

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS

THIS AGENDA CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS
IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20

Thursday, April 2, 2015
09:30 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		
	II.	Approval of Agenda	Draft Agenda	
	III.	Approval of Minutes October 2, 2014 Regularly Scheduled Meeting	Draft Minutes	
	IV.	Review of CEU Certificates for Reactivation Application for Licensure A. Bitton J. Silvana GC058 [Expires: 01/31/2017]	CEU Certificates/Board CEU Policy 10-01	IH
	V.	Inquiry A. Definition of “Consultants” and the “Use of Occasional Services” (M.G.L.c 112 § 257)	Email Inquiry/Copy of M.G.L.c 112 §257	

	VI.	Other Business/Announcements A. <u>Discussion</u> : Ordering tests without a physician signature B. <u>Discussion</u> : Applicant fails to complete continuing education contact hours required for license renewal due to extenuating circumstances [270 CMR 3.08 (7)] C. Conflict of Interest Reminder D. <u>Distribution</u> : Board members' state email	None None Copy of 270 CMR 3.08 State emails	MS MP MP MS MP
	VII.	Flex Session A. Topics for next agenda		
11:00 a.m.	VIII.	Adjournment		

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

**Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors
Board Meeting
April 2, 2015
239 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114
Room 417**

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Gretchen Schneider, Genetic Counselor 2, Chair
Kayla Sheets, Genetic Counselor 4, Vice-Chair
Jillian Fleming, Public Member

Staff Present: Mary Phillips, Executive Director, DHPL
Ichelle Herbu, Assistant Executive Director, DHPL
Anson Chu, Office Support Specialist, DHPL
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, DPH

I. Call to Order – Determination of Quorum

A quorum of the Board was present. Ms. Schneider, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

II. Approval of the Agenda

The Meeting Agenda was reviewed.

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Schneider made a motion to approve the agenda as presented; Ms. Sheets seconded the motion. Motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: April 2, 2015 Board Meeting Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

Minutes of the October 2, 2014 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting were reviewed

DISCUSSION: None

ACTION: Ms. Schneider made a motion to approve the Minutes as presented; Ms. Sheets seconded the motion. Motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: October 2, 2014 Regularly Scheduled Board Meeting Minutes

IV. Review of CEU Certificates for Reactivation Application for Licensure
A. Bitton J. Silvana GC058 [Expires: 01/31/2017]

DISCUSSION: Ms. Herbu informed the Board that Ms. Bitton reactivated her license in November 2014. The question for the Board is to determine if the CEUs she submitted are sufficient and if it is within the correct cycle.

ACTION: Ms. Schneider made a motion to approve the CEU and determine that the Board will be requesting for the CEU based on the previous cycle from the License's expiration date; Ms. Sheets seconded the motion. Motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: CEU Certificates/Board CEU Policy 10-01

V. Inquiry

A. Definition of "Consultants" and the "Use of Occasional Services" (M.G.L.c 112 § 257)

DISCUSSION: Ms. Phillips informed the Board that this email inquiry came in September 2014. The Board reviewed the question and Ms. Schneider wants to know what does the term "visiting" means. The Board also wants to determine and clarify the nature of "consulting" from his inquiry to the Board. Board staff will contact him to obtain the additional information and present to the Board at the next scheduled Board meeting.

ACTION: None

Document: Email Inquiry/Copy of M.G.L.c 112 §257

VI. Other Business/Announcements

A. Discussion: Ordering tests without a physician signature

DISCUSSION: Ms. Sheets brought up this topic with the Board. The MA regulation does not prohibit ordering test, but the language is vague. Even if a physician does not have any Genetic Counseling background, they are able to order genetic testing. The Genetic Counselors need a physician as a partner in order to order tests. This can prevent any potential private practices by Genetic Counselors. Ms. Sheets also informed us that some states do not need the physician's signature to order test such as the State of Washington. Ms. Schneider informed the Board that when the regulations were written, a group of physicians opposed the idea and were willing to prevent this from passing. Ms. Strachan will research this topic and report back to the Board on the next scheduled Board meeting with more information.

ACTION: None

Document: None

B. Discussion: Applicant fails to complete continuing education contact hours required for license renewal due to extenuating circumstances [270 CMR 3.08 (7)]

DISCUSSION: Ms. Phillips brought up this topic in order for the Board to clarify the meaning of “extenuating circumstances”. Ms. Schneider said this topic had never been brought up before. The vague regulation language was written deliberately in order for the Board to determine extenuating circumstances on a case by case scenario.

ACTION: Ms. Sheets made a motion to have Ms. Schneider as the representative to review and determine what the “extenuating circumstances” are case by case basis; Ms. Schneider seconded the motion. Motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously.

Document: None

C. Conflict of Interest Reminder

DISCUSSION: Ms. Strachan reminded the Board that prior to the meeting if Board members believe they have a conflict, they should contact the State Ethic’s Commission.

ACTION: None

Document: Copy of 270 CMR 3.08

D. Distribution: Board members’ state email

DISCUSSION: Ms. Phillips informed the Board that they now have a state email and can use it for Board business if they prefer.

ACTION: None

Document: None

E. Discussion: Review of regulations regarding ABGC testing cycle

DISCUSSION: Ms. Schneider informed the Board that this situation came about after ABGC changed their testing window to twice a year. Due to the language of the Board’s statutes and regulations, the changes have caused hardship on MA applicants who will apply for a provisional license as well as newly licensed GC in MA when obtaining CEUs for first time license renewal. The Board discussed the implications of the changes and solutions to the implications, such as changes to the statutes and regulations and methods to communicate to the students at Genetic Counselor programs. Mr. Schneider mentioned that a listserver exists that includes all Genetic Counselor program directors. The Board could utilize the list to communicate the issues to the program directors who will in turn forward the message to their students. The Board staff will draft a notice and forward it to Ms. Schneider for review.

ACTION: None

Document: None

VII. Flex Session

A. Topics for next agenda

The Board requested the following items to be added to the agenda for the next scheduled Board meeting:

1. To discuss a permanent solution to the CMR 255

VIII. Adjourn

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Schneider made a motion to adjourn the Meeting; Ms. Sheets seconded the motion. Motion passed with Board members present and voting in favor unanimously. The Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Genetic Counselor will be held on Monday, July 13, 2015, at 9:30 a.m. at 239 Causeway Street, Boston, Massachusetts.

Respectfully submitted:

Gretchen Schneider
Chair

Date