



Public Board Meeting Minutes Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers Friday, April 24, 2026

Location:

Virtual: Microsoft TEAMS

In Person: Morrow Crane Building, 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste 240, Salem, OR 97302

Full Board Meeting Attendance:

Board Members Present:

Amy Ashton, Williams, LCSW Member, **Board Chair**

Mollie Janssen, LCSW Member, **Vice Chair**

Nicole Pantley, Public Member

Olivia Bormann, CSWA Member

Troy Costales, Public Member

Board Counsel Present:

Kyle Martin, Assistance Attorney General, Oregon Department of Justice

Tessa Sugahara, Oregon Department of Justice, Labor and Employment

Board Staff Present:

Kimberly Coleman, Legislative and Licensing Analyst

Noelle Johnson, Licensing Assistant

Department of Administrative Services:

John Paschal, Executive Recruiter

Sherry Lauer, CHRO HR Manager

Governor's Office Staff Present:

Amy Baker, Behavioral Health Initiative Director

Maya Crawford Peacock, Executive Appointments Director

April Rohman, Behavioral Health Advisor

Members of the Public Present:

Mary Beth Baptista, Executive Director, Board of Naturopathic Medicine

John (Oak) Alger, Member of the Public

Observer, Member of Public

Danielle Flores, NASW, Member of Public

Just Listening, Member of Public

Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers
Public Board Meeting Minutes for April 24, 2026

Alex Brown, Member of Public
Amanda, Member of Public
Syreeta Spencer, Member of the Public

1. Call to order:

Chair Ashton-Williams called the Board Meeting to order at **11:00 am**. Roll call taken as follows: Amy Ashton-Williams, LCSW member, Board Chair, Troy Costales, public member, Kyle Martin, Assistant Attorney General, Tessa Sugahara, Department of Justice, Nicole Pantley, public member, Olivia Bormann, CSWA member, Mollie Janssen, LCSW member, Vice Board Chair, Kimberly Coleman, Legislative and Licensing Analyst, Noelle Johnson, Licensing Assistant, Maya Crawford Peacock, Executive Appointments Director, Mary Beth Baptista, Executive Director, Board of Naturopathic Medicine, John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, Sherry Lauer, CHRO HR Manager, April Rohman, Behavioral Health Advisor.

1. Review and approval of agenda:

- i. **Vice Chair Janssen motioned to approve Agenda with addition of Alternative Pathways.**
- ii. Public Member Pantley seconded the motion.
- iii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- iv. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

Board Chair Ashton Williams announced that Ray Miller is no longer the Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers.

2. Executive session:

Chair Ashton-Williams announced that the Board would now enter the Executive Session to conduct Board business, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f) and ORS 40.225. The Board **entered the Executive Session at 11:07 am**. Chair Ashton-Williams moved the Board **out of Executive Session at 11:36 am**.

3. Interim appointment discussion, decision and introduction:

Before deciding on an interim executive director, the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers (BLSW) asked a series of questions regarding the interim Executive Director Nominee: Mary Beth Baptista, Executive Director (ED) of the Board of Naturopathic Medicine.

The Board asked why Executive Director (ED) Baptista was chosen as a nominee for the interim executive director position with the Oregon BLSW. The Board also asked how many people are licensed with the Board of Naturopathic Medicine, where Mary Beth Baptista serves as Executive Director. The Board asked for the average number of investigations and complaints submitted to the Board of Naturopathic Medicine. The Board asked about ED Baptista's experience with the rule change process with an additional request for an

example of how a rule change that ED Baptista created, helped improve licensee behavior and asked to provide examples of how improvements were measured.

The Governor's office shared that ED Baptista has a long history of serving public bodies, and has familiarity with medical licensing, rulemaking, and disciplinary action. The Governor's office also stated that ED Baptista also has experience with a variety of functions that are required from a licensing board.

Executive Director Baptista shared that they have the skillset needed to move through change. ED Baptista shared that they are familiar with social work and shared that they have experience with compliance and investigations. ED Baptista shared that their goal is to assist with the Oregon BLSW with the upcoming executive director's transition. ED Baptista shared that the Board of Naturopathic Medicine currently oversees 1,250 licensees. ED Baptista shared that they have worked with larger agencies in past. ED Baptista shared that the Board of Naturopathic Medicine receives approximately 44 complaints per year and 11 cases that total go to discipline.

Executive Director Baptista shared that most of the work they have completed at the Board of Naturopathic Medicine has been dedicated to changing the rules to provide more transparency and accountability while also improving licensee behavior. ED Baptista provided additional examples of rule changes and the results of those changes.

Sherry Lauer, CHRO DAS Manager, informed the Board that ED Baptista also serves as mentor to new Executive Directors and smaller agencies. Sherry Lauer reminded the Board that budget deadlines are approaching, and ED Baptista will also have the skillset to assist the Board in the government budget process and can support the Board in guiding them in the direction they would like to go. Sherry Lauer stated that finding a permanent Executive Director for the Oregon BLSW will take a minimum of 6 months and ED Baptista would hold the interim executive director position while the Board works on competitive recruitment for the Executive Director position at the same time. Sherry Lauer reminded the Board that since ED Baptista will also be executive director for the Board of Naturopathic Medicine, that ED Baptista will need to split their time between the two boards.

The Board asked what posting the Executive Director position process will look like, and what the timeline would be. The Board asked if they would need to hold a special board meeting before the June 2026 Board meeting finalizing the Executive Director position. The Board then asked if they could invite John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, and Sherry Lauer, CHRO HR Manager, to specialty meeting. The Board additionally asked what the template is for recruitment and how they should respond to questions about the Executive Director opening to allow minimal delay in the transition for a new executive director.

John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, shared once the Board agrees and votes on a recruitment plan for the Executive Director opening, and determines the date they would like to post the executive director's position filled by will be what determines when the executive

director's position will be posted for applicants to apply. Assistant Attorney General Kyle Martin informed the Board that a special meeting to discuss the requirements for executive director recruitment is up to the Board's discretion. John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, shared that they have the required template for the Executive Director position posting and will send it to the Board for their review. Sherry Lauer, CHRO HR Manager, reminded the Board that they will need to follow public meeting law and discussions need to be held during public meetings if they will be working on it all together. AAG Martin stated that the Board can work in smaller groups to complete the template if groups are smaller than a quorum.

- i. **Board Chair Ashton-Williams motioned to appoint Executive Director, Mary Beth Baptista as interim Executive Director of the Oregon Board of Licensed Social Workers.**
- ii. CSWA member Bormann seconded the motion.
- iii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- iv. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

- v. **Board Chair Ashton-Williams motioned to delegate the authority to carry out the administrative tasks necessary for interim appointments.**
- vi. CSWA Bormann seconded the motion.
- vii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- viii. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

- ix. **Board Chair Ashton-Williams motioned to delegate all the authority to the new interim executive director that has been previously delegated to the prior executive director until the Board appoints a new executive director.**
- x. CSWA Bormann seconded the motion.
- xi. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- xii. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

4. Review and approval of minutes:

- i. **Public Member Costales motioned to approve February 20, 2026, Board Minutes as presented.**
- ii. Public Member Pantley seconded the motion.
- iii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- iv. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

The Board took a short break starting at 12:03 pm. The Board returned from their short break at 12:27 pm.

5. New staff member introduction:

The Board introduced Reynold (Reyn) Catala, Investigator.

6. Public comment:

No public comments were presented.

7. Executive session:

Chair Ashton-Williams announced that the Board would now enter the Executive Session to conduct Board business, pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(f), ORS 675.540(4) and ORS 676.175(1). The Board **entered the Executive Session at 12:30 pm**. Chair Ashton-Williams moved the Board **out of Executive Session at 12:57 pm**.

8. Committee reports:

Consumer Protection Committee Report (Motions):

Vice Chair Janssen presented the **Consumer Protection Committee Report**.

In the matter of case 2019-40:

- i. **Vice Chair Janssen moved to approve and adopt the stipulated order as presented.**
- i. Board Chair Ashton-Williams seconded the motion.
- ii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- iii. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2020-05:

- ii. **Vice Chair Janssen moved to close the case.**
- iv. CSWA Member Bormann seconded the motion.
- v. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- vi. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2020-39:

- iii. **Vice Chair Janssen moved to close the case.**
- vii. Board Chair Ashton-Williams seconded the motion.
- viii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- ix. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2021-06:

- iv. **Vice Chair Janssen moved to close the case.**
- x. CSWA Member Bormann seconded the motion.
- xi. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- xii. **Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2021-09:

- v. Vice Chair Janssen moved to approve and adopt the stipulated order as presented.**
- xiii. CSWA Member Bormann seconded the motion.
- xiv. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- xv. Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2021-12:

- vi. Vice Chair Janssen moved to close the case.**
- xvi. CSWA Member Bormann seconded the motion.
- xvii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- xviii. Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2024-56:

- vii. Vice Chair Janssen moved to approve and adopt the stipulated final order as presented.**
- xix. Board Chair Ashton-Williams seconded the motion.
- xx. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- xxi. Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

In the matter of case 2025-40:

- viii. Vice Chair Janssen moved to close the case.**
- xxii. Board Chair Ashton-Williams seconded the motion.
- xxiii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- xxiv. Motion passed 5-0, 0 abstention(s).**

Licensing Exam Committee Report:

The Licensing and Exam Committee (LEC) announced the approval of the following Semi-Retired status change request for Cheryl Nix. The LEC also requested that any supervisor's concerns be forwarded to the compliance team for review. The LEC also discussed the first draft of a supervisor's specific rules and laws exam and provided corrections for staff to implement.

Continuing Education Committee Report:

The Continuing Education Committee (CEC) approved the following continuing education requests: Elissa Denton for 8 hours, Leah Wright for 6.25 hours, Michelle Hallinan for 10 hours, Nathan Rehm for 6.5 hours, Sarah Vevoda for 5.5 hours. The CEC also approved to waive the full 40 continuing education hours for Jeffrey Moua. The CEC approved the following credentialing body requests for: CareOregon and Central Oregon Association of Psychologists.

9. Special review:

The Board requested staff to send out a poll to board members, Sherry Lauer, CHRO HR Manager, and John Paschal, Executive Recruiter, to determine best date and time for a special meeting in May 2026.

10. Public comment:

Alex Brown, Member of the Public, requested the Board provide additional information about why there was a change in executive directors and shared concern about licensee mailing information being provided to the public for a fee.

The Board responded by sharing that they have appointed interim Executive Director Mary Beth Baptista. The Board directed staff to forward Alex Brown's concerns to ED Baptista for a response.

11. Old business:

Alternative Pathways

CSWA Member Bormann shared themes that have been appearing in the data from Alternative Pathways questionnaire. Board Chair Ashton-Williams and CSWA Member Bormann will put together a report of all data and present it to the Board during the June 2026 Board meeting.

Behavioral Health Talent Council Report

The Board requested a copy of the final report to help provide information for the Board to make changes. The Board also requested a presentation from the Governor's Office to discuss the findings of the Behavioral Health Talent Council report.

12. New business:

Board Member Annual Training:

Board Chair Ashton-Williams shared that Oregon Government Ethics Commission is updating the Board Member Annual training and will provide the training to the Board once the new training has been completed.

13. Consent agenda:

- i. Vice Chair Janssen moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented.
- ii. CSWA Member Bormann seconded the motion.
- ii. Roll call taken as follows: Ashton-Williams: aye, Costales: aye, Pantley: aye, Bormann: aye, Janssen: aye.
- iv. **Motion passed 5 - 0, 0 abstention(s).**

14. Correspondence:

Reviewed correspondence, Board directed staff to provide a response.

15. Announcements:

NASW Update:

New NASW Executive Director, Danielle Flores, introduced themselves to the Board and shared updates about the NASW Oregon chapter.

ASWB Update:

Board Chair Ashton-Williams shared an ASWB update about the ASWB Education meeting that occurred the weekend prior. Board Chair Ashton-Williams shared that there are two upcoming meetings: ASWB Leadership meeting in August 2026 and the ASWB Delegate Assembly meeting in November 2026.

16. Adjournment:

Chair Ashton-Williams adjourned the Board meeting at **2:17 pm**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Noelle Johnson', with a stylized, cursive script.

Noelle Johnson, *Licensing Assistant*