

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Tuesday, January 14, 2025

Via Zoom

12:30 PM

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 Eldredge | Community-Based Community Health Worker
Employer
Anissa Ray | Community Health Worker
Hugo Santos | Community Health Worker
Nikki Simpson | MS, Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Representative
Geovanni Vazquez | Community Health Worker

Board Members

Not Present:

Brittany Brown, Chair | Commissioner's Designee
Shanina Rosado | Massachusetts Public Health Association
Representative

Staff Present:

Steven Joubert | Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Tam | Assistant Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski | Management Analyst – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Ottina | Board Counsel, DPH
Matvei Arefev | Project Coordinator, Multi-Boards BHPL

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

At 12:48 PM Mr. Steven Joubert, Executive Director, welcomed everyone to the meeting and Ms. Calista called the meeting to order. Mr. Joubert reminded Board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Joanne Calista: present; Morgan Eldredge: present; Hugo Santos: present; Anissa Ray: present; Nikki Simpson: present; Geovanni Vazquez: present. Recused: None. Absent: Brittany Brown, Shanina Rosado.

- II. Approval of General Session Agenda | Conflict of Interest
The Board reviewed the January 14, 2025, General Session Agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert asked if any Board members needed to recuse themselves from an item listed on the agenda, if none a motion to approve

ACTION:

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the agenda as written, which was seconded by Ms. Anissa Ray, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Eldredge: approve; Anissa Ray: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Hugo Santos: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve. Absent: Brittany Brown, Shanina Rosado.

Document: January 14, 2025, General Session Agenda

- III. Approval of Minutes
The Board reviewed the December 10, 2024, General Session Minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Calista abstained because she was not present during the last meeting.

ACTION:

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

Document: December 10, 2024, General Session Minutes

- IV. Approval M.G.L. c. 112, § 269: Good Moral Character

- A. Staff Action Policy Draft Proposal

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert stated that this is a tool that would allow board staff to quickly evaluate applications, if someone had a prior criminal history that involved one arrest, DUI or misdemeanor and is fully resolved and there has been more than 5 years since the incident. This policy would ask the board to give board staff the authority to approve those applications. Mr. Steven Joubert stated that this policy would be in alignment with all other boards within Multi-Boards and the entire Bureau will eventually adopt this policy. Ms. Ottina added that the Board of Medicine had this policy in place for a long time while she was working there, and it allowed the Board to focus on more problematic cases and applications versus the less problematic ones that meet the criteria stated above.

ACTION:

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

V. Continuing Education Application

A. The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert presented Item V. A The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health: (1) Understanding the Complexity of Chronic Absenteeism – 1 CEU; (2) Best Practices and Considerations for Delivering Tele-Behavioral Health in Schools in Massachusetts – 1 CEU; (3) Enhancing School-Based Care Collaboration: Integrating Social Determinants of Health and Crisis Services for Youth Well-Being – 1 CEU; (4) Mental Health in Schools: Systems, Individuals, Professional Identity, and Implications for Students – 1 CEU; (5) Community Health Worker: Overview, Advocacy, & School-Based Tele-Behavioral Health – 1 CEU. Mr. Joubert stated that each of the courses is offering 1 to 5 CEUs and it is a pretty thorough application. Mr. Joubert invited everyone to vote on this matter.

ACTION:

Ms. Morgan Eldredge made a motion to approve the continuing education application from The Brookline Center for Community Mental Health, which was seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:
Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Eldredge: approve; Anissa Ray: approve; Hugo Santos: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.
Absent: Brittany Brown, Shanina Rosado. Recused: None.

B. Massachusetts Perinatal Postpartum Depression Fund

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert presented Item V. B Massachusetts Perinatal Postpartum Depression Fund. (a) Expanding the Circle of Support Special Topic Series: Wellness in Birth and Beyond. - 2 CEUs. (b) Expanding the Circle of Support Special Topic Series: Invisible Scars: Trauma and Perinatal Mental Health, 2 CEUs. Mr. Joubert stated that this a thorough application which is asking for a total of 4 CEU's. Mr. Joubert invited everyone to vote on this matter.

ACTION:

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

C. TEAM UP Scaling and Sustainability Center

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert invited everyone to move to Item V. C TEAM UP Scaling and Sustainability Center: TEAM UP Foundational CHW Training Series and E-Course Training Modules, 35 CEUs Mr. Joubert stated that this application is very thorough as well and that it is asking for 35 total CEUs. Mr. Joubert invited everyone to vote on this matter.

ACTION:

Ms. Nikki Simpson made a motion to approve the TEAM UP Scaling and Sustainability Center which was seconded by Ms. Morgan Eldredge and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Eldredge: approve; Anissa Ray: approve; Hugo Santos: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.

Absent: Brittany Brown, Shanina Rosado. Recused: None.

D. AdCare Educational Incorporated

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert invited everyone to move to Item V. D AdCare Educational Incorporated: (a) Four Day Community Health Worker Asthma Home Visiting Training. 10.75. CEUs.; (b) Asthma Medications Delivery Devices: A Deeper Dive., 1.5 CEUs. Mr. Joubert stated that this application is very thorough, and it has total of almost 12 credits. Mr. Joubert invited everyone to vote on this matter.

ACTION:

Ms. Morgan Eldredge made a motion to approve the AdCare Educational Incorporated, which was seconded by Mr. Hugo Santos and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Eldredge: approve; Anissa Ray: approve; Hugo Santos: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.

Absent: Brittany Brown, Shanina Rosado. Recused: None.

E. Berkshire Area Health Education Center

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert invited everyone to move to Item V. E Berkshire Area Health Education Center: Trauma Informed Care, 6 CEUs. Mr. Joubert stated that this application is very thorough and that the total number of CEUs is 6. Mr. Joubert invited everyone to vote on this matter.

ACTION:

Ms. Morgan Eldredge made a motion to approve the Berkshire Area Health Education Center, which was seconded by Ms. Joanne Calista and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows:

Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Eldredge: approve; Anissa Ray: approve; Hugo Santos: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.

Absent: Brittany Brown, Shanina Rosado. Recused: None.

VI. Discussion to extend waiver on online CHW Education & Training Programs.

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert asked the board whether they wanted to continue the waiver on virtual hours. The board was not able to verify the end date for that in the last meeting. Mr. Steven Joubert asked whether the board wants to have a discussion or if they have made a decision. Ms. Anissa Ray asked whether she is allowed to actively engage in the conversation since she is managing one of the Community Health Worker Programs. Ms. Ottina asked Ms. Anissa Ray to recuse herself from this discussion and discuss with Ms. Ottina offline. Ms. Joanne Calista asked to be recused as well in order to discuss potential conflicts of interest with Ms. Ottina. Ms. Ottina recommended to defer this matter to the next meeting since quorum cannot be met this time.

VII. Triage, Staff Assignment(s), Complaints

N/A

VIII. Flex Session

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Steven Joubert asked the board whether the Continuing Education requirement should stay at 15 CEUs or if the board wishes to extend the waiver. Mr. Joubert also noted that there are a lot of organizations that provide courses that will fulfill CEU requirements. Ms. Johanne Calista agrees with Mr. Joubert, and she wants to reinstate the requirement. All other Board members were in agreement.

Mr. Steven Joubert asked the board who will be present for the next meeting on March 11, 2025, and who will not be able to attend. Hearing none, Mr. Steven Joubert stated that everyone indicated they will attend the meeting.

Mr. Steven Joubert asked the board if there are any topics for the next meeting. Ms. Joanne Calista asked if Reciprocity should be brought back for CHW workers across different states. Mr. Steven Joubert stated that this matter was brought up to senior management and they have said that there are a lot of regulatory issues that need to be processed, and it is not something that can be put in the docket at the moment. Mr. Joubert stated this matter will be discussed in the future once there is a concrete pathway to discuss that. Mr. Steven Joubert asked Ms. Joanne Calista if she is aware of other states that are adopting Reciprocity for CHW. Ms. Joanne Calista stated that there are some states that are adopting reciprocity and that she will send the information on which states in New England are adopting Reciprocity policy to Ms. Tracy Tam and Mr. Steven Joubert.

IX. Executive Session

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Joanne Calista, Board Vice 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:

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

X. Adjournment:

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

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 1:14 pm.

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, March 11, 2025, at 12:30 p.m. via Zoom.

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