



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
March 21, 2025

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member
Kathryn Stevens, Member
Alayna McGarty, Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Susan Egan, Member
Ashley Williams, Member (arrived at 10:17 a.m.)

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Anastasia Bouikidis, Investigative 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, Kathleen Tucker, Kristen Woodbury, Amy Vercillo, Kathryn Stevens, Alayna McGarty, Cynthia Belhumeur, and Susan Egan all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 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 Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. McGarty, 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 reviews have been going well.
- **Remote Participation During In-Person Meetings:** Mr. Bialas explained that the statutory allowance to conduct public meetings by videoconference ends on March 31, 2025, but that the Board is permitted if it wishes to allow Board members to participate in Board meetings remotely if a quorum of members is physically present.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow Board members to participate in Board meetings remotely if a quorum of members is physically present. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Dr. Williams arrived at 10:17 a.m.

Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP)

- **Approval of Policies:** Edmund Taglieri and Mark Waksmonski from URAMP discussed the Operational Policy and Practice Restrictions to initiate the program.
 - **Operational Policy:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve URAMP Operational Policy 24-08. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
 - **Practice Restrictions:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve URAMP Practice Restrictions inclusive of supervisory qualifications. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Nationally Certified School Psychologist (NCSP) Credential to Prove Passage of PRAXIS Examination for Licensed Educational Psychologist License:** Mr. Bialas and Dr. Egan explained that the organization that offers the PRAXIS examination for school psychologists did not retain examination scores for examinations taken before a certain date, so some licensed educational psychologist applicants cannot obtain official examination results for their licensure applications. Because school psychologists who obtained the NCSP credential were required to pass the PRAXIS examination, Mr. Bialas and Dr. Egan proposed that the Board accept the NCSP credential in lieu of official PRAXIS examination scores from applicants who cannot obtain official scores.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to allow staff to accept the NCSP credential in lieu of official PRAXIS examination scores for educational psychologist applicants who cannot obtain official scores. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMHC Application Review

- **Danielle LaForce:** The Board reviewed Ms. LaForce's application, including documentation of her pre-master's degree practicum. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to deny Ms. LaForce's application because her practicum was only 75 hours. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed several requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow the following candidates 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:
 - Andrei Silva
 - Elizabeth Lawson
 - Maria Dias
 - Nubia Goulart
 - Laura de la Hoz Espinosa
 - Maria Gonzalez

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Marylisa Nichols, 2021-001103-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Continuing Education and Update on Monitoring:** The Board reviewed Ms. Nichols' proposed continuing education courses and update explaining that she wants to retire. After a brief

discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to open a complaint against Ms. Nichols for not complying with her consent agreement if she does not sign a voluntary surrender agreement within two weeks. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Jacob Hasson, AMH-2023-0032, Approval of Fitness to Practice Evaluator:** The Board reviewed Mr. Hasson's submission of Trudy Good as his proposed fitness-to-practice evaluator for his consent agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve Dr. Good as Mr. Hasson's fitness-to-practice evaluator. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to confirm with Dr. Good that she has reviewed Mr. Hasson's case documentation and has no conflicts with him under paragraph 4 of Mr. Hasson's consent agreement.

- **Mary White, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. White's submission of David Haddad and Amanda Whiffen as proposed supervisors for her consent agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to approve both proposed supervisors. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Board Business

- **Selection of Representatives to 2025 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit:** The Board considered the selection of another representative for the Summit after Ms. Woodbury announced that she is unable to attend. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Williams, to appoint Dr. Egan as a Board representative to the Summit. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Professional Associations

Jami Osborne from MaMHCA explained that Joe Weeks is the new Executive Director of MaMHCA and Midge Williams is now an advisor. Ms. Osborne discussed URAMP policies and LMHC practica.

Mr. Weeks introduced himself to the Board and discussed the Board's pending regulation changes.

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 11:13 a.m., a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, 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 quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, § 18 to review a final decision and order; then (3) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases; and then, after the conclusion of the investigative conference, (4) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 11:13 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Quasi-Judicial Session (closed under G.L. c. 30A, § 18)

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 11:57 a.m.

During the quasi-judicial session, the Board took the following action:

2019-001030-IT-ENF (MD):

Determined sanction
for final decision and
order

Investigative Conference (closed session under G.L. c. 112, § 65C)

At 12:00 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Dr. Williams, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:00 p.m.

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

Cases

AMH-2024-0013 (SE):

AMH-2023-0034 (TB):

Dismiss
Invite respondent to a
meeting for an
interview
Open a formal
complaint

INV12880 (SR):

Adjournment

At 12:25 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 12:25 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 16, 2025.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of March 21, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of February 21, 2025
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2025 through March 20, 2025 and February 1, 2025 through February 28, 2025
- URAMP draft Operational Policy and Practice Restrictions
- Documents from LMHC Application of Danielle LaForce
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Andrei Silva
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Elizabeth Lawson
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Maria Dias
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Nubia Goulart
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Laura de la Hoz Espinosa
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Maria Gonzalez
- Marylisa Nichols, 2021-001103-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Continuing Education and 2.19.25 Email from M. Nichols re: Update on Monitoring
- Jacob Hasson, AMH-2023-0032, Submission of Fitness to Practice Evaluator
- Mary White, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- 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