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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
July 19, 2024

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Kathleen Tucker, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Frank Gomez, Member (left meeting at 1:02 p.m.)
Amy Vercillo, Member
Kathryn Stevens, Member
Susan Egan, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Michael Egan, Board Counsel
Doris Lugo, Investigator

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, Kathleen Tucker, Kristen Woodbury, Frank Gomez, Amy Vercillo, Kathryn Stevens, and Susan Egan all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2024 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Executive Session Minutes of June 21, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 21, 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 Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Egan, 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. Mr. Bialas mentioned that staff will be implementing changes to the LMHC application process after a recent study of the process with a consulting firm.
- **Update on National Board for Certified Counselors and Center for Credentialing and Education 2024 Counseling Regulatory Boards Summit:** Ms. Woodbury and Dr. Egan discussed the conference they attended on behalf of the Board. Specifically, they described the most important topics covered at the conference, including the Counseling Compact, the examination, supervision, “wellness” programs implemented by some states to “restore” licensees with substance use disorders, and artificial intelligence. Ms. Woodbury and Dr. Egan stated that the conference was informative and attending it was worthwhile.

Monitoring Interview

- **Melinda Galbato, 2020-000599-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor**
 - **Interview of Melinda Galbato:** Ms. Galbato appeared with her attorney Ingrid Martin and her proposed supervisor Kathryn Bassett to discuss her proposal to have Ms. Bassett supervise her to fulfill the terms of her consent agreement. Ms. Galbato explained that offering this proposal took a long time because she mistakenly believed that her work supervisor was already approved, and then she moved to a role that did not require the use of the LABA license. Ms. Martin also mentioned that she did not explain the agreement to Ms. Galbato adequately. Ms. Galbato now works as a clinical manager.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve Ms. Bassett as Ms. Galbato’s supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Revisions to 262 CMR 2.00: LMHC Education Requirements and Requirement to be Licensed Supervised Mental Health Counselor while Obtaining Post-Master's Degree Experience:** Mr. Bialas discussed proposed changes to the regulations that would allow more applicants to be licensed with different educational backgrounds and would make obtaining the LSMHC license optional to be licensed as an LMHC.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Egan, to approve the proposed changes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Revisions to 262 CMR 3.00: LMFT Education Requirements:** Mr. Bialas discussed proposed changes to the regulations that would allow more applicants to be licensed with different educational backgrounds than the changes that were initially approved.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve the proposed changes. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **LMHC and LMFT Post-Master's Degree Experience Application Forms:** Mr. Bialas discussed proposed changes to the post-master's degree experience forms for the LMHC and LMFT applications and presented draft forms. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to approve the draft forms. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to consider ways to audit applicant and supervisor attestations on the new forms and report to the Board at a future meeting.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Lauren LaCara:** The Board reviewed Ms. LaCara's application, specifically her education and experience. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Stevens, to deny Ms. LaCara's application because her master's degree was only 36 credits, and she did not complete an internship. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Andrew Hey:** The Board reviewed Mr. Hey's application, specifically his education. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to deny Mr. Hey's application because his master's degree was only 45 credits. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Xiaoyuan Yuan:** The Board reviewed Ms. Yuan's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Yuan and her supervisor to a meeting for separate interviews.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request

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

Monitoring

- **Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 4th 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 Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to accept the report and invite Ms. Brennan and her supervisor to a meeting for an interview to discuss her petition. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Zachary Etter, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Mr. Etter's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Tucker, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Comments from Professional Associations

Jennifer Hurley asked about the status of the revised regulations that include a process for obtaining the LSMHC license.

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 11:49 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, 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 review a settlement offer and 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.

The Board entered executive session at 11:49 a.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

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

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

Settlement

AMH-2023-0032 (JH):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

AMH-2023-0036 (GC):

Review case at meeting next month

INV8305 (TL):

Dismiss

AMH-2023-0017 (TH):

Review case at meeting next month

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

AMH-2023-0029 (SL):

Dismiss

AMH-2024-0017 (AD):

Refer to office of prosecutions

Adjournment

At 1:06 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:06 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 16, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of July 19, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of June 21, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of June 21, 2024
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2024 through July 18, 2024 and June 1, 2024 through June 30, 2024
- Melinda Galbato, 2020-000599-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- Proposed Revisions to 262 CMR 2.00
- Proposed Revisions to 262 CMR 3.00
- Draft LMHC and LMFT Post-Master's Degree Experience Application Forms
- Documents from LMHC Application of Lauren LaCara

- Documents from LMHC Application of Andrew Hey
- Documents from LMHC Application of Xiaoyuan Yuan
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Julius Maina
- Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Supervision
- Zachary Etter, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report