

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

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, January 13, 2026  
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
	II	Approval of Agenda	Board Chair
	III	Approval of Minutes A. Approval of December 09, 2025, General Session Minutes B. Approval of December 16, 2025, General Session Minutes	Board Chair
	IV	Continuing Education Application A. The Bridge Training Institute B. Adept Educational Institute, Inc C. Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers D. Wayside Youth and Family Support Network	Board Chair
	V	CHW Education & Training Program Application A. Urban College of Boston	Board Chair

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.

	<b>VI</b>	<b>Election</b> A. Vice Chair B. Secretary	Board
	<b>VII</b>	<b>Flex Session</b> A. Core Competency Assessment B. Out-of-State CHW Training Programs C. Who will attend the next board meeting? D. Topics for next agenda	Executive Director
	<b>VIII</b>	<b>Adjournment:</b> Next meeting scheduled for March 10, 2026.	Board Chair

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, January 13, 2026  
Via Zoom**

**GENERAL SESSION MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)**

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**PRESENT:**

Brittany Brown (Chair), Commissioner’s Designee  
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  
Representative  
Geovanni Vazquez, Community Health Worker

**BOARD MEMBERS**

**NOT PRESENT:**

Anissa Ray, Community Health Worker  
Morgan Eldredge, Community-Based Community Health Worker  
Employer

**STAFF PRESENT:**

Tracy Hellmer, Executive Director, Multi-Boards 1, BHPL, DPH  
Kayla Mikalauski, 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

**GUEST SPEAKER:**

Amanda Gibbons, Director, Open Sky Community Services  
Suzy Langevin, LICSW, LADC

**I. CALL TO ORDER | DETERMINATION OF QUORUM**

At 12:35 p.m., Ms. Brittany Brown, Board Chair, called the General Session meeting to order.

Ms. Tracy Hellmer reminded Board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Ms. Brittany Brown: present, Ms. Bayleigh Britton: present, Ms. Joanne Calista: present, Ms. Luz Ortega: present, Ms. Nicole Simpson: present, Mr. Giovanni Vazquez: present.

## **II. APPROVAL OF GENERAL SESSION AGENDA | CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the General Session Agenda. Ms. Nicole Simpson is a Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers Representative and recused herself from Item IV: C. Mr. Giovanni Vasquez is a trainer at Urban College of Boston and recused himself from Item V: A.

**Action:**

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

**Document:** January 13, 2026, General Session Agenda

## **III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

### **A. December 09, 2025, General Session Minutes**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the drafted General Session Minutes. Ms. Joanne Calista proposed the following amendments: “Ms. Joanne Calista suggested exploring, allowing out of state community health worker education programs in the Commonwealth by looking at criteria other states have utilized to potentially develop our own reciprocity standards”.

**Action:**

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

**Document:** December 09, 2025, General Session Minutes

### **B. December 16, 2025, General Session Minutes**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the drafted General Session Minutes.

**Action:**

Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Ms. Nicole Simpson, seconded by Ms. Bayleigh Britton, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Brittany Brown:

yes, Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Giovanni Vazquez: yes.

**Document:** December 16, 2025, General Session Minutes

#### IV. CONTINUING EDUCATION APPLICATION

##### A. The Bridge Training Institute

**Guest Speaker:** Amanda Gibbons, Director, Open Sky Community Services; and Suzy Langevin, LICSW, LADC

**Discussion:** At the previous board meeting, the Board deferred the following eight courses and requested 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 invited Ms. Amanda Gibbons and Ms. Suzy Langevin from the Bridge Institute to speak on these courses.

Ms. Suzy Langevin stated these courses are clinical topics but also have applicability beyond that of licensed clinicians. When their trainers are developing their courses, they keep in mind the audience is going to be incredibly varied, and they strive to provide dual levels of training, general information, and awareness for individuals who are clinicians as well as individuals who are not practicing as clinicians.

Ms. Suzy Langevin stated that the first two courses, Understanding and Treating the Complex Puzzle of Non-Suicidal Self-Injury and Understanding, Managing, and Treating Suicidal Behavior, are geared towards helping people identify and understand the different signs associated with these behaviors. These courses raise awareness and teach people how to effectively advocate for the needs of individuals who have these presentations. The goal of cognitive behavior treatment (CBT) is to become your own therapist. She believes that solid CBT practice requires an understanding from the individual as well as the people who are supporting them.

Ms. Suzy Langevin stated the last course on the agenda is Treating Eating Disorders: Integrating Psychotherapy and Nutrition. This training gives individuals a more complex look at what it takes to treat an eating disorder and the full spectrum of services that they require.

Ms. Joanne Calista asked that the training recognizes when to refer an individual beyond providing help in a non-clinical capacity. Ms. Langevin stated that information will be incorporated moving forward.

*Mr. Hugo Santos joined the meeting at 12:48 p.m.*

**Action:**

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Mr. Hugo Santos, seconded by Ms. Joanne Calista, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Brittany Brown: yes, 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. Adept Educational Institute**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: Health Racial, Cultural, and Linguistic Equity for Children with Medical Complexity through Enhanced Care Coordination (1 CEU), The Education System (1 CE), Navigating Resources (1 CE), Shared Plans of Care (1 CE), and Standards of Enhanced Care Coordination (1 CE).

**Action:**

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

*Ms. Nicole Simpson exited the meeting at 12:53 p.m.*

**C. Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following course: Integrated Team-Based Care (1 CE).

**Action:**

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

*Ms. Nicole Simpson re-joined the meeting at 12:55 p.m.*

**D. Wayside Youth and Family Support Network**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following course: First, Do No Harm: Harm Reduction in SUD Services for Youth and Young

People (3 CEs). They are also asking for permission to convert this training into recorded training, would the Board still recognize the credits for the recorded training.

**Action:**

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

**V. CHW EDUCATION & TRAINING PROGRAM APPLICATION**

*Mr. Geovanni Vasquez exited the meeting at 12:58 p.m.*

**A. Urban College of Boston**

**Discussion:** The Board reviewed the CHW Education and Training Program application from the Urban College of Boston.

**Action:**

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

*Mr. Geovanni Vasquez re-joined the meeting at 1:00 p.m.*

**VI. ELECTION**

**Discussion:** Ms. Joanne Calista nominated herself as Board Vice Chair.

**Action:**

Motion to renominate Ms. Joanne Calista as Board Vice Chair was made by Ms. Luz Ortega, seconded by Ms. Brittany Brown, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Brittany Brown: yes, Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

**Discussion:** Ms. Nicole Simpson nominated herself as Board Secretary.

**Action:**

Motion to nominate Ms. Nicole Simpson as Board Secretary was made by Ms. Joanne Calista, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Brittany Brown: yes, 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. Nicole Simpson brought back the topic of the CHW assessment model created in collaboration with Dr. Jamie Musler from Northeastern University while she worked at CHEC. The goal of the assessment was to ensure Community Health Workers were able to apply the learning that they received on the ten core competencies. Ms. Joanne Calista has a concern on the financial impact for training programs if the Board were to enact this CHW assessment method. Ms. Tracy Hellmer stated training programs are currently required to assess their student's core competency but the way it is assessed is completely up to the training program and the Board has not designed an assessment model yet. Ms. Tracy Ottina stated she would take a more in-depth look at the regulations to ensure all required standards are adhered to if the Board were to create an assessment model for CHW Training Programs. Ms. Nicole Simpson requested information on the assessment methods currently used by the CHW Training Programs.

Ms. Hellmer stated the Board requested a discussion on reciprocity at the previous meeting and one of the suggestions was to allow out-of-state Community Health Worker Training Programs. Ms. Joanne Calista suggested looking at the certification criteria used by other states and how they handle reciprocity, particularly in the New England region. Ms. Tracy Hellmer stated Board staff will start the research process.

Ms. Tracy Hellmer asked the Board to schedule the next meeting for February 10, 2026. All Board members stated they would be in attendance.

## **VIII. ADJOURNMENT**

At 1:40 p.m., motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Brittany Brown, seconded by Mr. Hugo Santo, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Ms. Brittany Brown: yes, Ms. Bayleigh Britton: yes, Ms. Joanne Calista: yes, Ms. Luz Ortega: yes, Mr. Hugo Santos: yes, Ms. Nicole Simpson: yes, Mr. Geovanni Vazquez: yes.

*Let the record show the meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.*

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, February 10, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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