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**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health
and Human Services Professions**

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REGULATION

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Public Meeting Minutes

July 16, 2021

Board Members Present:

Bill Ahearn, Acting Chair (left meeting at 11:47 a.m.)
Amy Vercillo, Member
Ashley Williams, Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Jennifer Paine, Member
Frank Gomez, Member
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member (left meeting at 11:47 a.m.)

Staff Members Present:

Bruce Hopper, Deputy General Counsel
Brian P. Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Lynn Read, Board Counsel
Alan Van Tassel, Investigator Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:02 a.m.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Paine, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2021 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of May 21, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 21, 2021 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Hearing Scheduled for November 1-4, 8-9 in 2019-001030-IT-ENF (MD):** Mr. Bialas reported on an adjudicatory hearing that a hearings officer has scheduled. Dr. Williams volunteered to attend the hearing.



- **Board Counsel Report:** Ms. Read reported that a new law allows the Board to continue to meet by videoconference until April 1, 2022.
- **Ratification of Decisions by Board Staff to Approve Applications:** The Board considered whether to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last meeting. A MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Application Processing Under Application Review Policy:** Mr. Bialas reported on the current data concerning applications reviewed under the Board's Application Review Policy.

Correspondence

- **5.21.21 Email from L. Krutzler of Northampton City Council re: A Resolution Decriminalizing Controlled Substance Possession as well as Cultivation and Distribution of Psychedelic Plants:** Read and reviewed.
- **7.1.21 Letter from M. Williams of MaMHCA re: NCMHCE:** The Board discussed a letter from MaMHCA regarding changes the NBCC will be making to the NCMHCE. The Board directed Ms. Woodbury, Ms. Paine, Mr. Bialas, and Ms. Read to discuss the issue with Ms. Williams and report back to the Board.

LMHC Application Review – Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Saira Qureshi:**

Ms. Murphy called the hearing to order and announced that the hearing will be recorded by Microsoft Teams. See recording.

Ms. Read discussed the reason why the Board denied Ms. Qureshi's application: Ms. Qureshi has not received a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling or a Related Field under 262 CMR 2.04.

Ms. Qureshi discussed her education and work experience, including a master's degree in educational psychology that she received in 2005, a certificate of graduate studies in mental health counseling that she received in 2015, and a Rhode Island Mental Health Counselor license she received in 2016. She stated that for various personal reasons, she cannot get another degree, but nonetheless the Board should license her because she has an active license in Rhode Island.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to affirm the denial of Ms. Qureshi's application because she does not have a master's degree in Mental Health Counseling or a Related Field under 262 CMR 2.04. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMHC Application Review

- **Regine Thiam-Kindler:** The Board reviewed Ms. Thiam-Kindler's application. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to deny the application because Ms. Thiam-Kindler did not complete her post-master's degree experience within eight years under 262 CMR 2.07(1). The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Jose Cruz Rodriguez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Cruz Rodriguez's application. After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to request additional information regarding any practicum Mr. Cruz Rodriguez completed and a comparison of how the courses he completed correspond with the course requirements listed in the Board's regulations.

Reinstatement Application – Request to Accept School Psychologist Licensure During Period Educational Psychologist License Expired

- **Sharon Grossman:** The Board considered Ms. Grossman's request that she not be required to reexamine to reinstate her Educational Psychologist license that expired in 1999 because she has maintained a School Psychologist license since 1993, and the examination and continuing education for both licenses are the same. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Dr. Williams, not to require Ms. Grossman to reexamine but to allow her to reinstate her Educational Psychologist license if she provides sufficient and acceptable CE units under the Board's reinstatement policy. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request

- **Laura Melendez Diaz:** The Board reviewed Ms. Melendez Diaz's NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to allow Ms. Melendez Diaz 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary during the NCMHCE. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring Reports

- **Jessica Goldstein, 2018-000635-IT-ENF, 10th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Report of Change in Employment:** The Board reviewed Ms. Goldstein's reports. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Paine, to accept the reports. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Jeffrey Codella, 2020-000453-IT-ENF, Approval of Evaluating Psychologist to Perform Fitness to Practice Evaluation:** The Board reviewed Dr. Diane Whipple's credentials to be Mr. Codella's Evaluating Psychologist. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve Dr. Whipple as Mr. Codella's Evaluating Psychologist. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Virginia Childs, 2018-000909-IT-ENF, Request for Biweekly Supervision:** The Board reviewed Ms. Childs' request for the Board to allow biweekly supervision sessions instead of weekly. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny the request because Ms. Childs would have to switch supervisors for biweekly supervision. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Maxine Orocofsky, 2019-001041-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board discussed Ms. Orocofsky's report. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to accept the report and to direct the supervisor as follows:
 - Ms. Orocofsky should prepare five records for each monthly meeting for the supervisor's review and provide those records to the supervisor before each meeting. Those records should include treatment plan, assessments, interventions, etc. and notes from her past three meetings with each client. The supervisor should review those records with Ms. Orocofsky and report on those discussions.
 - The supervisor should include goals for addressing Ms. Orocofsky's boundary issues and more detail about how she is addressing boundaries with her clients.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

The Board received a request from MARIACES to extend its Emergency Policy on Teletherapy for Applicant Experience and Supervision Hours until December 31, 2021. Staff will research whether the Board has the power to extend that policy now that the state of emergency has ended and may put the topic on the August agenda.

Executive Session (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B, to review sensitive medical information)

At 11:45 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Williams, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) to review the good moral character of applicants, and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B, to review sensitive medical information as part of NCMHCE accommodation requests; (2) then enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 § 65C to review settlement offers and cases; and then, after the conclusion of the investigative conference, (3) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Dr. Ahearn and Ms. Gagliardi left the meeting at 11:47 a.m.

See separate minutes.

Investigative Conference (Closed Session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:37 p.m.

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Settlements

2020-001070-IT-ENF (CD):	Gave direction to prosecutor
2020-001306-IT-ENF (KM):	Gave direction to prosecutor
2020-000400-IT-ENF (CS):	Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

2021-000420-IT-ENF (CC):	Refer to Office of Investigations
2021-000318-IT-ENF (EL):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000311-IT-ENF (KB):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000229-IT-ENF (JS):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000167-IT-ENF (JC):	Dismiss
2020-001712-IT-ENF (CP):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-001656-IT-ENF (RF):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2021-000195-IT-ENF (TD):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions. Ms. Woodbury recused herself from the discussion and vote on the case and left the meeting.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 20, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used by the Board at the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of July 16, 2021
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes of May 21, 2021
- Draft Executive Session Minutes of May 21, 2021
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: April 5, 2021 through July 15, 2021
- 5.21.21 Email from L. Krutzler of Northampton City Council re: A Resolution Decriminalizing Controlled Substance Possession as well as Cultivation and Distribution of Psychedelic Plants
- 7.1.21 Letter from M. Williams of MaMHCA re: NCMHCE
- LMHC Application of Saira Qureshi
- LMHC Application of Regine Thiam-Kindler
- LMHC Application of Jose Cruz Rodriguez
- Educational Psychologist Reinstatement Application of Sharon Grossman
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Laura Melendez Diaz
- Jessica Goldstein, 2018-000635-IT-ENF, 10th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Report of Change in Employment
- Jeffrey Codella, 2020-000453-IT-ENF, Submission of Evaluating Psychologist to Perform Fitness to Practice Evaluation
- Virginia Childs, 2018-000909-IT-ENF, Request for Biweekly Supervision
- Maxine Orocofsky, 2019-001041-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report