

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

**250 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02108**

Tuesday, May 7, 2024

VIA WebEx

12:39 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 Parker | Community Health Worker
Shanina Rosado | Community Health Worker
Nikki Simpson | MS, Community Health Worker Training Organization
Representative
Geovanni Vazquez | Community Health Worker

Board Members

Not Present:

Hugo Santos | Community Health Worker

Staff Present:

Steven Joubert | Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Tam | Assistant Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski | Management Analyst – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Carol Larkin | Office Support Specialist – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Alex Datalo | Office Support Specialist - Multi-Boards, BHPL
Heather Engman | Chief Board Counsel – Office of the General Counsel,
DPH

Public:

Lisa LaSpina
Sheila York
Ruth Ogembo
Kamille Carthy
Joanna Lopez
Sonalis de Leon

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

At 12:39 PM 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 Parker: present; Shanina Rosado: present; Nikki Simpson: present; Geovanni Vazquez: present.
Absent: Hugo Santos.

II. Approval of General Session Agenda

The Board reviewed the May 7, 2024, Regular 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 asked to be recused from Item V: B, Ms. Calista asked to be recused from Item V: C, and Ms. Simpson asked to be recused from Item V: E.

ACTION:

Ms. Brittany Brown made a motion to approve the agenda as amended, which was seconded by Ms. Joanne Calista, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Parker: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.
Absent: Hugo Santos. Recused. None. Abstained: None

Document: May 7, 2024, Regular Session Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed the March 12, 2024, Regular Session Minutes.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Brittany Brown asked to amend the minutes to state that it was decided that CHW training applications would be reviewed by the Office of Community Health Worker staff and their staff would write recommendations to the Board for approval.

ACTION:

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

Document: March 12, 2024, Regular Session Minutes

IV. Office of Community Health Workers

A. Community Health Workers Annual Survey Discussion

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert stated that he was asked by the Board Chair to include the survey conducted by the Office of Community Health Workers on the agenda. Mr. Joubert also stated the

Office of Community Health Workers would like to bring the survey to the next meeting to present the results. Mr. Joubert asked Ms. Brown to add additional comments or to correct him. Ms. Brown stated that in 2018 and 2021, the Office of Community Health Workers and contractors administered a survey to CHW and CHW employers to learn more about CHW demographics, employment roles, integration, compensation and funding, training, awareness, and the opinion of CHW certification. Ms. Brown stated that Office of Community Health Workers staff has analyzed the results of the survey and would like to present the result at the next Board meeting and would like the thoughts of the Board members. Ms. Calista asked if the results would be available before the Board meeting and Ms. Brown stated they are not publicly available at this time.

ACTION

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the Office of Community Health Workers to present their survey at the next Board meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Shanina Rosado and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Parker: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.

Absent: Hugo Santos. Recused: None. Abstained: None

V. Continuing Education Application A. Berkshire Area Health Education Center

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Joubert stated that Berkshire Area Health Education Center is seeking approval for a total of 18 credits. Mr. Joubert also stated that they are presenting a guide for Health Care Professionals which enhances professional and personal wellbeing, managing stress for 6 CEUs on the importance of diversity, equity and inclusion regarding social justice in health care. Mr. Joubert stated that the application was appropriate and has the right credentials.

ACTION

Ms. Joanne Calista made a motion to approve the continuing education application for Berkshire Area Health education center and was seconded by Ms. Brittany Brown and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Parker: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve.

Absent: Hugo Santos. Recused: None. Abstained: None

D. UMass Amherst

Discussion

Mr. Joubert stated that UMass Amherst is requesting approval for 6 CEUs for their Introduction to Motivational Interviewing program. Mr. Joubert states that it is a comprehensive program with highly skilled educators and trainers.

ACTION

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

- VI. Triage: N/A
Staff Assignment(s): N/A
Complaints: N/A

- VII. Flex Session

DISCUSSION

Mr. Joubert. asked for attendance at the next board meeting scheduled on July 9, 2024, at 1:00 PM. All members except Nicki Simpson stated they would be present at the next meeting.

Mr. Joubert stated that there is no new information regarding reciprocity and specialization of tiers. Ms. Joanne Colista asked if the subject of Community Health Worker Reciprocity could be brought up at the next meeting for discussion and that many CHW workers are losing their jobs due to the end of COVID funding and certification of CHW workers from state to state could be discussed.

- VIII. 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 purposes 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 an individual. 1. Specifically, the Board will consider approving prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the Board. 2. Specifically, the Board will discuss complaints or charges brought against a Licensee or Licensees. The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the closed session(s)”.

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: approve; Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Parker: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vazquez: approve.
Absent: Hugo Santos. Recused: None. Abstained: None

- IX. Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Brittany Brown motioned to adjourn the meeting, which was seconded by Ms. Morgan Parker, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Brittany Brown: approve; Joanne Calista: approve; Morgan Parker: approve; Shanina Rosado: approve; Nikki Simpson: approve; Geovanni Vasquez: approve
Absent: Hugo Santos. Recused: None. Abstained: None

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 1:00 PM.

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, July 9th, 2024, at 1:00 PM via WebEx.

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