



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4610

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

KATHLEEN E. WALSH
Secretary

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, MD, PhD
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
February 16, 2024

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Frank Gomez, Member (arrived at 10:25 a.m., left the meeting at 1:26 p.m.)
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Ashley Williams, Member (left the meeting at 12:43 p.m., returned at 1:01 p.m., left the meeting at 1:26 p.m.)
Alayna McGarty, Member
Susan Egan, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Michael Egan, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Pamely Mota, Investigative Intern
Yiming Ding, Administrative Intern

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Cynthia Belhumeur, Kristen Woodbury, Ashley Williams, Alayna McGarty, and Susan Egan all present by videoconference.

Dr. Ahearn introduced Ms. McGarty, the newest member of the Board, and the Board members introduced themselves.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Egan, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. McGarty abstaining.
- **Executive Session Minutes of January 19, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 19, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. McGarty abstaining.
- **Ratification of Decisions by Board Staff to Approve Applications:** The Board considered whether to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Application Processing Under Application Review Policy:** Mr. Bialas presented application review data and stated that application reviews have been going well in the new eLX system.
- **2024 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit – Selection of Representatives:** The Board discussed the selection of representatives to the 2024 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve Ms. Woodbury and Dr. Egan as the Board's representatives. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Jacqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Dupont's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Dupont's supervisor that Ms. Dupont must make up any missed supervision sessions.

Mr. Gomez arrived at 10:25 a.m.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Midge Williams from the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association (MaMHCA) asked about continuing education audits and volunteered to provide MaMHCA's analysis of the Mental Health Counseling Interstate Compact to Ms. Woodbury and Dr. Egan for the 2024 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit.

Jami Osborne from MaMHCA asked Mr. Bialas about application processing.

Executive Session (CLOSED under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B; specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the good moral character of applicants as required for licensure and examination accommodation requests and continuing education extension requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 10:32 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to exit the public meeting and (1) enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B; specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate the good moral character of applicants as required for licensure and examination accommodation requests and continuing education extension requests that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to conduct case interviews, review a settlement offer, and review new cases; and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (3) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Investigative Conference (Closed Session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:44 a.m.

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Case Interviews

AMH-2023-0002 (JW):

Interviewed respondent;
dismiss with advisory letter

FAMH-2023-0001 (SM):

Dr. Williams left the meeting at 12:43 p.m.

Interviewed respondent;
dismiss

Dr. Williams returned at 1:01 p.m.

Settlement

2022-000790-IT-ENF (PS):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

INV7039 (PM):

Dismiss

AMH-2023-0024 (TB):

Dismiss

FINV6840 (MA):

Dismiss

Dr. Williams and Mr. Gomez recused themselves from the following matter and left the meeting at 1:26 p.m.

AMH-2023-0021 (KE):

Dismiss; open complaint for continuing education violation

Adjournment

At 1:32 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:32 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on March 15, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used by the Board at the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of February 16, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of January 19, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of January 19, 2024
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2024 through February 15, 2024 and January 1, 2024 through January 31, 2024
- 1.11.24 Email from T. Lee of Center for Credentialing and Education re: 2024 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit
- Jacqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report