



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
May 16, 2025

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member (arrived at 10:14 a.m.)
Kathryn Stevens, Member (left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.)
Alayna McGarty, Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Ashley Williams, Member
Frank Gomez, Member
Susan Egan, Member (arrived at 10:05 a.m.)

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Tracy Ottina, Board Counsel
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 10:03 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Kathleen Tucker, Kristen Woodbury, Kathryn Stevens, Alayna McGarty, Cynthia Belhumeur, Ashley Williams, and Frank Gomez all present by videoconference.

Board Business

Dr. Egan arrived at 10:05 a.m.

- **Public Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2025 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of March 21, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Dr. Egan, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 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. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Stevens, 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. He stated that the number of applications the Board receives has been rising in recent years.

LMFT Application Review

- **Shannon Boe:** The Board reviewed Ms. Boe's application, including her pre-master's degree experience. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to deny Ms. Boe's application because she did not have sufficient individual supervision and observation hours during her pre-master's degree experience. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to give Ms. Boe the option to withdraw her application.

LMHC Application Review

- **Deniss Karina Gonzalez Lozano:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lozano's application, including her education. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Lozano that her education is not in a Related Field to qualify for the LMHC license, and she has the option to withdraw her application and consider applying for the LMFT license.

Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Emily Wilson, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Wilson appeared for a hearing on the denial of her application. Mr. Bialas explained that past applicants have been approved with degrees nearly identical to Ms. Wilson's.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to allow Ms. Wilson to continue with the licensure process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LABA Application Review – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Christy Hoffmann:** The Board reviewed Ms. Hoffmann’s application, including documentation of discipline imposed by the Behavior Analyst Certification Board (BACB).

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to allow Ms. Hoffmann to continue with the licensing process if she provides documentation showing that her discipline with the BACB is now complete. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program (URAMP) Practice Restrictions:** The Board reviewed the policy. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Stevens, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to approve changes to the policy. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **NEAFast Approval of Continuing Education Programs for LMFTs:** The Board reviewed a question from Mike Lynch at NEAFast regarding approval of past continuing education courses for reinstatement applicants. After a brief discussion, the Board allowed NEAFast to conduct an audit of 10% of the continuing education courses submitted by a reinstatement applicant to confirm the acceptability of all continuing education courses submitted by a reinstatement applicant.

Correspondence

- **3.28.25 Letter from A. Butt re: International LMHC Post-Master’s Degree Experience:** The Board reviewed Mr. Butt’s proposal to earn post-master’s degree experience in a foreign country. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Mr. Butt for the resume of his proposed on-site supervisor and a description of the clinic where he will be working, and to answer (1) whether he has a Massachusetts LMHC who is willing to supervise him while he works in a foreign country; (2) if he does, whether the Massachusetts LMHC who will be supervising him will have access to records, and (3) whether, notwithstanding the individual practitioners who work at his proposed site not being licensed, his proposed site meets the Board’s regulations.

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 Mr. Gomez,

to allow the following candidates 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:

- Carolina Lamarque Angelillo
- Lina Boothby Zapata
- Emma Xie
- Rose Nkayamba
- Sarah Gomez Andres

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Employer and 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Marcell's submission of Jennifer Gearhart as her proposed employer and her report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to approve Ms. Gearhart as Ms. Marcell's employer and to reject Ms. Marcell's report because she was not working during the reporting period. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 6th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Brennan's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Professional Associations

Jami Osborne and Joe Weeks from MaMHCA asked about LMHC application data, marriage and family therapy not being a related field for the LMHC license, and the Counseling Compact.

Miranda Croteau from NEAFAST asked whether LICSWs can supervise LMFT candidates.

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. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, 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 a settlement offer and 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 11:16 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 11:41 a.m.

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

2019-001030-IT-ENF (MD)

Approved final
decision and order

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

At 11:47 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. McGarty, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer and new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:47 a.m.

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

Settlement

2022-000065-IT-ENF (EF):

Gave direction to
prosecutor

Ms. Stevens left the meeting at 12:25 p.m.

Cases

AMH-2025-0010 (DL):

Refer to the Office of
Prosecutions

AMH-2023-0031 (KD):

Dismiss; open
complaint for
continuing education
violation

AMH-2024-0002 (CJ):

Dismiss

AMH-2024-0003 (GW):

Dismiss with advisory
letter

AMH-2024-0009 (NE):

Invite respondent to a
meeting for an
interview

INV10182 (CK):

Dismiss

AMH-2024-0012 (JB):

Dismiss

AMH-2024-0019 (KD):
AMH-2024-0026 (HD):
AMH-2024-0032 (EH):

Dismiss
Dismiss
Refer to the Office of
Prosecutions
Refer to Office of
Prosecutions

AMH-2025-0019 (ML):

Adjournment

At 1:14 p.m., a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:14 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on June 20, 2025.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of May 16, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of March 21, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of March 21, 2025
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2025 through May 15, 2025, March 1, 2025 through March 31, 2025, April 1, 2025 through April 30, 2025
- Documents from LMFT Application of Shannon Boe
- Documents from LMHC Application of Deniss Karina Gonzalez Lozano
- Documents from LMHC Application of Emily Wilson
- Documents from LABA Application of Christy Hoffmann
- URAMP Practice Restrictions
- 3.31.25 Email from J. Lane re: NEAFast Approval of CEs for Reinstatements
- 3.28.25 Letter from A. Butt re: International LMHC Post-Master's Degree Experience
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Carolina Lamarque Angelillo
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Lina Boothby Zapata
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Emma Xie
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Rose Nkayamba
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Sarah Gomez Andres
- Alyson Marcell, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Submission of Proposed Employer and 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 6th Quarterly Monitoring Report