

Kentucky Board of Social Work
Monthly Board Meeting
October 13, 2025

Board Members Present:

Hank Cecil, LCSW
Cowann Owens, LCSW
Genesis 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:

September 8, 2025, minutes – a motion was made by Cowann Owens and seconded by Sydney Whitaker to approve the September minutes for the September 8th meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Operations Report – September 2025:

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

Applications-34

LSW licenses-1

CSW Licenses-4

LCSW Licenses-8

Renewals-173

Temporary permits-14 clinical and 0 non-clinical

Supervision contracts- 83 approved (received both paper contracts and electronic) 0 deferred

CEU providers and sponsors – 8 approved

Total number of active licenses – 8286

Marc reported that the total number of licensees includes both the old system and new system licensees. He asked all to be patient with staff during this transition, especially with the license verifications. He also reminded everyone that they must create an account and set up their profile so they can access their information and update things contact information as needed. Sydney Whitaker made a motion to accept the Operations report. Laura Guffey seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Financial Report – August 2025:

Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported board expenditures and revenues for the month of September 2025 – September income: \$45,230.13; September expenses: \$56,477.88; September fund balance: \$686,398.83.

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Board Members Travel and Per Diem

Board members per diem and travel for the today's (10/13/25) meeting – Whitney Cassity-Caywood made a motion to approve the Board's per diem and travel for the October 13th meeting. Sydney Whitaker seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Chair, Hank Cecil, traveled to the September KASWE meeting in Pikeville. Laura Guffey made a motion to approve Hank Cecil's travel for the September meeting. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committees

Application Committee

Genesia Kilgore-Bowling, CSW

Applicant 1 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be denied with the option to request an administrative hearing after consultation with the Board attorney on prior charges. Motion to deny carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 2 – 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 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 approved to take the master exam. Motion to approve for exam carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 5 – 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.

Complaint Committee

Whitney Cassity-Caywood, LCSW

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to enter an Assurance of Voluntary (AVC) on **Complaint No. 24-74**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to issue an order of the Board on **Complaint Nos. 24-76**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 25-12** 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. 25-63** 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. 25-68** 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 dismiss **Complaint No. 25-71** 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. 25-72** 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. 25-85** 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 issue a letter of admonishment on **Complaint No. 25-86**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 25-87** 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. 25-90** 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. 25-92** 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. 25-96** as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

ASWB updates- Hank Cecil reported.

Sydney Whitaker and Cowann Owens attended the ASWB new board member training in September. They stated it was very informative. Sydney Whitaker shared that it reminded her that board members have a regulation “hat” and not a social worker “hat.” Cowann Owens said it helped him learn the ASWB processes, including exam information and ensure that all are included in taking the exam. He also shared that he did not realize that they supported the KY board so that was very helpful to know.

Hank Cecil shared that he Whitney Cassity-Caywood and Marc Kelly will be attending the delegate assembly in Indianapolis on November 6-8. Whitney Cassity-Caywood recommended other board members attending if they can because they have a board member exchange session that helps with ideas and learn about other states> There is also a chance to network with other US state boards and Canada boards. Marc Kelly stated he learns a lot during the administrative exchange session for all directors.

Compact Licensing updates- Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the next compact meeting is scheduled for November 5th in Indianapolis the day before the delegate assembly meeting. He shared they have the rules for the data set, and the ex-officio member will be discussed. There will also be a discussion of fees. He stated the Commission is working with ASWB on an MOU for funding the commission. The commission will need to hire a director; get an office location; and establish the data system. He is unsure of the timeline for when a

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multistate license is available. All new applicants will have to submit a background check as a required document. Hank stated he will continue to keep all updated monthly.

Hank Cecil shared that the survey of KY Licensees will be sent out after the compact meeting in November.

IT Updates - Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the vendor is working on the license verification piece and hopes it is available in the next few weeks. He stated the CSW supervision contract, which is separate from the application software, is working. Marc Kelly shared that it is an amazing process and it makes it easy for him to review the contracts. He stated the CSW completes their portion; then it is emailed to the supervisor to sign; then it is emailed to their HR director. After those signatures it comes to him for review. After he reviews them, they are uploaded to the portal. He stated the delay has been due to the HR director not signing and submitting to him.

Regulations update – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that KAR 201 23:075 is on the ARRS committee meeting tomorrow Tuesday, October 14, 2025. Marc Kelly and the board attorney will attend.

2026 Legislation- Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared the latest draft of the legislation and asked all to review. He shared that it includes the definition of client. He stated it was taken from the code of conduct and we can either delete the 5 years or keep it in there. Genesisia Kilgore-Bowling suggested it be kept in the regulation as apposed to the law since it is easier to change the regulation if needed. Mark Brengelman, board attorney, explained putting it in regulation vs. the law.

Hank shared that the “practice” section is being worked on and he will send it out for review. He stated we need to put in what does a social worker means and ensure the language is in there. He stated we need to ensure they understand the difference between a social worker and a social services worker (DCBS). Discussion on degrees was held.

Hank shared the technology definition and asked if we want to keep it or remove it. Genesisia Kilgore-Bowling suggests leaving it in. She stated that it will provide protection for the social worker and the client. Hank stated there is some pushback because it is too complex but for a social worker it would help cover other uses of technology for therapy. Cowann Owens stated he thinks it should stay but with an option to change it later. Hank stated to provide telehealth in KY, they must be licensed in KY but need to decide on the location of the client vs. the location of the social worker. Hank stated if they live in OH but come to KY for some time and obtain services while here and then reports abuse that happened in KY; then the social worker would report to OH and OH would report to KY.

Hank shared the provisional license section. He stated the board can keep it; drop it; review it more; and/or have exemptions. It was suggested to change the wording from license to permit so it will show it is for a limited time. Whitney Cassity-Caywood stated we will have to define the scope of practice for students. Genesisia Kilgore-Bowling stated she worries about the scope of practices and exemptions and protecting the public.

Genesisia Kilgore-Bowling shared she has not received any push back to not having it. She stated persons she has spoke with are interested and wants to be apart of it to help develop and show the students that they can “practice” social work. She stated they need to be able to “practice” the skills. She stated there is support out there for it but stated we will not make everyone happy about the process and having it. She stated it will also give the students a relationship with the Board and be able to engage with them.

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Sydney Whitaker stated she does not an exemption. Laura Guffey stated the provisional permit will give students a framework to teach certain things. All members are in favor for it of the permit and not an exemption.

2026 Board Meeting Dates Hank reported.

Hank stated it was decided to have the monthly board meetings on the 3rd Monday of each month starting in January 2026 with the board retreat in March. All suggested the 3rd weekend in March, in central KY in or near Louisville. Vanessa Jones will put together list of dates.

Staff Evaluations Hank reported.

Hank stated that there would be an executive session for staff evaluations to change the agenda to allow guests to speak and make announcements.

New Business No new business to report.

Announcements

Carolyn Lee, LCSW and advocacy chair for the KY Society of Clinical Social Work read a statement from the KSCSW opposing the provisional student permit. She stated she will provide a copy; however, no copy was left for the board.

Brenda Rosen spoke more about the student provisional license and an exemption with it. She stated there are concerns about safety; their own malpractice insurance; discloser to the client that they are students and allow them to refuse services from the student; and their duty to report. She stated their accountability needs to be stronger than a licensed social worker.

Sally Rhodes spoke about heh need for supervision of students.

Janice James stated she was asked to attend from various associates because they do not support the student provisional license. She requested the board take some time to get more insight from social workers and the associations and review the ASWB model book.

Hank Cecil thanked all for attending. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling shared that the KASWE meeting was recorded and let all know they can view it on their website.

Staff Evaluations

Hank asked for a motion to enter executive session for staff evaluations. Laura Guffey made a motion to move into executive closed session to perform staff evaluations at 1:43 pm. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling seconded. All approved moving into executive session.

Laura Guffey made a motion to move out of the executive closed session at 1:55 pm. Cowann Owens seconded. Hank shared that no action was taken during the closed session, but the evaluations were signed and asked about to raise for staff. Sidney Whitiabker moved for a 3% raise with a seconded from Cowann Owens. Motion approved unanimously for each staff.

Adjournment – Laura Guffey made a motion to adjourn. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion approved by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 2:00 pm.

Next meeting: Monday, November 17th, 2025, at 10:30 am CT/11:30 am ET at the Board office, 125 Holmes Street, Suite 310, Frankfort, KY 40601.

Respectfully submitted,



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Board Secretary

Board Approved Date: 