

**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**

(OPEN SESSION)

Tuesday, December 09, 2025

12:30 p.m.

General Session is open to the public and will be held via Zoom at:

<https://zoom.us/j/92641781590?pwd=g6QkN5g4JhUFnmf3xaKfApaIcKa0uC.1>

Call-In Telephone number: 1-929-436-2866

Webinar ID: 926 4178 1590

Passcode: 167276

Agenda

All votes must be via roll call

Time	Item #	Item	Staff Contact
12:30p.m.	I	Call to Order & Introductions Determination of Quorum Notice of Electronic Recording	Board Chair
5 minutes	II	Approval of Agenda	Board Chair
5 minutes	III	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of September 23, 2025, General Session Minutes	Board Chair
5 minutes	IV	Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program A. Quarterly Report	Executive Director

Board of Certification of Community Health Workers

ADA Compliance Notice: If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact Stacy Hart the DPH ADA Coordinator at phone number 857-274-1120 in advance of the meeting. While the Board will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may require distinctive requests or the hiring of outside contractors and may not be available if requested immediately before the meeting.

5 minutes	V	CHW Education & Training Program Application A. Boston Adult Technical Academy (Amendment)	Board
30 minutes	VI	CHW Continuing Education Application A. ADEPT Educational Institute B. Technical Assistance Collaborative C. Education Development Center D. GPS (Group Peer Support) E. Wayside Youth and Family Support F. The Bridge Training	Executive Director
5 minutes	VII	Flex Session A. Who will attend the next board meeting? B. 2026 Calendars C. Topics for next agenda	Executive Director
	VIII	Executive Session (Roll call vote) The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1) to discuss 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. 1. Specifically, the Board will consider approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the board, and decide whether to issue certification for a good moral character matter. The Board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.	Board Chair

Board of Certification of Community Health Workers

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	IX	Adjournment: Next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2026.	Board Chair
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Board of Certification of Community Health Workers

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108

Tuesday, December 09, 2025
Via Zoom

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)

BOARD MEMBERS
PRESENT:

Joanne Calista (Vice Chair), Community Health Worker Training Organization Representative
Bayleigh Britton, Public Member
Luz Ortega, Community Health Worker
Hugo Santos, Community Health Worker
Nicole Simpson, Massachusetts League of Community Health
Geovanni Vazquez, Community Health Worker

BOARD MEMBERS
NOT PRESENT:

Brittany Brown (Chair), Commissioner's Designee
Morgan Eldredge, Community-Based Community Health Worker

STAFF PRESENT:

Tracy Tam, Executive Director, Multi-Boards 1, BHPL, DPH
Kayla Mikalauskis, Executive Director, Multi-Boards 2, BHPL, DPH
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, BHPL, DPH
Danielle Macfarland, Project Coordinator, Multi-Boards, BHPL, DPH

I. CALL TO ORDER | DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

At 12:44 p.m., Ms. Tracy Tam, Executive Director, called the General Session meeting to order. Ms. Tam reminded Board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: present, Ms. Joanne Calista: present, Ms. Luz Ortega: present, Mr. Hugo Santos: present, Ms. Nicole Simpson: present, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: present.

II. APPROVAL OF GENERAL SESSION AGENDA | CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Discussion: The Board reviewed the General Session Agenda.

Action:

Motion to approve the agenda as written was made by Ms. Joanne Calista, seconded by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Giovanni Vazquez: yes.

Document: December 09, 2025, General Session Agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Discussion: The Board reviewed the drafted General Session Minutes.

Action:

Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Giovanni Vazquez: yes.

Document: September 23, 2025, General Session Minutes

IV. UNIFIED RECOVERY AND MONITORING PROGRAM

A. Quarterly Report

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Tam presented the Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Quarterly Report. There are currently no certified Community Health Workers enrolled in the program, however URAMP will still provide quarterly updates on how their program is doing to give the Board a brief overview. If any Community Health Workers become enrolled in the program, the report will reflect that information.

Document: Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program Quarterly Report

V. CHW EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION

A. Boston Adult Technical Academy (Amendment)

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Tam stated the Board approved the Boston Adult Technical Academy as a CHW Education and Training program at the last meeting; however, the program would like to set up training at a second campus.

Action:

Motion to approve the Community Health Worker Education and Training Program application was made by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

VI. CHW CONTINUING EDUCATION APPLICATION

A. ADEPT Educational Institute

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: Navigating Autism in Pediatrics ECHO Training Program: Supporting Families and Caregivers: Understanding Caregiver Stress (1 CE), Coming to a Shared Understanding of Autism with Families (1 CE), Family Engagement with Families of Children with Autism (1 CE), Supporting Families with Navigating Autism Resources and Systems (1 CE), Trauma Informed Care Approach to Supporting Families of Children with Autism (1 CE), Enhancing Provider Resilience working with Families of Children with Autism (1 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Ms. Joanne Calista, seconded by Ms. Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

B. Technical Assistance Collaborative

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following course: Aligning Our Practice: Wraparound Core Elements (18 CEs).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Ms. Nicole Simpson, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

C. Education Development Center

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: Applying a Public Health Approach to Problem Gambling Prevention (3 CEs), The Intersections of Substance Misuse and Problem Gambling Prevention (2 CEs), The Intersections of Suicide and Problem Gambling Prevention (3 CEs), Using Data Effectively for Problem, Gambling Prevention- Data to Action (3 CEs), What's Equity Got To Do With It? Centering Equity into Problem Gambling Prevention (2 CEs).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Ms. Luz Ortega, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

D. GPS (Group Peer Support)

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: GPS Certification Program (20 CE), GPS Facilitator Training (20 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Ms. Joanne Calista, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

E. Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: Understanding Eating Disorders and Supporting People through Practical Applications (2.75 CE), Understanding and Treating Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID) (2 CE), Navigating Trauma Resiliency in the Immigration Journey (2.75 CE), Distress as an Opportunity for Growth (2.5 CE), Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in the Community (2.5 CE), Complex Trauma for Youth in Crisis Using the ARC (Attachment, Regulation & Competency) Framework (4.5 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Ms. Nicole Simpson, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

F. The Bridge Training Institute

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education applications and determined the following eighteen courses fall within the scope of practice for Community Health Workers: An Overview of the Cultural Humility Framework (3 CE), LGBTQ+101 (3 CE), What We Owe to Each Other: Social Medicine and Community Care (3 CE), Introduction to Motivational Interviewing: Spirit & Skills (6 CE), Intertwined Issues Series-Trauma & Substance Use (3 CE), Mental Health of Older Adults: Assessment, Screening, and Interventions (3 CE), Motivational Interviewing: The Power of Change Talk (6 CE), Youth Vaping & Tobacco Use: Strategies for Intervention (3 CE), Intertwined Issues Series-Substance Use and Psychosis (3 CE), Growing into Ourselves: The Aging Process, Ageism, and Aging in Special Populations (3 CE), Death and Dying: Exploring and Supporting What is Most Important Across the Lifespan and the

Dying Process (3 CEs), , Harm Reduction: Principles and Practices (3 CEs), Illness Management & Recovery (IMR) Training Overview (3 CEs), LGBTQIA+ Affirmative Care (4 CEs), , Group Leadership- Finding your Style, Strengthening your Skills and Confidence (6 CEs), The Art of Attunement in the Therapeutic Relationship (3 CEs), Intertwined Issues Series- Pain and Substance Use (3 CEs). Using Motivational Interviewing with Teens: I Don't Wanna and You Can't Make Me (6 CEs).

The Board decided to defer the following eight courses until they receive additional information regarding their relevancy to Community Health Work: Understanding and Treating the Complex Puzzle of Non-Suicidal Self-Injury (3 CEs), Understanding, Managing, and Treating Suicidal Behavior (3 CEs), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy: CBT Theory and Core Treatments Skills (6 CEs), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Generalized Anxiety Disorder (4 CEs), Treating Eating Disorders: Integrating Psychotherapy and Nutrition (6 CEs), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Symptoms of Depression (4 CEs), Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Social Anxiety (4 CEs), and Cognitive-Behavioral Treatment of Panic Disorder and Agoraphobia (6 CEs). The Board also requested a representative from the Bridge Training Institute to appear before the Board to speak on these courses.

Action:

Motion to approve the eighteen continuing education applications that fall within the scope of practice for a Community Health Worker was made by Ms. Luz Ortega, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

VII. FLEX SESSION

Discussion: Ms. Joanne Calista suggested exploring allowing out-of-state Community Health Worker Education and Training Programs in the Commonwealth by looking at criteria other states have utilized to potentially develop our own reciprocity standards. Ms. Tracy Ottina stated much like the staff action policy, the Board would need to present this matter to the legislative branch at DPH, to exact the specific guidance as to how this would be implemented.

Ms. Nicole Simpson stated the Board could consider incorporating an assessment component when reviewing an Applicant's core competencies and suggested the CHW Core Competency Assessment Model created by Dr. Musler from Northeastern University.

Ms. Tracy Tam provided the Board with the 2026 Board meeting schedule and asked members for their attendance at the next meeting scheduled for January 13, 2026. Mr. Hugo Santos may not be available.

Document: 2026 CHW Board Meeting Schedule

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion:

The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c.30A, §21(a)(1) to discuss 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. 1. Specifically, the Board will consider approval of prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. c.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the board, and decide whether to issue certification for a good moral character matter. The Board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.

Action:

At 1:37 p.m., motion to move into Executive Session was made by Ms. Luz Ortega, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 2:18 p.m., motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Joanne Calista, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santo, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes.

Let the record show the meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, January 13, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

Respectfully submitted by:

The Board of Certification of Community Health Workers