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

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REGULATION

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

**Public Meeting Minutes**

June 17, 2022

**Board Members Present:**

William Ahearn, Acting Chair  
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member  
Amy Vercillo, Member  
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member  
Ashley Williams, Member (left meeting at 12:45 p.m.)  
Kristen Woodbury, Member  
Susan Egan, Member  
Jennifer Paine, Member (arrived at 10:12 a.m., left meeting at 12:21 p.m.)

**Staff Members Present:**

Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Lynn Read, Board Counsel  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Esther Laine, Associate Deputy Commissioner  
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

**Board Business**

- **New Board Counsel Sheila York:** Ms. York introduced herself to the Board. Board members introduced themselves and thanked Ms. Read for her service as Board Counsel.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2022 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of May 20, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 20, 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 Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, 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 application review data for the year to date, for April, and for May. He stated that reviews are going well, and he is pleased with the staff's progress.
- **Adopt Remote Meeting Procedures:** The Board discussed allowing some Board members to participate in meetings by videoconference or telephone under 940 CMR 29.10 provided a quorum is present in person if the Board is again required to meet in-person. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Paine, to adopt the remote meeting procedures under 940 CMR 29.10. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Hearing on Denial of Application**

- **Nancy Staelens, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Staelens appeared for a hearing on the Board's denial of her application because she only has 58 total credits from her master's degree and certificate of graduate studies (CAGS). She was accompanied by Amber Gahn, Melissa Burke, and Jennifer LaRoche. Mr. Bialas announced the hearing will be recorded.

Ms. Staelens explained that she recently completed a three-credit course that is part of her CAGS program. That course gives her 61 total credits and should allow her to be licensed. Mr. Bialas stated that if Ms. Staelens can get a letter from the school where she received her CAGS explaining that the course was part of her CAGS, the Board would reconsider its denial of her application. But if it accepts her education, the Board will not accept her post-master's degree experience because she completed that experience before she finished all required coursework.

Ms. Burke, the supervisor of the clinic where Ms. Staelens works, explained that Ms. Staelens is an excellent clinician, and the Board should allow Ms. Staelens to be licensed because of the shortage of mental health professionals.

Ms. Gahn argued that the Board accepted her own post-master's degree experience that was completed after she completed all required coursework, and the Board should do the same for Ms. Staelens.

The Board directed Ms. Staelens to provide a letter from the school where she received her CAGS explaining that the three-credit course she recently completed was part of her CAGS. Mr. Bialas announced that the hearing would be continued to a later date to allow Ms. Staelens time to provide relevant documents. The Board otherwise took no further action on Ms. Staelens' application.

## **LMHC Application Reviews**

- **Kristin Guyette:** The Board reviewed Ms. Guyette's application, including a letter from her asking the Board to allow her to be licensed without a practicum or internship.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Paine, to deny Ms. Guyette's application because she did not complete a pre-master's degree practicum or internship under 262 CMR 2.04(c) and (d). The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Brian Sharp:** The Board reviewed Mr. Sharp's application, including his 57-credit master's degree.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Mr. Sharp's application because he does not have 60 graduate credits under 262 CMR 2.04. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests**

- **Debora Barbosa Nieves:** The Board reviewed Ms. Barbosa Nieves' request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to allow Ms. Barbosa Nieves 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Keidyliam Ayala:** The Board reviewed Ms. Ayala's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow Ms. Ayala 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Maria Acosta-Pagan:** The Board reviewed Ms. Acosta-Pagan's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow Ms. Acosta-Pagan 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Glorymar Carrion-Colon:** The Board reviewed Ms. Carrion-Colon's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to allow Ms. Carrion-Colon 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Anna Zenkova:** The Board reviewed Ms. Zenkova's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow Ms. Zenkova 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Madhavi Parmar:** The Board reviewed Ms. Parmar's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams,

seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow Ms. Parmar 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Elisenda Santiago-Lopez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Santiago-Lopez's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to allow Ms. Santiago-Lopez 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Maria Fernanda Martinez Gama:** The Board reviewed Ms. Martinez Gama's request, including supporting documentation. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Williams, to allow Ms. Martinez Gama 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Monitoring**

- **Bryan Frascati, 2019-001151-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation:** The Board reviewed Mr. Frascati's petition. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Frascati to a meeting for an interview.
- **Jessica Soto-Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Soto-Sierra's report. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to remind Ms. Soto-Sierra that any continuing education submitted to satisfy her consent agreement must be pre-approved by the Board.

### **Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting**

Midge Williams of MaMHCA requested an update on the approval of the Board's proposed changes to its LMHC, LMFT, and LABA regulations.

**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 11:05 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, 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 review settlement offers, conduct interviews for cases, and review new cases; 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 11:19 a.m.

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

**Settlement**

2021-000408-IT-ENF (JD):	Gave direction to prosecutor
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**Case Interviews**

2022-000173-IT-ENF (PS):	Interviewed respondent; dismiss; open separate complaint and possibly complaint for CE violation.
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Ms. Paine left the meeting at 12:21 p.m.

2022-000056-IT-ENF (MA):	Interviewed respondent; dismiss.
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**Cases**

2021-001004-IT-ENF (RS):	Dismiss
2021-001059-IT-ENF (LB):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions

Dr. Williams left the meeting at 12:45 p.m.

2022-000380-IT-ENF (TD):	Dismiss
2022-000476-IT-ENF (KS):	Interview respondent

**Adjournment**

At 12:56 p.m., a MOTION was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:56 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 19, 2022.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of June 17, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of May 20, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of May 20, 2022
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2022 through May 19, 2022, January 1, 2022 through June 16, 2022, April 1, 2022 through April 30, 2022, May 1, 2022 through May 31, 2022
- Documents from LMHC Application of Nancy Staelens
- Documents from LMHC Application of Kristen Guyette
- Documents from LMHC Application of Brian Sharp
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Debora Barbosa Nieves
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Keidyliam Ayala
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Maria Acosta-Pagan
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Glorymar Carrion-Colon
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Anna Zenkova
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Madhavi Parmar
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Elisenda Santiago-Lopez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Maria Fernanda Martinez Gama
- Bryan Frascati, 2019-001151-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation
- Jessica Soto-Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report