



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
February 20, 2026

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Amy Vercillo, Member (left the meeting at 11:02 a.m., returned to the meeting at 11:24 a.m.)
Ashley Williams, Member
Josephine Kim, Member (left the meeting at 10:25 a.m., returned to the meeting at 10:35 a.m.)
Kathryn Stevens, Member (arrived at 10:11 a.m.)
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Alayna McGarty, Member
Frank Gomez, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at approximately 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of Board members. William Ahearn, Amy Vercillo, Ashley Williams, Alayna McGarty, Josephine Kim, Kathleen Tucker, Cynthia Belhumeur, and Frank Gomez all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2026:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2026 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2026:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2026 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. Vercillo, 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:** Mr. Bialas reported that application reviews have been going well.

Ms. Stevens arrived at 10:11 a.m.

Discussion

- **Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP)**
 - **URAMP Operational Policy:** Mark Waksmonski and Julie Showalter from URAMP appeared to discuss their proposed changes to the Board's URAMP Operational Policy. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve the proposed changes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
 - **URAMP Quarterly Report:** Read and reviewed.

Dr. Kim recused herself from the following matter and left the meeting at 10:25 a.m.

Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Rene Kashmiri, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Kashmiri appeared with her attorney Paul Cirel to discuss the Board's denial of her application because her internship was too short, and she did not complete coursework in Special Treatment Issues, Clinical Skills, and Professional Orientation. Mr. Bialas explained that the Board has found that other applicants with the same education have satisfied the requirements of the regulations. Ms. Kashmiri also presented additional documentation of acceptable supervised hours that she obtained while completing her master's degree.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to allow Ms. Kashmiri to complete the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Benslyne Avril:** The Board reviewed Ms. Avril's application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to deny Ms. Avril's application because her master's degree was only 39 credits. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Chanin James-Hardwick:** The Board reviewed Mr. James-Hardwick's application. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Mr. James-Hardwick to provide a chart of the coursework that he completed matched to the course subject areas listed in the regulations – one three-credit course per area – and to provide syllabi for the courses he lists.

The Board also directed Mr. Bialas to ask Mr. James-Hardwick why he is not applying for the LMFT license and whether he is already licensed as an LMFT.

Dr. Kim returned to the meeting at 10:35 a.m.

- **Joel Fils Tirone:** The Board reviewed Mr. Tirone's application. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Mr. Fils Tirone for his final education evaluation report because the report he provided is preliminary.
- **Sharon May:** The Board reviewed Ms. May's application. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. May who her supervisor was, whether that person was licensed, whether she can contact her supervisor to obtain documentation of her supervised hours, and whether she has documentation of the supervised hours she earned while she was obtaining her master's degree.
- **Maria Gonzalez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Gonzalez's submission of a proposed course to complete the Professional Orientation course subject area under the regulations. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Gonzalez that her proposed course will satisfy the Professional Orientation course subject area.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Kim, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to allow the following applicants 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:

- Elizabeth Delarosa Lawson
- Jhanina Rodriguez
- Lonah Kabiu
- Min Yang
- Tabitha Muchai-Kahura
- Jenny Marcelin

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Xiaoyuan Yuan, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Petition to Terminate Agreement:** The Board reviewed Ms. Yuan’s petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to terminate Ms. Yuan’s Conditional Licensure Agreement. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report and Certificate of Course Completion:** The Board reviewed Ms. Marcell’s report and certificate. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Emily Frank, 2022-000065-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Frank’s report. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Frank’s supervisor to revise the report to include what was discussed in supervision sessions and Ms. Frank’s practice strengths and weaknesses.
- **Ruth Greenfield Rone, 2021-001025-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Greenfield Rone’s proposal that Ana Hernandez supervise her during her probation. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve Dr. Hernandez as Ms. Greenfield Rone’s supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Executive Session (closed under G.L. c. 30A, § (21)(a)(3) to discuss legal strategy, 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 a petition for reinstatement, a continuing education extension request, and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 11:02 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Dr. Kim, to exit the public meeting and (1) enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § (21)(a)(3) to discuss legal strategy, 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 a petition for reinstatement, a continuing education extension request, 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 conduct a case interview; 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 11:02 a.m.

Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 11:02 a.m.

Dr. Vercillo returned to the meeting at 11:24 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 12:04 p.m.

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

Case Interview

AMH-2025-0021 (AR):

Interviewed
respondent; refer to
the Office of
Prosecutions

Case

AMH-2024-0021 (DB):

Review case at next
meeting

Adjournment

At 1:09 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 1:09 p.m.

Approval

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



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of February 20, 2026
- Public Meeting Minutes of January 16, 2026
- Executive Session Minutes of January 16, 2026
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2026 through February 19, 2026, January 1, 2026 through January 31, 2026
- Draft URAMP Operational Policy and 2.20.26 Memorandum from M. Waksmonski to Board re: Same
- Documents from LMHC Application of Rene Kashmiri
- Documents from LMHC Application of Benslyne Avril
- Documents from LMHC Application of Chanin James-Hardwick
- Documents from LMHC Application of Joel Fils Tirone
- Documents from LMHC Application of Sharon May
- Documents from LMHC Application of Maria Gonzalez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Elizabeth Delarosa Lawson
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Jhanina Rodriguez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Lonah Kabiu
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Min Yang
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Tabitha Muchai-Kahura
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Jenny Marcelin
- Xiaoyuan Yuan, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Petition to Terminate Agreement
- Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report and Certificate of Course Completion
- Emily Frank, 2022-000065-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Ruth Greenfield Rone, 2021-001025-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor