



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

KIAME MAHANIAH, MD, MBA
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
October 17, 2025

Board Members Present:

Amy Vercillo, Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Frank Gomez, Member
Ashley Williams, Member (left the meeting at 10:26 a.m.)
Alayna McGarty, Member
Josephine Kim, Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Deepti Kumra, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:21 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Amy Vercillo, Cynthia Belhumeur, Frank Gomez, Ashley Williams, Alayna McGarty, Josephine Kim, Kristen Woodbury, and Deepti Kumra all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **New Board Member Deepti Kumra:** Ms. Kumra introduced herself to the Board.

- **Public Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra abstaining.
- **Executive Session Minutes of September 19, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 19, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra abstaining.

Dr. Williams left the meeting at 10:26 a.m.

- **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 Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring Interview

- **Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation**
 - **Interview of Kathleen Brennan and Supervisor Judith Mackenzie:** Ms. Brennan and Ms. Mackenzie appeared to discuss Ms. Brennan's petition to terminate her probation. Ms. Brennan explained that she has learned that her supervisor should be the "point person" when she has a question, and that she still has a lot to learn. Ms. Mackenzie stated that Ms. Brennan has been open to new ideas and should continue to attend case conferences where they work.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve Ms. Brennan's petition to terminate her probation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra abstaining.

Hearings on Denial of Application

- **Danielle LaForce:** Ms. LaForce appeared to discuss the denial of her LMHC application because her practicum was only 75 hours. Ms. Kim explained that Ms. LaForce may be able to combine hours from coursework she started before she began her practicum with the hours from the practicum to get to 100 hours. The Board continued the hearing to allow Ms. LaForce to obtain more documentation for the Board to review.
- **Ronda Tobey:** Ms. Tobey appeared to discuss the denial of her LMHC application because her master's degree is in social work. The Board asked Ms. Tobey to obtain syllabi for the courses she completed for her master's degree for the Board to review and continued the hearing to allow Ms. Tobey to obtain this documentation.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Agustina Spiguel:** The Board reviewed Ms. Spiguel's application, including documentation of her education in a foreign country. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Spiguel to obtain a foreign degree evaluation report that indicates the graduate-level courses she completed.
- **Natasha Roman:** The Board reviewed Ms. Roman's application, including documentation of her education and experience. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Roman what licenses her supervisors held while she completed her pre-master's degree experience and to tell her that she must complete a qualifying course in psychopathology.
- **Rene Kashmiri:** Ms. Kim recused herself from the consideration of Ms. Kashmiri's application. The Board will review the application next month when a quorum is available.
- **Jesse Lowe:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lowe's application, including documentation of her education and her request for the Board to extend the eight-year period for obtaining post-master's degree experience hours. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Lowe that the Board is unable to extend the period because the limit is in a regulation and to ask Ms. Lowe to create a chart that matches the coursework she completed with the course-content areas required in the regulations. Ms. Lowe should provide syllabi for courses that do not obviously cover required areas and a transcript for the additional coursework in mental health counseling that she completed.
- **Katherine Andrews:** The Board reviewed Ms. Andrews' application, including documentation of her education. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Andrews that she has met the appraisal course-content area and must complete a one-credit elective course to satisfy the education requirements.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to allow the following applicants 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:
 - Emma Xie
 - Maria Catano
 - Armin Dokht Shah Sanai

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Quarterly Report:** The Board read and reviewed the report.

Monitoring

- **Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Marcell's report. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Marcell's supervisor to revise the report to include more detail about what they discussed in supervision and Ms. Marcell's strengths and weaknesses.
- **Mary White, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Agreement:** The Board reviewed Ms. White's report and petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve the petition. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra abstaining.
- **Xiaoyuan Yuan, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Yuan's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Kumra abstaining.

Comments from Professional Associations

Rachel Blum Cantone from NEAFAST discussed the appointment of an LMFT Board member and meeting with staff regularly to discuss LMFT application issues.

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 a monitoring report, a continuing education waiver request, continuing education extension requests, and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 11:37 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 a monitoring report, a continuing education waiver request, continuing education extension requests, and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, § 18 to discuss a final decision and order; then (3) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to discuss settlement offers; and then, after the conclusion of the investigative conference, (4) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 11:37 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Quasi-Judicial Session (closed under G.L. c. 30A, § 18)

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 12:42 p.m.

During quasi-judicial session, the Board took the following action:

2021-001025-IT-ENF (RG):

Adopted final
decision and order
and determined
sanction

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

At 12:47 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review settlement offers. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:47 p.m.

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

Settlements

2022-000559-IT-ENF (DJ):

Gave direction to
prosecutor

AMH-2023-0004 (TH):

Gave direction to
prosecutor

Adjournment

At 1:01 p.m., a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:01 p.m.

Approval

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



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of October 17, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of September 19, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of September 19, 2025
- Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation
- Documents from LMHC Application of Danielle LaForce
- Documents from LMHC Application of Ronda Tobey
- Documents from LMHC Application of Agustina Spiguel
- Documents from LMHC Application of Natasha Roman
- Documents from LMHC Application of Jesse Lowe
- Documents from LMHC Application of Katherine Andrews
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Emma Xie
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Maria Catano
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Armin Dokht Shah Sanai
- URAMP Quarterly Report
- Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Mary White, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Agreement
- Xiaoyuan Yuan, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report