

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

**Tuesday, August 6, 2024
VIA WebEx
12:30p.m.**

**GENERAL SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES
(Open Session)**

Board Members Present: Brittany Brown, Chair | Commissioner’s Designee
Joanne Calista, Vice Chair | Community Health Worker Training Organization Representative
Morgan Parker | Community-Based Community Health Worker Employer
Anissa Ray | Community Health Worker
Shanina Rosado | Massachusetts Public Health Association Representative
Hugo Santos | Community Health Worker
Nikki Simpson | MS, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers Representative
Geovanni Vazquez | Community Health Worker

Board Members Not Present: None

Board Staff Present: Steven Joubert | Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Tam | Assistant Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Mireilly Montanez | Office Support Specialist – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Heather Engman | Chief Board Counsel – Office of the General Counsel, DPH

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum
At 12:39p.m. Ms. Brittany Brown, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order. Ms. Brown reminded board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Brittany Brown: present; Joanne Calista: present; Morgan Eldredge: present; Hugo Santos: present; Nikki Simpson: present; Geovanni Vazquez: present.
Absent: Anissa Ray, Shanina Rosado.

II. Approval of General Session Agenda | Conflict of Interest
The board reviewed the August 6, 2024, General Session Agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brittany Brown asked if any board members needed to recuse themselves from an item listed on the agenda. Ms. Brittany Brown recused herself from the Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition (BOHMAC), Ms. Joanne Calista recused herself from the Central Mass Area Health Education Center, and Ms. Nikki Simson recused herself from the Massachusetts League of Community Health Center.

ACTION:

Ms. Brittany Brown made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Absent: Anissa Ray; Shanina Rosado

Document: August 6, 2024, General Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes
The board reviewed the May 7, 2024, General Session Minutes.

DISCUSSION:

No comments or changes to the May 7, 2024, minutes.

ACTION:

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Nikki Simpson, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Absent: Anissa Ray; Shanina Rosado

Document: May 7, 2024, General Session Minutes

IV. Continuing Education applications
A. Grayken Center for Addiction and Technical Assistance

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert stated Grayken Center for Addiction and Technical Assistance is presenting their application for forty-eight continuing education courses. Ms. Brittany Brown asked the board if they had any questions or comments. None were noted.

ACTION

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the continuing education courses, which was seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge:

approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Absent: Anissa Ray; Shanina Rosado

B. Berkshire Area Health Education Center

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brown presented two courses each for six credits of continuing education units that are up for consideration. Courses are “A guide for Healthcare Professionals to enhance wellbeing” and “The importance of diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice in healthcare.” Ms. Brown asked if there were any questions, comments, or concerns about this application? Ms. Brown acknowledged the application is complete, these look like good courses for that would be beneficial for CHWs. During the roll call it was noted that we lost Ms. Eldridge and would need to pause as we have lost quorum.

Mr. Joubert stated that we will wait for others to join so that they have enough people to place those with conflicts of interest in the lobby so that they may vote on Item IV: C, Better Oral Health of Massachusetts Coalition, Item IV: D, Central Mass Area Health Education Center, and Item IV: E, Massachusetts League of Community Health Center. We can proceed until Ms. Eldridge returns. Mr. Joubert stated that we are going to have those with a conflict log off and we will call them back once the matter has been heard.

Ms. Morgan Eldredge left the meeting at 12:45p.m.

Ms. Shanina Rosado joined the meeting at 12:48p.m.

Ms. Anissa Ray joined the meeting at 12:49p.m.

ACTION

Ms. Brittany Brown made a motion to approve the continuing education courses, which was seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Absent: Morgan Eldridge

F. Medical Care Development, Inc.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brown presented Medical Care Development Inc. “Stroke awareness and intervention” application for continuing education which included one education course and credit. Application does look complete, any questions, comments, or concerns? None were stated.

ACTION

Ms. Joanne Caliste made a motion to approve the continuing education course, which was seconded by Ms. Shanina Rosado, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni

Vazquez: approved.
Absent: Morgan Eldridge

G. AdCare Educational Institute, Inc.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brown presented AdCare Educational Institute with two continuing education courses worth one credit each, “Breast health and breast screening” and “Cervical health and cervical cancer screening.” Ms. Brown noted that the application does look complete, any questions, comments, or concerns? None were stated.

Ms. Morgan Eldredge rejoined the meeting at 12:53p.m.

ACTION

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the continuing education courses, which was seconded by Ms. Nikki Simpson, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.
Absent: None.

Ms. Brittany Brown left the meeting at 12:56p.m.

C. Better Oral Health for Massachusetts Coalition

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert presented Better Oral Health of Massachusetts Coalition application for one credit for “Oral health topics”.

ACTION

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the continuing education course, which was seconded by Ms. Shanina Rosado, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.
Recused: Brittany Brown. Absent: None.

Ms. Brittany Brown rejoined the meeting at 12:59p.m.

Ms. Joanne Calista left the meeting at 1:00p.m.

D. Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brown presented Central Massachusetts Area Health Education Center application which has quite a few continuing education courses they have submitted for, including

“Trauma informed care”, Caring for transgender clients”, “Harm reduction”, “Intro to LGBTQI+ health”, “Intro to motivational interviewing”, “Substance use disorder”, “Mental health”, and “Mental health for CHW’s”. Application does look complete, any questions, comments, or concerns? None were stated.

ACTION

Mr. Hugo Santos made a motion to approve the continuing education courses, which was seconded by Ms. Nikki Simpson, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Nikki Simpson: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Recused: Joanne Calista. Absent: None

Ms. Joanne Calista rejoined the meeting at 1:04p.m.

Ms. Nikki Simpson left the meeting at 1:04p.m.

E. Massachusetts Leage of Community Health Centers

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brown presented in Massachusetts Leage of Community Health Centers under the continuing education section for Massachusetts Leage of Community Health Center. It is six continuing education credits for “Substance use training” and the application looks complete. Any questions, concerns, or comments about the application? None were stated.

ACTION

Ms. Brittany Brown made a motion to approve the continuing education course, which was seconded by Ms. Morgan Eldredge, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Recused: Nikki Simpson. Absent: None

V. Triage: N/A

VI. Flex Session

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert stated “I want to give you a preview, the next time we meet we will put on the agenda a project that we have been working on with Accenture that the department has been hired to do a thorough assessment of the CHWs and application process going forward. We are working behind the scenes to improve our processes and our network and application to remove barriers to the certification. Stay tuned for more details.”

Ms. Joanne Calista said to keep on the radar the reciprocity related in the New Egland region, since several CHWs have lost their employment due to loss of funding. Mr.

Joubert stated that we will keep that in the background as legislation or trends change, we will not put that on the agenda until we have concrete information to share.

Mr. Joubert asked if everyone can attend the next meeting which is scheduled for September 10, 2024, everyone in attendance confirmed they are able to attend.

Mr. Joubert further notified the board to be on the lookout in the next month for officer elections, in the fall they put Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary up for voting. The Chair is different because it is not up for voting as it is a commissioner's appointment.

VII. Executive Session

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brittany Brown, Board Chair, read the Executive Session Statement as follows: The board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purpose of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against, a public officer, employee, staff member or individual. Specifically, the board will meet in executive session to approve prior executive minutes, discuss a good moral character matter, and decide whether to approve Certification for Community Health Worker. The board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.

ACTION:

Motion to move to the Executive Session was made by Ms. Brittany Brown, seconded by Ms. Shanina Rosado, and unanimously passed by roll-call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Absent: Nikki Simpson

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business before the board, Ms. Brittany Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Morgan Eldredge, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approved; Joanne Calista: approved; Morgan Eldredge: approved; Anissa Ray: approved; Shanina Rosado: approved; Hugo Santos: approved; Geovanni Vazquez: approved.

Absent: Nikki Simpson

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 1:12p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, September 10, 2024, at 12:30p.m. via WebEx.

Respectfully submitted by:
The Board of Certification of Community Health Workers