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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
January 16, 2026

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Amy Vercillo, Member
Ashley Williams, Member (left the meeting at 12:13 p.m.)
Josephine Kim, Member (left the meeting at 11:29 a.m., returned at 11:48 a.m.)
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left the meeting at 11:10 a.m., returned at 11:11 a.m.)
Kathryn Stevens, Member (left the meeting at 11:57 a.m.)
Susan Egan, Member
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member (arrived at 10:13 a.m.)
Alayna McGarty, Member (left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.)
Deepti Kumra, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Chief of Investigations
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Madeleine Hong, Board Intern
Siqi Cai, Board Intern

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Amy Vercillo, Ashley Williams, Alayna McGarty, Josephine Kim, Kristen Woodbury, Kathryn Stevens, Susan Egan, Kathleen Tucker, Cynthia Belhumeur, and Deepti Kumra all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of December 19, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 19, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **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. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Williams, 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:** Mr. Bialas reported that application reviews have been going well.

Discussion

- **Review of Comments from Public Hearing on Proposed Revisions to 262 CMR 2.00, 262 CMR 3.00, 262 CMR 8.00, and 801 CMR 4.00:** The Board reviewed comments submitted for the public hearing held on September 19, 2025 and revised drafts of the regulations based on those comments. The Board discussed further revisions to the definition of Approved Supervisor in 262 CMR 2.00 and 262 CMR 3.00 but declined to add them to the drafts based on staff's conclusion that to add them would trigger another public hearing.

Ms. Belhumeur arrived at 10:13 a.m.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to approve draft regulation 262 CMR 2.00 with post-comment changes as presented as the Board's final regulation to be submitted for final administrative review and promulgation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra and Dr. Kim abstaining.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to approve draft regulation 262 CMR 3.00 with post-comment changes as presented as the Board's final regulation to be submitted for final administrative review and promulgation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra and Dr. Kim abstaining.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Egan, to approve draft regulation 262 CMR 8.00 with post-comment changes as presented as the Board's final regulation to be submitted for final administrative review and promulgation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra and Dr. Kim abstaining.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Egan, to assist Administration and Finance in the approval of draft regulation 801 CMR 4.02 as presented and submit it for final administrative review and promulgation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra abstaining.

Dr. Egan and Dr. Kim expressed interest in reopening the regulations for further revisions after promulgation.

- **Continuing Education Requirements Policy:** The Board reviewed a revised draft of its Continuing Education Requirements Policy that includes the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as a Board-Recognized Entity to approve providers of continuing education for LMFTs.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the revised policy. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Hearings on Denial of Application

- **Danielle LaForce:** Ms. LaForce appeared for the continuation of the hearing on her LMHC application that was denied because she did not complete enough experience hours during her practicum. Ms. LaForce presented documentation of additional supervision hours during her master's degree program.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Kim, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to allow Ms. LaForce to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Ronda Tobey:** Ms. Tobey appeared for the continuation of the hearing on her LMHC application that was denied because her master's degree in social work is not in a Related Field. Ms. Tobey presented a chart from her university that compares the courses she completed for her master's degree to the subject areas required in the LMHC regulations.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Tobey to provide a revised chart that designates only one course per subject area and includes a brief description of each course so the Board can determine whether each course covers the designated subject area.

The Board continued the hearing.

LMHC Application Review

- **Agustina Spiguel:** The Board reviewed a proposed course submitted by Ms. Spiguel to determine whether it covers Group Work in the regulations.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Spiguel that her proposed course is acceptable for Group Work.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow the following applicants 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:
 - Betty Mercedes-De La Rose
 - Carolina Sanudo

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

Ms. Woodbury recused herself from the following matter and left the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

- **Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report from Employer:** The Board reviewed Ms. Marcell's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Marcell's employer to confirm in the next report that Ms. Marcell completed the course referenced in the report the Board reviewed.

Ms. Woodbury returned to the meeting at 11:11 a.m.

- **Xiaoyuan Yuan, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Yuan's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Professional Associations

Midge Williams from MaMHCA, John Crocker, Barbara Miller, and Martha Baez commented on the Board's consideration of the proposed regulations.

Skeetz Edinger from NEAFast asked about the process for filling the vacant LMFT seat on the Board.

Executive Session (closed 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 continuing education extension requests and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 11:29 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to exit the public meeting and (1) enter into a closed executive session 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 continuing education extension requests and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases; and then, after the conclusion of the investigative conference, (3) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 11:29 a.m.

Dr. Kim and Ms. McGarty left the meeting at 11:29 a.m.

Dr. Kim returned to the meeting at 11:48 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Investigative Conference (closed session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:52 a.m.

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

Cases

AMH-2024-0021(DB): Review case at next meeting

Ms. Stevens left the meeting at 11:57 a.m.

INV13676 (BM): Dismiss
AMH-2024-0036 (CB): Dismiss
AMH-2025-0009 (DM): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions
AMH-2025-0021 (AR): Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

Dr. Williams left the meeting at 12:13 p.m.

AMH-2024-0022 (DW): Dismiss

Adjournment

At 12:22 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:22 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on February 20, 2026.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of January 16, 2026
- Public Meeting Minutes of December 19, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of December 19, 2025
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025, December 1, 2025 through December 31, 2025
- Drafts of Proposed Revisions to 262 CMR 2.00, 262 CMR 3.00, 262 CMR 8.00, and 801 CMR 4.00 and Chart of Comments on Proposed Revisions
- Continuing Education Requirements Policy
- Documents from LMHC Application of Danielle LaForce
- Documents from LMHC Application of Ronda Tobey
- Documents from LMHC Application of Agustina Spiguel
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Betty Mercedes-De La Rose
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Carolina Sanudo
- Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report from Employer
- Xiaoyuan Yuan, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report