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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
November 17, 2023

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Frank Gomez, Member (left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.)
Amy Vercillo, Member (left the meeting at 11:04 a.m., returned to the meeting at 11:22 a.m.)
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member
Susan Egan, Member
Jennifer Paine, Member (arrived at 10:27 a.m.)

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Marine Jardonnet, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Cynthia Belhumeur, Frank Gomez, Amy Vercillo, Jacqueline Gagliardi, and Susan Egan all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Executive Session Minutes of October 20, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 20, 2023 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. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, 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.

Hearings on Denials of Application

- **Martha Baez, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Baez appeared to discuss the Board's preliminary denial of her application because her master's degree program in Spain was not accredited. Ms. Baez explained that the program was accredited by "Bureau Veritas" and will obtain a letter from her school verifying that.

Ms. Paine arrived at 10:27 a.m.

After a brief discussion, the Board continued the hearing to allow Ms. Baez to submit additional documentation.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Noelia Marina Gonzalez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Gonzalez's application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to deny Ms. Gonzalez's application because she did not complete a pre-master's degree practicum under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(c) and her internship was too short under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(d) and 262 CMR 2.02. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Dominique Pozo:** The Board reviewed Ms. Pozo's application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to deny Ms. Pozo's application because she did not complete: (1) individual supervision hours during her practicum under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(c) and 262 CMR 2.06(1)(b)(1); (2) 45 supervision hours during her internship under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(d) and 262 CMR 2.06(2)(b); and (3) 15 individual supervision hours and 15 group supervision hours during her internship under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(d) and 262 CMR 2.06(2)(b)(1) and (2). The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

The Board reviewed several requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow the following candidates 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:

- Euclides Gibau
- Adriana Goncalves
- Chie Mitsui
- Giovana Lippi
- Mehmet Sami Ciftci

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 8th Quarterly Monitoring Report, Termination Report, and Petition to Terminate Probation:** The Board reviewed the reports and petition. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. DeQuevedo and her supervisor to a meeting for an interview.

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 asked Mr. Bialas about the status of the pending regulation changes and the addition of new board members. Mr. Bialas responded that the Board staff is working on both. Ms. Williams also asked about whether the Board could specify qualifications for monitoring supervisors, and Mr. Bialas explained that the Board cannot do that because the necessary qualifications of a monitoring supervisor can vary from case to case.

Dr. Vercillo discussed a pending bill to allow occupational therapists and occupational therapist assistants to bill for mental health services.

Jane Norton asked when Licensed Supervised Mental Health Counselor (LSMHC) licenses will be issued. Mr. Bialas stated that the Board will begin issuing those licenses after the pending regulation changes are in effect.

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 a continuing education extension request that involve medical records and information of patients.)

At 11:04 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, 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, to discuss and evaluate the good moral character of applicants as required for licensure and examination accommodation requests and a continuing education extension request that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to 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.

Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 11:04 a.m.

Dr. Vercillo returned to the meeting at 11:22 a.m.

Mr. Gomez left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:25 p.m.

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

Settlements

AMH-2023-0025 (BV):	Gave instructions to board counsel
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Cases

AMH-2023-0032 (JH):	Refer to office of prosecutions
FAMH-2023-0002 (PS):	Refer to office of investigations
2022-000999-IT-ENF (LA):	Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview
AMH-2023-0002 (JW):	Invite complainant to a meeting for an interview
AMH-2023-0007 (GH):	Dismiss
AMH-2023-0006 (RC):	Refer to office of prosecutions
AMH-2023-0015 (AB):	Refer to office of prosecutions
INV7704 (CW):	Dismiss

Adjournment

At 1:30 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on December 15, 2023.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of November 17, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of October 20, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of October 20, 2023
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2023 through November 16, 2023 and October 1, 2023 through October 31, 2023
- Documents from LMHC Application of Martha Baez
- Documents from LMHC Application of Noelia Marina Gonzalez
- Documents from LMHC Application of Dominique Pozo
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Euclides Gibau
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Adriana Goncalves
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Chie Mitsui
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Giovana Lippi
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Mehmet Sami Ciftci
- Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 8th Quarterly Monitoring Report, Termination Report, and Petition to Terminate Probation