to be set up and they are discussing this. One discussion is whether to capture social security numbers or not. He stated some states do not that. KBSW does ask for the SSN in order to enter them into ASWB and the NPDB database.

**Regulations update** – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared the draft KAR 201 23:070 qualifying experience and clinical experience for all to review. Cowann Owens asked if someone can have 2 jobs and 2 contracts. Hank stated you can but must work at least 20 hours a week for any of the hours to count toward the 150 required supervision hours. The draft regulation may be the place to make any changes. Genesis Kilgore-Bowling shared that the application committee had a complex application with multiple supervision forms to review because there were many supervisors and the jobs overlapped. Further discussion was held.

Hank stated Mike Nickles is keeping track of all regulations and is working on schedule of each regulation and when they are due so that the board can stay on schedule or reviews and submissions.

**2026 Legislation-** Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that Genessia, Mark B, and he will meet with the sponsor legislator tomorrow and there will be a decision about filing.

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**2026 Board Retreat** Hank reported.

Vanessa Jones gave update on the retreat, Feb 8<sup>th</sup> with the board meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> at U of L. . The retreat is from 9am – 4 pm on Feb 8<sup>th</sup> at the hotel (the Galt House) and members can travel on Saturday the 7<sup>th</sup>. Meal and parking receipts will need to be submitted for reimbursement. Vanessa will send all the information to board members.

**Announcements**

Brenda Rosen shared that NASW combined chapters – KY and Ohio, and she was relieved of her duties. She shared the KY NASW board resigned in protest. Brenda then shared that Lobby Day is set for Friday February 20<sup>th</sup> but it will be virtually only.

**New Business**

**Warrant and Criminal Summons Application** Hank asked for a motion to move into close session in order to discuss the warrant and criminal summons against Robyn Synder. Motion made by Genesia Kilgore-Bowling and seconded by Whitney Cassity-Caywood to go into closed session per KRS 61.810(1)(c) to discuss proposed or pending litigation against or on behalf of the public agency regarding Robyn Synder, a former complainant to the Board at 12:53 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

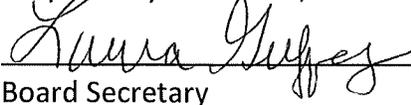
Motion made by Genesia Kilgore-Bowling and seconded by Cowann Owen to come out of closed session at 1:13 pm. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. No other business was discussed in closed session besides the legal matters regarding Robyn Synder.

Motion made by Genesia Kilgore-Bowling seconded by Cowann Owen to approve and to ratify the filing of a warrant and criminal summons by Mr. Mark Brengelman with the Franklin County Attorney's Office for apparent violations of criminal laws by Robyn Synder against Mr. Mark Kelly; Mrs. Vanessa Jones; Mr. Mark Brengelman and possibly other board members or representatives of the board. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

**Adjournment** – Genesia Kilgore-Bowling made a motion to adjourn. Sydney Whitaker seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

**Next meeting:** Monday, February 9, 2025, at 11:30 ET at U of L Campus, Louisville, KY.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Board Secretary

Board Approved Date: 2-9-2024