



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
May 17, 2024

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Frank Gomez, Member (arrived at 10:13 a.m., left the meeting at 1:02 p.m.)
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left meeting at 10:48 a.m., returned to the meeting at 10:49 a.m.,
left the meeting at 12:44 p.m., returned to the meeting at 1:01 p.m.)
Alayna McGarty, Member
Susan Egan, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Michael Egan, Board Counsel
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Pamely Mota, Investigative Intern

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:04 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Cynthia Belhumeur, Kathleen Tucker, Kristen Woodbury, Alayna McGarty, Susan Egan, and Amy Vercillo all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Board Membership Update:** Mr. Bialas reported that Jennifer Paine resigned from the Board and that Kathleen Tucker has been appointed as a public member. Ms. Tucker introduced herself to the Board.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Tucker abstaining.
- **Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Tucker abstaining.

Mr. Gomez arrived at 10:13 a.m.

- **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 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 Under Application Review Policy:** Mr. Bialas presented application review data and stated that application reviews have been going well. Dr. Ahearn suggested publicly posting average processing times.

Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Noelia Gonzalez, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Gonzalez appeared for a hearing on the denial of her application because she did not complete a pre-master's degree practicum under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(c) and her pre-master's degree internship was too short under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(d) and 262 CMR 2.02. She explained that she completed "tutored professional practice" that included 234 practicum hours and completed over 600 internship hours.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Gonzalez to submit a translated course description of her "tutored professional practice" course and letters for her internship that break out individual and group supervision hours. The Board otherwise accepted Ms. Gonzalez's education.

The Board continued Ms. Gonzalez's hearing.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Lucia Mayers:** The Board reviewed Ms. Mayers's application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to request a written response from Ms. Mayers to the reference and to invite both Ms. Mayers's supervisor who wrote the reference and Ms. Mayers to a meeting for separate interviews.
- **Carolina Polanco Rosario:** The Board reviewed Ms. Rosario's application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to delegate a review of Ms. Rosario's accredited degree program for the required course content areas to Ms. Woodbury and Ms. McGarty. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMFT Application Review

- **Lilia Boutaleb:** The Board reviewed Ms. Boutaleb's application, including her pre-master's degree internship or practicum. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to deny Ms. Boutaleb's application because she did not obtain sufficient supervision during her internship or practicum under 262 CMR 3.02 and 3.03(2)(b)(3). The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests:** The Board reviewed several NCMHCE ESL accommodation requests. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to allow the following candidates 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary.

- Andrei Silva
- Cristina Pirela
- Laura Melendez
- Debora Barbosa
- Naowarat Irwin
- Frankie Chan

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Woodbury recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, the following matter and left the meeting at 10:48 a.m.

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

Ms. Woodbury returned to the meeting at 10:49 a.m.

Correspondence

- **12.4.23 and 1.23.24 Emails from Y. Alsager re: Experience Hours in Kuwait, 3.16.24 Email from N. Scull re: Experience Hours in Kuwait:** The Board reviewed correspondence seeking clarification on whether Ms. Alsager may obtain post-master's degree experience hours at a clinic in Kuwait even though Kuwait does not license mental health practitioners. Ms. Alsager appeared to discuss her request.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. McGarty, to allow Ms. Alsager to obtain post-master's degree experience hours in Kuwait in the clinic and under the supervision of the psychologists licensed in the United States described in the correspondence. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Robert Safion, 2021-000973-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Mr. Safion's request for the Board to approve a proposed supervisor and his explanation that he can only submit one proposed supervisor because of the "chilling effect" on proposed supervisor candidates of the Board's determination that supervision is within the scope of practice of a licensee. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to request from Mr. Safion evidence of the "chilling effect" and a clearer version of the proposed supervisor's disclosures.
- **Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Supervision:** The Board reviewed Ms. Brennan's report and petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to accept the report and deny the motion to terminate supervision because Ms. Brennan has only submitted three supervision reports, not the required four. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Brennan's supervisor that she should provide more detail in the next report.

- **Zachary Etter, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Mr. Etter's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Tucker, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Mr. Etter's supervisor that he should provide more detail in the next report.

- **Melinda Galbato, 2020-000599-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Galbato's request for the Board to approve a proposed supervisor. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Galbato to a meeting for an interview.

- **Charlene Kelly, 2020-000430-IT-ENF, Revised 5th and 6th Quarterly Monitoring Reports, 7th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Kelly's reports. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Egan, to accept the reports. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Jaqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Dupont's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association

Midge Williams asked about consent agreements, the new format for public meetings, the breakdown of Board membership, and pending regulation changes. Jami Osborne asked about changes to the application process and monitors for consent agreements.

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 a petition to terminate suspension and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 11:35 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, 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 a petition to terminate suspension and 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 determine the sanction for a final decision and order by default; then (3) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review settlement offers, conduct case interviews, and review new cases; and then, after the conclusion of 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 11:35 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

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

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 12:00 p.m.

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

Final Decision and Order by Default

2021-001059-IT-ENF (LB):

Determined sanction for final decision and order by default

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

At 12:06 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter into investigative under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review settlement offers, conduct case interviews, and review new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

Settlements

2021-001003-IT-ENF (MN):	Gave direction to prosecutor
2022-000454-IT-ENF (LA):	Gave direction to prosecutor

Ms. Woodbury recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, the following matter and left the meeting at 12:44 p.m.

2021-000571-IT-ENF (KK):	Gave direction to prosecutor
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Ms. Woodbury returned to the meeting at 1:01 p.m.

Mr. Gomez left the meeting at 1:02 p.m.

Case Interviews

AMH-2023-0020 (RB):	Interviewed respondent; refer to office of investigations
AMH-2023-0026 (MB):	Interviewed respondent; dismiss

Cases

AMH-2023-0016 (JP):	Refer to office of investigations
FAMH-2023-0001 (SM):	Dismiss
FAMH-2023-0002 (PS):	Dismiss
AMH-2023-0019 (KF):	Dismiss

Adjournment

At 2:03 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Dr. Egan, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on June 21, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of May 17, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of March 15, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of March 15, 2024
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2024 through May 16, 2024, March 1, 2024 through March 31, 2024, and April 1, 2024 through April 30, 2024
- Documents from LMHC Application of Noelia Gonzalez
- Documents from LMHC Application of Lucia Mayers
- Documents from LMHC Application of Carolina Polanco Rosario
- Documents from LMFT Application of Lilia Boutaleb
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Andrei Silva
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Cristina Pirela
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Laura Melendez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Debora Barbosa
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Naowarat Irwin
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Frankie Chan
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Alexandre Ribeiro
- 12.4.23 and 1.23.24 Emails from Y. Alsager re: Experience Hours in Kuwait, 3.16.24 Email from N. Scull re: Experience Hours in Kuwait
- Robert Safion, 2021-000973-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Supervision
- Zachary Etter, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Melinda Galbato, 2020-000599-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- Charlene Kelly, 2020-000430-IT-ENF, Revised 5th and 6th Quarterly Monitoring Reports, 7th Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Jaqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report