Kentucky Board of Social Work
Monthly Board Meeting
October 19, 2026

Board Members Present:

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

Staff Present:

Vanessa Jones, Executive Assistant
Mark Brengelman, Board Attorney
Mike Nichols, Board Attorney

Staff Absent:

Marc Kelly, Executive Director

Call to Order

Hank Cecil called the meeting to order at 11:36 a.m. ET.

Board Minutes:

September 21, 2026, minutes – a motion was made by Laura Guffey and seconded by Genesia Kilgore-Bowling to approve the minutes of the September 21st meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Operations Report – September 2026 Data:

Vanessa Jones, Executive Assistant, reported the following for the operations report:
Applications-123
LSW licenses-2
CSW licenses-21
LCSW licenses-27
Renewals-85
Temporary permits-2 clinical and 2 non-clinical
Supervision contracts-70 approved (both paper and electronic contracts received); 2 deferred due to selecting the clinical provider box instead of the pre-approved evaluation box
CEU providers and sponsors – 10 approved
Total number of active licenses – 8,690

Genesia Kilgore-Bowling made a motion to accept the Operations Report. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Background checks – Vanessa Jones shared that there are no new updates at this time. She stated the Board is waiting for Phase 2 to be approved.

Financial Report – September 2026 Data:

Cowann Owens reported Board expenditures and revenues for the state for the month of September 2026 – September income: $32,300.06; September expenses: $38,258.70; September unexpended budget: $485,250.13; and September fund balance: $449,744.31.

Board Members' Travel and Per Diem

Board members' per diem and travel for today's (10/19/2026) meeting – a motion was made by the committee to approve the Board's per diem and travel for the October 19th meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committees

Application Committee **Sydney Whitaker, LCSW**

Prior Applicant that was deferred – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be approved for licensure in KY. Motion to approve for licensure carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 1 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be deferred to the November meeting due to needing additional information from the applicant's supervisor.

Applicant 2 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be approved to take the Masters exam. Motion to approve for exam carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 3 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be deferred to the November meeting due to needing additional information.

Applicant 4 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be approved to take the Masters exam. Motion to approve for exam carried by unanimous voice vote.

Applicant 5 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be deferred to the November meeting due to needing additional information.

Complaint Committee **Genesia Kilgore-Bowling, CSW**

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an assurance of voluntary compliance on **Complaint No. 25-91** with settlement authority given to the Board attorney. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an agreed order on **Complaint No. 26-61** with settlement authority given to the Board attorney. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-97** 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. 26-99** 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. 26-103** 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. 26-104** 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 withdraw the investigation and dismiss **Complaint No. 26-105** 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. 26-108** 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 a letter of admonishment on **Complaint No. 26-110**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to dismiss **Complaint No. 26-113** 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. 26-114** 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 No. 26-116** with settlement authority given to the Board attorney. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter the signed agreed order on **Complaint No. 24-43**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to issue an order of the Board due to failure to respond to the complaint letters on **Complaint Nos. 26-33, 26-34, 26-37, 26-42, 26-46, and 26-48**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

ASWB Updates – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the Delegate Assembly is set for November in Salt Lake City, where the bylaw changes will be reviewed. Whitney Cassity-Caywood shared that elections will be held at the meeting. She stated ASWB is pleased with the nomination slate and that it is very robust.

Social Work Compact – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared documents on Chapter 7 – uniform data set/adverse act. This rule will impact the Board's operations when the compact goes live and relates to how the system will work and how adverse actions will be handled. Hank stated the compact operates under the multistate model, which is similar to the nursing board. He stated all others operate on a different model; therefore, the Board must have a regulation. He stated the Board needs to change a few things because of the compact and telehealth and must understand the shift. Hank stated the interpretation is to first have the state license "unencumbered" (without discipline), since the home state will have maximum control and will have to verify that licensees live in the state by obtaining background checks. He stated that if a license is denied, there is reportable discipline, or there is an agreed order against the licensee, each must be reported to the compact and all states within it. Discussion held on taking action on a regular state license and whether the Board would also have to take action on a compact license. Hank stated the Board needs to determine what data it wants in the system and whose data it is. Discussion held. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling made a motion to authorize submitting the Board's comments and Chapter 7 amendments, with final draft wording delegated to the Chair, the Executive Director, and Board counsel,

and with counsel to provide a supporting legal opinion. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Regulations Update – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the fees, testing, equivalency, and per diem regulations have all been approved and should be in effect in January 2027.

He shared that the application and predetermination regulations have been submitted.

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

Hank shared that the draft regulation for the complaint process is still being worked on. He stated it is not very clear, so the Board may need to consider splitting it into two regulations, possibly one addressing what happens when a complaint is filed and one addressing what happens afterwards.

Student Supervision Work Group – Sydney Whitaker reported.

Sydney shared that all is going well and the active revisions should be ready by the end of the year for the Board's review. She stated the group had some questions. Question 1 – What is the formal process to disqualify a student? Will the school have input? Discussion held. Hank stated the Board has jurisdiction and is the sole decider, but the school can be involved and supply letters or evidence for review. Question 2 – What is the conflict resolution? What is the school's liability if the Board says it is a violation? Discussion held. Hank stated that if it is against school policy, the school will decide, but if it relates to social work laws, the Board will decide. Question 3 – How should a supervisor suspending supervision of a student be handled? Discussion held. Whitney Cassity-Caywood stated the Board does not allow a supervisor to suspend a student, and this should be handled by whoever oversees the program. Hank stated supervisors can temporarily "pause" the practice until the school reviews it, but if a client reports it to the Board, the Board will have to review it. For example, if it involves "sleeping with a client," the Board must be informed and will follow the complaint process. Question 4 – Verification of prerequisites: Can students take them concurrently, and will they be verified independently? Discussion held. Sydney thanked everyone and will share further information at the next meeting.

New Business

Staff Evaluations

Hank stated staff self-evaluations will be sent to all Board members. He shared that he updated the worksheets for members to complete for each staff member and return to him. He stated the staff evaluations will be held in a closed session at the November meeting.

New Year (2027) Meeting Dates

Hank asked members about the 2027 meeting dates. He asked whether the third Monday of the month still works for all members' schedules. He stated some meetings may have to be held on the second Monday for various reasons. All members stated the third Monday works best. Hank asked Vanessa Jones to prepare a list of 2027 dates for the November meeting.

Announcements

Hannah Ware from the NASW Kentucky Chapter shared that forums are in place in various locations in KY. She stated the first one will be in Lexington next month. She had no other updates at this time.

Brenda Rosen shared that the KSCSW advocacy zone is in place, that the clinical society will hold a conference in eastern KY, and that the mental health forum is growing in Louisville. She shared that they will also have discussion groups on the last Monday of each month.

Genesia Kilgore-Bowling shared that UPike received certification for Play Therapy and was also approved for the Psychedelic program, which will be transcripted and credentialed.

Cowann Owens shared that a co-worker who was previously unable to pass the ASWB exam took the exam prep course and has since passed. Vanessa Jones shared that the next exam prep workshop is scheduled for January 2027.

Adjournment – Genesia Kilgore-Bowling made a motion to adjourn. Cowann Owens seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:19 p.m. ET.

Next meeting: Monday, November 16, 2026, at 11:30 a.m. ET, at the KY Board office, 125 Holmes Street, Suite 310, Frankfort, KY 40601

Respectfully submitted,

Board Secretary or Chair

Board Approved Date: 11/16/2026