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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
March 15, 2024

Board Members Present:

Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Frank Gomez, Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left the meeting at 11:16 a.m., returned to the meeting at 11:34 a.m.)
Ashley Williams, Member
Alayna McGarty, Member
Susan Egan, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member (left meeting at 10:50 a.m., returned to the meeting at 11:03 a.m., left meeting at 12:39 p.m., returned to the meeting at 12:45 p.m.)

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Michael Egan, 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. Cynthia Belhumeur, Frank Gomez, Kristen Woodbury, Ashley Williams, Alayna McGarty, Susan Egan, and Amy Vercillo all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of February 16, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 16, 2024 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 Dr. Williams, 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.

Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Jennifer Harrington, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Harrington appeared for a hearing on the denial of her application because she did not complete a psychopathology course as part of her master's degree program. She explained that the regulations changed after she completed her master's degree, and she completed a psychopathology course "too late." Ms. Harrington noted that her dissertation was on a psychopathology topic.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Harrington to submit documentation regarding her thesis and continued the hearing.

Discussion

- **Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure:** Ms. York presented a draft policy outlining the procedures to be followed for the summary suspension of a license before a hearing to prevent an immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Samantha Vairo:** The Board reviewed Ms. Vairo's application, specifically her post-master's degree experience that was supervised for a time by a licensed mental health

counselor in another state who did not have three years of experience as a licensed mental health counselor. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Vairo that the Board is unable to make an exception to its definition of an approved supervisor and to ask Ms. Vairo if she would like to withdraw her application.

- **Olivia Duball:** The Board reviewed Ms. Duball's education. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve Ms. Duball's education. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMFT Application Reviews

- **Shannon Pickett:** The Board reviewed Ms. Pickett's application, including her pre-master's degree experience and education. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Pickett that she does not have enough client contact hours and individual supervision hours for her pre-master's degree experience, ask Ms. Pickett to explain what three courses cover the Marital and Family Studies and Marital and Family Therapy content areas, and ask Ms. Pickett for a syllabus for her Systems in Psychology course.
- **Mark David Roseman:** The Board reviewed Dr. Roseman's education.

Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 10:50 a.m.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to deny Dr. Roseman's application because he is missing two courses in Structures in Family Therapy, three courses in Human Development and Professional Studies, and pre-master's degree experience.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **Miguelina Ramirez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Ramirez's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Williams, to allow Ms. Ramirez 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Naowarat Irwin:** The Board reviewed Ms. Irwin's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to allow Ms. Irwin 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Biserka Rashkova:** The Board reviewed Ms. Rashkova's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to allow Ms. Rashkova 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Monitoring

- **Charlene Kelly, 2020-000430-IT-ENF, 5th and 6th Quarterly Monitoring Reports:** The Board reviewed Ms. Kelly's reports. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Kelly's supervisor that he must resubmit the reports with detail about what was discussed in supervision and what should be included in clinical notes.

Dr. Vercillo returned to the meeting at 11:03 a.m.

- **Catherine Stavrakas, 2020-000400-IT-ENF, 2nd and 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Reports:** The Board reviewed Ms. Stavrakas's reports. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to reject the second report because Ms. Stavrakas was not working during the time period the report covers and accept the third report with direction to Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Stavrakas's supervisor that she should provide more detail in future reports about clinical aspects of her supervision, including Ms. Stavrakas's cultural competency and professionalism. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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 (MaMHCA) asked about the Board's minutes and pending regulation changes. She also asked whether the LMHC regulation subcommittee should review comments submitted before a public hearing on regulation changes.

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 11:16 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 a case interview 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.

Ms. Woodbury left the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Ms. Woodbury returned to the meeting at 11:34 a.m.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:48 a.m.

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

Cases

INV7310 (SR):	Dismiss
AMH-2023-0020 (RB):	Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

Case Interview

2022-000999-IT-ENF (LA):	Interviewed respondent
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Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 12:39 p.m.

Refer to office of
prosecutions

Cases

Dr. Vercillo returned to the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

AMH-2023-0026 (MB):	Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview
INV8363 (DC):	Dismiss
2022-000480-IT-ENF (ES):	Dismiss

Adjournment

At 12:51 p.m., a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 17, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of March 15, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of February 16, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of February 16, 2024
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2024 through March 14, 2024 and February 1, 2024 through February 29, 2024
- Documents from LMHC Application of Jennifer Harrington
- Draft Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure
- Documents from LMHC Application of Samantha Vairo
- Documents from LMHC Application of Olivia Duball
- Documents from LMFT Application of Shannon Pickett
- Documents from LMFT Application of Mark David Roseman
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Miguelina Ramirez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Naowarat Irwin
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Biserka Rashkova
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Veronika Lovecka
- Charlene Kelly, 2020-000430-IT-ENF, 5th and 6th Quarterly Monitoring Reports
- Catherine Stavrakas, 2020-000400-IT-ENF, 2nd and 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Reports