



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Health and Human Services  
Department of Public Health  
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**Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions**  
**Public Meeting Minutes**  
February 21, 2025

**Board Members Present:**

William Ahearn, Acting Chair  
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member  
Kristen Woodbury, Member  
Amy Vercillo, Member  
Kathryn Stevens, Member (arrived at 10:08 a.m.)  
Ashley Williams, Member  
Frank Gomez, Member  
Alayna McGarty, Member  
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member

**Staff Members Present:**

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

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:01 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, Alayna McGarty, and Cynthia Belhumeur all present by videoconference.

## **Board Business**

- **Public Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of January 17, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 17, 2025 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 Ms. Woodbury, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Stevens arrived at 10:08 a.m.

- **Application Processing Under Application Review Policy:** Mr. Bialas presented application review data and stated that reviews have been going well.
- **Selection of Representatives to 2025 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit:** The Board considered the selection of representatives to the Summit. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to appoint Ms. McGarty and Ms. Woodbury as the Board's representatives to the Summit. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **LMHC Application Review – Reciprocity**

- **Hopeton Shaw:** The Board reviewed Ms. Shaw's application, including additional documentation Mr. Shaw submitted. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Mr. Shaw that he must complete qualifying coursework in Human Growth and Development and Social and Cultural Foundations and to ask him if he would like to withdraw his application or have the Board deny it.

## **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests**

- **Rose Yona:** The Board reviewed Ms. Yona's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Dr. Williams, to allow Ms. Yona 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Hannah Wang-Wirbs:** The Board reviewed Ms. Wang-Wirbs's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow Ms. Wang-Wirbs 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Monitoring**

- **Melinda Galbato, 2020-000599-IT-ENF, Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Probation:** The Board reviewed Ms. Galbato's report and petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to accept the report and allow the petition. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Comments from Professional Associations**

Midge Williams from MaMHCA discussed the proposed regulations and the Board's mission statement on its website.

Andera Kremer and Miranda Croteau from NEAFAST discussed Board appointments.

**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 10:36 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, 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 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 10:36 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 11:44 a.m.

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

## Cases

AMH-2023-0040 (DH):	Dismiss
AMH-2023-0042 (AH):	Dismiss; open complaint for continuing education violation
INV9052 (BS):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
AMH-2024-0005 (NR):	Dismiss; refer complaint to New York Board
INV10248 (AJ):	Dismiss
AMH-2024-0013 (SE):	Refer to the Office of Investigations
AMH-2023-0038 (SA):	Refer to the Office of Prosecutions

## Case Interviews

SW-2023-0054 (LF):	Interviewed respondent's supervisor and respondent; dismiss with advisory letter; open complaint against supervisor
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## Adjournment

At 12:51 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

## Approval

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



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of February 21, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of January 17, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of January 17, 2025
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2025 through February 20, 2025 and January 1, 2025 through January 31, 2025
- 2.3.25 Email from T. Lee re: Funding for 2025 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit
- 1.17.25 Email from T. Lee re: 2025 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit
- Documents from LMHC Application of Hopeton Shaw
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Rose Yona
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Hannah Wang-Wirbs
- Melinda Galbato, 2020-000599-IT-ENF, Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Probation