Kentucky Board of Social Work
Monthly Board Meeting
September 21, 2026

Board Members Present:

Hank Cecil, LCSW
Cowann Owens, LCSW
Sydney Whitaker, LCSW
Laura Guffey, LSW
Jill Seyfred, Citizen At Large
Whitney Cassity-Caywood, LCSW
Genesia Kilgore-Bowling, CSW

Staff Present:

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

Call to Order

Hank Cecil called the meeting to order at 11:31 a.m. ET.

Board Minutes:

August 18, 2026, minutes – a motion was made by Laura Guffey and seconded by Genesia Kilgore-Bowling to approve the minutes of the August 18 meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Operations Report – August 2026 Data:

Marc Kelly, Executive Director, reported the following for the operations report:
Applications-462
LSW licenses-3
CSW licenses-71
LCSW licenses-62
Renewals-178
Temporary permits-3 clinical and 0 non-clinical
Supervision contracts-62 approved (paper and electronic); 0 deferred
CEU providers and sponsors – 8 approved
Total number of active licenses – 9959

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

Background checks – Marc Kelly reported that the Board must conduct FBI background checks because KSP checks do not satisfy the Board's statutory requirements. He stated that he submitted Phase 1 of the process, which was approved; Phase 2 has been submitted, and a response is expected within two weeks. Once final approval is received, the Board must begin FBI checks for all new applicants. Results will be received electronically and added to the applications.

Financial Report – August 2026 Data:

Whitney Cassity-Caywood reported board expenditures and revenues for the state for August 2026 – August income: $37,920.36; August expenses: $48,570.10; August unexpended budget: $551,619.31; and August fund balance: $455,702.95.

Board Members Travel and Per Diem

Board Members Travel and Per Diem

Board members per diem and travel for the today's (9/21/2026) meeting –motion made by committee to approve the Board's per diem and travel for the September 21st meeting. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Committees

Application Committee **Laura Guffey, LCSW**

Applicant 1 – The committee recommends that this applicant's application be deferred to the October 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 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.

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

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve a letter of abonishment on **Complaint 25-113**. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

A recommendation and motion were made by the committee to approve and enter an agreed order on **Complaint 25-116** 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. 25-118** 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 26-07 and 26-09** 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. 26-39** 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 **Complaint 26-66** 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. 26-88** 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. 26-90** 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. 26-91** 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. 26-92** 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. 26-94** 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. 26-96** 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 **Complaint No. 26-105** 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. 26-107** as there was insufficient evidence to support the initiating complaint. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote.

Old Business

ASWB updates – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the ASWB Delegate Assembly is set for November in Salt Lake City. He, Marc Kelly, Whitney Cassity-Caywood, and Laura Guffey will attend. Whitney recommended that attendees arrive on the first day, if possible, because it is the board member exchange meeting day.

Hank shared that ASWB has released its Licensure 101 publication, which includes free online training.

Compact Licensing updates (home state and fee rules) – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that there are two new rules to review and approve. He stated that the fee rule is under Chapter 5 and the administrative fee is now $20; the home state rule is under Chapter 4 and will address changing states. Discussion held. Whitney Cassity-Caywood made a motion to adopt Compact rules 4 and 5. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Hank shared that the Compact Commission will meet again in Salt Lake City on November 4.

Hank shared that Kentucky is one of four test states for the new system. Board IT staff are checking compatibility with the Board's current system.

Regulations update – Hank Cecil reported.

Hank shared that the applications, fees, equivalency, and per diem regulations have all been submitted. He shared that the supervision regulation is open for feedback until Nov 30, 2026, and work is underway on the temporary license, applications, and social work compact license regulations.

201 KAR 23:080 Code of Ethics

Hank shared the updated draft of the ethics regulation. He stated that one question needs clarification. Discussion was held on whether to write a 5-year rule or a 2-year rule related to intimate relationships. Whitney Cassity-Caywood asked why the rule would be changed. Hank stated that licensees doing policy work could have a relationship after 2 years, while those doing clinical work could have a relationship after 5 years. He stated that people in a clinical setting have a deeper relationship with clients than those working in other capacities. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling stated that a client is a client regardless of licensure or the job the licensee is performing with the client and administering a tiered approach would be extremely difficult. Consensus was to keep the rule at 5 years for all licensees.

201 KAR 23:150 Complaint Procedure, Disciplinary Action, and Reconsideration

Hank shared the draft regulation for the complaint process and asked all members to review it. He stated that revisions were added and asked members to consider how the Board should handle anonymous complaints.

Student Supervision Work Group – Sydney Whitaker reported.

Sydney shared that the work group allowed committee members to share information and received substantial feedback. She stated that one issue discussed was applicability and enforceability when a student completes a practicum in another state while under the supervision of a Kentucky LCSW. She asked how the Board wants to address this issue, whether oversight should be based on location or LCSW supervision, and who will oversee the situation. Discussion held. The Board decided compliance follows the state where the student is located, and the school is responsible. The KY regulation is for students in practicum in KY.

New Business – Hank Cecil reported.

Letter from Hon. Steve Dasenbrock, Campbell County Mark Brengelman, Board Attorney

Mark shared that Laura Guffey informed him of the letter from Mr. Dasenbrock regarding the county's use of the title "police social workers." He drafted a letter advising that, under the title protection provision of KRS 335.030(2), the title "social worker" may not be used in any job title unless the person is licensed by the Board. He received a response that the title has been changed to "police social service worker specialist." Mark stated that the same applies to any other agency, such as a school; staff may not use the title "school social worker" unless licensed by the Board.

Staff Evaluations

Hank stated that he will send evaluation forms to all members in October for review and completion, and staff evaluations will be conducted at the November meeting.

Announcements

Hannah Ware of the NASW chapter shared that the chapter is now offering all CEUs, which are available on its website. She shared that the chapter is developing a strategic plan and will hold meetings across Kentucky. Invitations (postcards) will be sent to all licensed social workers, and attendees will receive one free CEU.

Adjournment – Whitney Cassity-Caywood made a motion to adjourn. Genesia Kilgore-Bowling seconded. Motion carried by unanimous voice vote. Meeting adjourned at 1:09 p.m. ET.

Next meeting: Monday, October 19, 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: 10/19/2026