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KARYN E. POLITO
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MIKE KENNEALY
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Allied Mental Health
and Human Services Professions**

1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI
UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Public Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2022

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Amy Vercillo, Member
Frank Gomez, Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Jennifer Paine, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Lynn Read, Board Counsel
Andrew Lutynski, Investigator Supervisor
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.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2022 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of March 18, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of March 18, 2022 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. Paine, seconded by Ms.



Belhumeur, 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 reported on the 2022 to date and March 2022 application data concerning applications reviewed under the Board's Application Review Policy. Mr. Bialas explained that the deficiency rate for LMHC applications appears higher than usual, but it is too soon to identify a trend.

LMHC Application Review – Hearing on Application

- **Jennifer Beardslee:**

Ms. Beardslee appeared to continue the hearing on the preliminary denial of her application. Mr. Bialas announced that the hearing will be recorded.

Ms. Beardslee explained that her pre-master's degree experience was supervised by an LCMHC licensed in New Hampshire, which is a license equivalent to an LMHC in Massachusetts and an approved license type for supervision under 262 CMR 2.02 and 2.06. She also explained how her coursework for Counseling Theory, Social and Cultural Foundations, and Clinical Skills is acceptable under 262 CMR 2.04(3).

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to approve Ms. Beardslee's pre-master's degree experience and education. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMHC Application Review

- **Yolanda Ramos:** The Board reviewed Ms. Ramos's application, including a certificate of graduate studies (CAGS) that she began working on after July 1, 2017.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Ms. Ramos's application under 262 CMR 2.05(1) because she began working on her CAGS after July 1, 2017 and otherwise does not have a 60-credit master's degree. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Policy on Pre-Master's Degree Experience:** The Board considered whether to extend the policy through September 30, 2022, to allow students in mental health counseling and marriage and family therapy master's degree programs to obtain practicum and internship hours for licensure after graduating.

Melissa Koen from William James College and Deb Spragg from Lesley University spoke in favor of the extension.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve the proposed extended policy through September 30, 2022, as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Private Practices as Clinical Field Experience Sites**

- **Proposed Changes to 262 CMR 2.02 and 262 CMR 3.01:** The Board considered changes to the LMHC and LMFT licensing regulations to allow applicants to obtain pre- and post-master's degree experience hours at private practices.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve the changes to 262 CMR 2.02 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve the changes to 262 CMR 3.01 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.

LMHC Application Reviews

- **Carissa Degenais:** The Board reconsidered Ms. Degenais' application, which originally was considered in March. Specifically, the Board reviewed Ms. Degenais' pre-master's degree experience that was supervised by a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT) in New York State.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Ms. Degenais' application because the LCAT license is not an equivalent, approved supervisor license type for pre-master's degree experience under 262 CMR 2.02 and 2.06. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Emely Sosa Santana:** The Board considered Ms. Sosa Santana's application, specifically that she did not complete a practicum and her internship was not 600 hours (rather, it was 596 hours).

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to deny Ms. Sosa Santana's application because she did not complete a practicum and 600-hour internship under 262 CMR 2.02 and 2.06. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring Interview

- **Maxine Orocofsky, 2019-001041-IT-ENF, 3rd and 4th Quarterly Monitoring Reports**
 - **Interview of Maxine Orocofsky and Supervisor Evelyn Gladu:** The Board interviewed Dr. Orocofsky, who appeared with her attorney Richard Nahigian, and Ms. Gladu regarding Dr. Orocofsky's supervision.

Ms. Gladu explained that Dr. Orocofsky's supervision is going well and has focused on documentation and boundaries. In particular, Dr. Orocofsky has shown improvement at each supervision meeting and is dedicated.

Dr. Orocofsky described how she is more “boundaried” now – she thinks about staying in the “right lane” when interacting with clients.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept Dr. Orocofsky’s 3rd and 4th Quarterly Monitoring Reports. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests

- **Thanthara Wong:** The Board reviewed Ms. Wong’s request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow Ms. Wong 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Dana Albert-Proos:** The Board reviewed Ms. Albert-Proos’ request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow Ms. Albert-Proos 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Jessica Soto-Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board considered Ms. Soto-Sierra’s new proposed supervisors after a supervisor approved in March was unable to serve. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve both proposed supervisors. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Executive Session (Closed 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, to review sensitive medical information)

At 11:29 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to exit the public meeting and 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, to (1) review sensitive medical information in NCMHCE accommodation requests; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 § 65C to discuss a settlement offer, review new cases, and conduct case interviews; and then (3) after the conclusion of the investigative conference, not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

See separate minutes of Executive Session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:37 a.m.

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

Settlement

2021-000311-IT-ENF (KB):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

| | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2021-000829-IT-ENF (TC): | Refer to Office of Investigations |
| 2021-001053-IT-ENF (NC): | Dismiss |
| 2021-001076-IT-ENF (NG): | Dismiss with advisory letter |
| 2021-001117-IT-ENF (LG): | Dismiss |
| 2021-001025-IT-ENF (RG): | Refer to Office of Prosecutions |

Case Interviews

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|--------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 2021-000451-IT-ENF (JM): | Interviewed respondent; dismiss |
| 2021-000816-IT-ENF (ML): | Interviewed respondent; dismiss |

Adjournment

At 1:40 p.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Paine, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:40 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on May 20, 2022.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of April 15, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of March 18, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of March 18, 2022
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2022 through April 14, 2022 and March 1, 2022 through March 31, 2022
- Documents from LMHC Application of Jennifer Beardslee
- Documents from LMHC Application of Yolando Ramos
- Draft Policy on Pre-Master's Degree Experience
- Draft Changes to 262 CMR 2.02 and 262 CMR 3.03
- Documents from LMHC Application of Carissa Degenais
- Documents from LMHC Application of Emely Sosa Santana
- Maxine Orocofsky, 2019-001041-IT-ENF, 3rd and 4th Quarterly Monitoring Reports
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Thanthara Wong
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Dana Albert-Proos
- Jessica Soto-Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisors