

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

THIS AGENDA CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20

Tuesday, March 8, 2016
9:30 a.m.

239 Causeway Street ~ 4th Floor ~ Room 417 A&B
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Agenda

Time	Item #	Item	Exhibits	Staff Contact
09:30 a.m.	I.	Call to Order Determination of Quorum Notice of Electronic Recording		
	II.	Approval of Agenda	Draft Agenda	
	III.	Approval of Minutes	Draft Minutes	
	IV.	<u>Discussion:</u> Individual application review and approval	Draft Application	CA GH
	V.	<u>Discussion:</u> CORI and application process	None	PB RF
	VI.	<u>Presentation:</u> BPHC	None	SW
	VII.	<u>Presentation:</u> Greater Boston Legal Service	None	PQ
	VIII.	<u>Discussion:</u> National overview	None	TM
	IX.	Discussion: Training center application review process	None	JZ
1:00 p.m.	X.	Adjournment		

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, March 8, 2016

9:30 a.m.

239 Causeway Street

Room 417

Boston, MA 02114

Board Members

Present:

Jean Zotter, DPH, Chair

Joanne Calista, Community Health Worker Training Organization,
Representative

Sheila Och, Community Health Worker

Denise Lau, Public Member

Peggy Hogarty, Massachusetts Public Health Association
Representative

Henrique O. Schmidt, Community Health Worker, Secretary

Patricia Edraos, Massachusetts League of Community Health
Centers (MLCHC), Representative

Catherine Bourassa, Community-Based CHW Employer

Board Members

Not Present:

Maritza Smidy, Community Health Worker

Staff Present:

Philip Beattie, Interim Executive Director, DHPL

Rebecca Ferullo, Office Support Specialist I, DHPL

Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel,
DPH

Gail Hirsch, Co-Director, Office of Community Health Workers,
DPH

Caitlin Allen, Office of Community Health Workers, DPH

James Lavery, Director, DHPL

Visitors:

Members of the Public

I. Call to Order and Determination of Quorum

A quorum of the Board was present. Ms. Zotter, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:36 a.m.

Ms. Zotter invited Board Members, DPH staff, and Public Members in attendance to introduce themselves. New Board Member Catherine Bourassa is introduced. Quorum established.

II. Approval of Board Meeting Agenda
The Meeting Agenda was reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Lau made a motion to approve the agenda; Ms. Och seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Document: March 8, 2016 Board Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of January 21, 2016 Regularly Scheduled Meeting Minutes
The Minutes of the January 21, 2016 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting were reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Zotter made a motion to approve the minutes; Ms. Calista seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Document: January 21, 2016 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes

IV. Discussion
A. Review of Certification application

DISCUSSION: Ms. Hirsch and Ms. Allen reviewed the changes made to the draft certification application. Board members discussed concerns about paper application notary requirement vs. online application credit card requirement causing barriers. Ms. Hogarty feels the “Important Information” box should be removed, as the entire page is important. The bookstore and Board phone numbers should be clarified. Instructions to update any change of address to the Board immediately should be highlighted. The Standards of Conduct are still too small, need a bigger font. Section E “Additional Questions” should have a different title to clarify that they are not optional. Board members would like to review more, possibly send by interchange. Ms. Edraos suggested that MACHW review the application at the same time so as to save time. Ms. Zotter reminded board members that the application cannot be released to public until the regulations are promulgated, so there is plenty of time. Section E change to “may not disqualify.”

ACTION: Ms. Calista made a motion to defer approval of the draft application to allow board members to comment on it; Ms. Zotter seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Document: Draft Application

V. Discussion

A. CORI and Application Process

DISCUSSION: Mr. Beattie and Ms. Ferullo reviewed the processing of applications and CORI forms for other boards. Board members and audience members discussed concerns regarding the Good Moral Character policy and CORI run.

10:58am Ms. Strachan leaves

11:02am Ms. Strachan returns

Mr. Lavery also explains the Division's use of CORI forms, and that the term "good moral character" may be incorrect and leave the wrong impression. A more accurate term might be "fitness to practice" because there is no judgment implied. These policies are in place to protect the health and safety of the public. Having a criminal history will not automatically stop someone from receiving a certification, and final decisions are made by the Board Members, with applicants having an opportunity to provide information and present at a meeting if they so choose.

11:12am Break

11:24am Return

Board members and audience members still have concerns regarding application and CORI processes.

ACTION: None

Document: None

VI. Presentation

A. BPHC

DISCUSSION: Steven Wright of Boston Public Health Commission presents. Mr. Wright discussed his experiences of trying to find employment with a criminal history. He stated that it can cause an issue for him when a CORI returns positive and his concerns regarding how a positive CORI will affect certification. He also observed that people of color are more likely to have had interactions with the police (and consequently, a criminal record) than whites do because of racially

biased policies. He observed that checking C.O.R.I. results as a condition of certification would discriminate against people of color. Mr. Wright also observed that members of the Board were not representative of the CHW community because most Board members are white.

ACTION: None

Document: None

VII. Presentation
A. Greater Boston Legal Services

DISCUSSION: Pauline Quirion presents with PowerPoint. Ms. Quirion discussed the statistics of prison population and arrests of people of color. She noted that there is long standing bias in the laws and policies of government that result in bias against people of color. She reviewed the legal requirements *employers* are subject to regarding CORIs and the information they can ask for. Ms. Strachan noted that State Licensing bodies are not employers and are not held to the same statutory requirements. Ms. Quirion also discussed the benefits of employing people with a criminal record.

ACTION: None

Document: None

VIII. Discussion
A. National Overview

DISCUSSION: Terry Mason presents. Ms. Mason discussed other states that offer CHW certification and those which do or do not require CORI runs, and how those states deal with CORI results.

12:42pm Ms. Calista leaves
12:45pm Ms. Calista returns

ACTION: None

Document: None

IX. Adjourn
There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Hogarty made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Calista seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12:59 pm.

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, May 10, 2016, at 9:30 a.m. at 239 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted:

Name	Position	Date
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