

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, March 17, 2026

12:30 p.m.

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

<https://zoom.us/j/92690663510?pwd=eKKob05fA9bHj0uQUxtKbJcPKNlaXB.1>

Call-In Telephone number: +1 (929) 436-2866

Webinar ID: 926 9066 3510

Passcode: 230636

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 January 13, 2026, General Session Minutes B. Approval of February 24, 2026, General Session Minutes	Board Chair
	IV	Continuing Education Application A. Wayside Youth and Family Support Network B. Adept Educational Institute, Inc. C. Vaccinate Your Family D. Recovery Coach Academy E. Open Sky Community Services	Board Chair
	V	Discussion on Continuing Education Courses in Other Languages	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.

	VI	Policies A. Staff Action Authority to Evaluate Community Health Worker Continuing Education Applications B. Extension of Community Health Worker Work Experience Pathway	Executive Director
	VII	Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program A. Quarterly Report	Executive Director
	VIII	Flex Session A. Reciprocity B. Who will attend the next board meeting? C. Topics for next agenda	Executive Director
	IX	Executive Session (Roll call vote) 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. 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 two good moral character matters. The Board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.	Board Chair
	X	Adjournment: Next meeting scheduled for May 12, 2026.	Board Chair

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

**Tuesday, March 17, 2026
Via Zoom**

GENERAL SESSION MINUTES (OPEN SESSION)

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Brittany Brown (Chair), Commissioner’s Designee
Bayleigh Britton, Public Member
Joanne Calista (Vice Chair), Community Health Worker Training
Organization Representative
Luz Ortega, Community Health Worker
Shanina Rosado, Community Health Worker
Nicole Simpson (Secretary), Massachusetts League of Community
Health Centers Representative
Geovanni Vazquez, Community Health Worker

BOARD MEMBERS

NOT PRESENT:

Morgan Eldredge, Community-Based Community Health Worker
Employer
Hugo Santos, Community Health Worker

STAFF PRESENT:

Tracy Hellmer, Acting Executive Director, Multi-Boards 1. BHPL,
DPH
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel,
BHPL, DPH
Danielle MacFarland, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards,
BHPL
Andrew Behr, Intern, Multi-Boards, BHPL, DPH

I. CALL TO ORDER | DETERMINATION OF QUORUM

At 12:34 p.m., Ms. Brittany Brown, Board Chair, called the General Session 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; Bayleigh Britton: present; Luz Ortega: present; Shanina Rosado: present; Nicole Simpson: present; 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. Brittany Brown, seconded by Ms. Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

Document: March 17, 2026, General Session Agenda

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. January 13, 2026, 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. Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

Document: January 13, 2026, General Session Minutes

B. February 24, 2026, General Session Minutes

Discussion: The Board reviewed the drafted General Session Minutes.

Action:

Motion to approve the minutes as written was made by Ms. Brittany Brown, seconded by Ms. Shanina Rosado, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

Document: February 24, 2026, General Session Minutes

IV. CONTINUING EDUCATION APPLICATION

A. Wayside Youth and Family Support Network

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: 1. The Resiliency Model in Practice: Addressing Trauma and Disordered Eating (3 CEs), 2. Agency Wide ARC and MI Day (4 CEs), 3. Decolonizing Therapy Learning Group (16.5 CEs), 4. Supporting Youth Safety When Family Acceptance is Uncertain (3

CEs), 5. Leading with Awareness & Accountability: Applying Racial Identity Development to Compassionate Supervision, Part 1/Part 2 (5 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education applications was made by Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Shanina Rosado, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

B. Adept Educational Institute, Inc.

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following course: 1. Unhealthy Opioid Use & Suicide Prevention for Non-Clinical Staff, Including Community Health Workers (6 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Brittany Brown, seconded by Bayleigh Britton, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

C. Vaccinate Your Family

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following courses: 1. Vaccination Foundations (1.5 CE), 2. Vaccine Science and Safety (1.5 CE), 3. Building Vaccine Confidence (1.5 CE), 4. Overcoming Vaccination Barriers (1.5 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Shanina Rosado, seconded by Bayleigh Britton, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

D. Recovery Coach Academy

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following course: 1. Recovery Coach Academy (30 CE).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Nicole Simpson, seconded by Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

E. Open Sky Community Services

Discussion: The Board reviewed the continuing education application for the following course: 1. Intro to DBT – Foundation and Framework (4 CEs).

Action:

Motion to approve the continuing education application was made by Bayleigh Britton, seconded by Shanina Rosado, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

V. Discussion on Continuing Education Courses in Other Languages

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Hellmer presented an inquiry from MACHW asking if the board would consider approving continuing education courses that are taught strictly in a foreign language. Ms. Luz Ortega and Ms. Shanina Rosada disclosed an association with MACHW and Board Counsel Ms. Tracy Ottina advised to defer the matter to ensure there is no conflict of interest.

Ms. Bayleigh Britton exited the meeting at 12:45 p.m.
Ms. Bayleigh Britton rejoined the meeting at 12:46 p.m.

VI. Policies

A. Staff Action Authority to Evaluate Community Health Worker Continuing Education Applications

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Hellmer presented a staff action policy that allows Board staff to approve CHW continuing education applications. The guidelines to approve the applications are based on the 10 core competencies as well as any special topics that fall within the CHW scope of practice. Any applications that do not meet the guidelines will be presented to the Board for a full review.

Action:

Motion to approve the policy was made by Brittany Brown, seconded by Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

Document: Staff Action Authority to Evaluate Community Health Worker Continuing Education Applications

B. Extension of Community Health Worker Work Experience

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Hellmer notified the Board on the upcoming Work Experience Pathway sunset date currently scheduled for July 31, 2026. Ms. Shanina Rosado

suggested an extension to provide applicants with the opportunity to take advantage of the Work Experience pathway. Ms. Nicole Simpson stated many CHW programs are being restructured or dismantled and extending the date would support many CHWs during the changes. The Board agreed to extend the Work Experience Pathway to July 31, 2028.

Action:

Motion to extend the work experience pathway until July 31, 2028, was made by Ms. Luz Ortega, seconded by Ms. Shanina Rosado, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.

Document: Extension of Community Health Worker Work Experience Pathway

VII. Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program

A. Quarterly Report

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Hellmer presented the URAMP Quarterly Report showing there are zero Community Health Workers currently enrolled in the program. The Board requested to see the reports only if there are CHWs participating in URAMP. Ms. Hellmer asked the Board to send her any information pertaining to CHW peer support groups.

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

VIII. FLEX SESSION

Discussion: Ms. Tracy Hellmer stated there are only a handful of states that accept CHW reciprocity and their reciprocity is localized to surrounding areas due to the difference in regulations and resources in each region. Ms. Hellmer also stated the current work experience pathway allows out-of-state CHWs to obtain certification in Massachusetts by accepting any CHW work experience based in the United States. Ms. Nicole Simpson wants to add the topic of CHW Training Program assessments to the next meeting agenda.

Ms. Tracy Hellmer asked for attendance at the next Board meeting scheduled for May 12, 2026, at 12:30 p.m. All Board members present stated they were able to attend.

VIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Discussion: 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. 1. Specifically, the Board will meet in

Executive Session to approve prior Executive Session minutes and discuss a good moral character matter for certification as a Community Health Worker. The Board will not reconvene in open session subsequent to the closed session.

Action:

At 1:20 p.m., motion to move into Executive Session was made by Ms. Brittany Brown, seconded by Ms. Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Giovanni Vazquez: approve; Joanne Calista: approve.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

At 1:56 p.m., motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Ms. Brittany Brown, seconded by Ms. Luz Ortega, and was passed by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Bayleigh Britton: approve; Joanne Calista: approve; Luz Ortega: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nicole Simpson: approve; Giovanni Vazquez: approve.

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

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

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