



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

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
January 17, 2025

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair (left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.)
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.)
Amy Vercillo, Member
Kathryn Stevens, Member
Ashley Williams, Member
Frank Gomez, Member
Alayna McGarty, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Michael Egan, Board Counsel
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Anastasia Bouikidis, Investigative Intern

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Kathleen Tucker, Kristen Woodbury, Amy Vercillo, Kathryn Stevens, Ashley Williams, Frank Gomez, and Alayna McGarty all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **New Board Counsel Tracy Ottina:** Ms Ottina introduced herself to the Board.

- **Public Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of December 20, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of December 20, 2024 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 Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. McGarty, 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 reviews have been going well.

Discussion

- **Proposed Revisions to 262 CMR 8: Ethical Codes and Standards of Conduct:** Mr. Bialas discussed proposed changes to include the new Licensed Supervised Mental Health Counselor license in the section of the Board's regulations discussing ethical codes. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve the changes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Parents Serving as Behavior Technicians for their Child in a Formal Service-Delivery System:** The Board reviewed the July 2023 Newsletter from the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB) discussing this issue and agreed with the BACB that the practice is unethical under the circumstances described in the newsletter.

LMHC Application Review – Reference

- **Matthew Friend:** The Board reviewed additional information provided by Mr. Friend regarding the circumstances of the reference reviewed by the Board. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Mr. Friend that the Board continues to believe that the conditional licensing agreement approved at the last meeting is appropriate.

LMHC Application Review – Education

- **Lucy McLellan:** The Board reviewed Ms. McLellan's application, including her education. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. McLellan that she must complete two credits and to request syllabi for the courses she

completed in the areas of Clinical Skills, Appraisal, Professional Orientation, and Social and Cultural Foundations.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed NCMHCE ESL accommodation requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to allow the following candidates 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:
 - Julius Maina
 - Agustina Spiguel
 - Veronika Lovecka

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Brennan's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Professional Associations

Midge Williams from MaMHCA discussed the proposed regulations and the memorandum from the BACB that the Board reviewed earlier in the meeting.

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 an application and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 10:42 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, 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 an application 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 10:42 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 11:40 a.m.

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

Cases

AMH-2023-0027 (JM):	Dismiss
INV9390 (LJ):	Dismiss
INV9708 (BC):	Dismiss with advisory letter
SW-2023-0054 (LF):	Interview respondent and her supervisor separately at next meeting

Ms. Woodbury left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

Dr. Ahearn recused himself from the following matter and left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

AMH-2023-0039 (AP):	Dismiss
---------------------	---------

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on February 21, 2025.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of January 17, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of December 20, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of December 20, 2024
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024 and December 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024
- Proposed Revisions to 262 CMR 8: Ethical Codes and Standards of Conduct
- BACB Newsletter: July 2023
- Documents from LMHC Application of Matthew Friend
- Documents from LMHC Application of Lucy McLellan
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Julius Maina

- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Agustina Spiguel
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Veronika Lovecka
- Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report