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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
November 21, 2025

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Amy Vercillo, Member (arrived at 10:08 a.m.)
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)
Ashley Williams, Member (left the meeting at 12:52 p.m.)
Alayna McGarty, Member (left the meeting at 12:05 p.m., returned to the meeting at 12:16 p.m.)
Josephine Kim, Member (left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.)
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left the meeting at 12:52 p.m.)
Deepti Kumra, Member (left the meeting at 12:52 p.m.)
Kathryn Stevens, Member
Susan Egan, Member (left the meeting at 12:14 p.m., returned to the meeting at 12:52 p.m.)
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Jacob Edwards, Investigator
Asiat Yusuf, Board 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, Amy Vercillo, Cynthia Belhumeur, Ashley Williams, Alayna McGarty, Josephine Kim, Kristen Woodbury, Deepti Kumra, Kathryn Stevens, Susan Egan, and Kathleen Tucker all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Tucker and Dr. Williams abstaining.

Dr. Vercillo arrived at 10:08 a.m.

- **Executive Session Minutes of October 17, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Kim, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of October 17, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Tucker and Dr. Williams 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 Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Tucker, 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.

Ms. Belhumeur arrived at 10:15 a.m.

Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Danielle LaForce:** Ms. LaForce appeared to discuss the denial of her LMHC application because she did not complete enough experience hours during her practicum. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. LaForce to investigate whether she can count hours from a course she completed and continued the hearing.

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 inform Ms. Spiguel that she should submit a comparison of her coursework to coursework in a Massachusetts mental health counseling degree program to help the Board determine what coursework she completed is at the graduate level.
- **Jesse Lowe:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lowe's application, including documentation of her master's degree in Marriage and Family Therapy. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Lowe to provide syllabi for the Survey of Family Theory and Family Life Development courses she completed for the Board's review.

Discussion

- **Biofeedback, Neurofeedback, and LMHC Scope of Practice:** The Board reviewed an email from Bruce Berman asking whether biofeedback and neurofeedback are within the scope of practice of an LMHC. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Mr. Berman that he should review the statutes and regulations of the Board.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to allow the following applicants 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:
 - Debora Barbosa
 - Keren Arroyo-Mora

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Revised 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report and 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report from Employer:** The Board reviewed Ms. Marcell's reports. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to accept both reports. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Marcell and her employer representative, Michelle Clarke, to a meeting for an interview.

- **Matthew Friend, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Mr. Friend's submission of two proposed supervisors. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve Andrea Barbosa as Mr. Friend's supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Lucia Mayers, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Mayers' report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to reject the report because Ms. Mayers is not working enough. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Mayers that she should be seeing at least 12-14 clients a week to fulfill the terms of her conditional licensure agreement.

Dr. Kim recused herself from the following matter and left the meeting at 11:12 a.m.

LMHC Application Review

- **Rene Kashmiri:** The Board reviewed Ms. Kashmiri's application, including documentation of her education and pre-master's degree experience. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to deny Ms. Kashmiri's application because she did not complete three semester-credit courses in Special Treatment Issues, Clinical Skills, and Professional Orientation and only completed 536 pre-master's degree experience hours that were supervised by an Approved Supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Professional Associations

Rachel Blum Cantone from NEAFast discussed the appointment of an LMFT Board member, LMFT applications, and the pending regulation changes.

Midge Williams from MaMHCA discussed the survey that is part of the license renewal application for all Board licensees.

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

At 11:26 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. MsGarty, 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 examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to discuss settlement offers, conduct case interviews, and 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 11:26 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:

Settlements

AMH-2024-0032 (EW):

Gave direction to
prosecutor

Ms. McGarty recused herself from the following matter and left the meeting at 12:05 p.m.

AMH-2023-0033 (KL): Gave direction to prosecutor

Dr. Egan left the meeting at 12:14 p.m.

Ms. McGarty returned to the meeting at 12:16 p.m.

Case Interviews

INV11149 (KZ): Interviewed respondent; open formal complaint

Dr. Egan returned to the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

Ms. Woodbury, Ms. Kumra, and Dr. Williams left the meeting at 12:52 p.m.

AMH-2025-0011 (KL): Interviewed respondent; refer to the Office of Prosecutions

Cases

AMH-2025-0019 (ML): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

AMH-2025-0001 (ML): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

AMH-2024-0043 (JD): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

AMH-2025-0010 (DL): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

AMH-2024-0015 (SO): Refer to monitoring program

AMH-2025-0004 (MG): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

INV10150 (TG): Dismiss

INV12604 (JD): Dismiss

INV16752 (CS): Dismiss

INV11317 (BM): Dismiss

AMH-2024-0018 (MO): Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

INV11622 (IW): Dismiss

AMH-2024-0023 (TS): Dismiss

AMH-2024-0027 (RV):
AMH-2024-0036 (CB):
AMH-2025-0022 (SL):

Dismiss
Refer to the Office of
Investigations
Invite respondent to a
meeting for an
interview and request
continuing education
certificates
Review case next
month

INV13676 (BM):

Adjournment

At 2:24 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on December 19, 2025.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of November 21, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of October 17, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of October 17, 2025
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2025 through October 16, 2025 and September 1, 2025 through September 30, 2025
- Documents from LMHC Application of Danielle LaForce
- Documents from LMHC Application of Agustina Spiguel
- Documents from LMHC Application of Jesse Lowe
- 10.14.25 Email from B. Berman re: Biofeedback, Neurofeedback, and LMHC Scope of Practice
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Debora Barbosa
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Keren Arroyo-Mora
- Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Revised 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report and 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report from Employer
- Matthew Friend, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Submission of Proposed Supervisors
- Lucia Mayers, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Documents from LMHC Application of Rene Kashmiri