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GOVERNOR

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LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

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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**

August 19, 2022

**Board Members Present:**

William Ahearn, Acting Chair  
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member  
Amy Vercillo, Member  
Ashley Williams, Member  
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left meeting at 12:25 p.m., returned at 12:28 p.m.)  
Jennifer Paine, Member (left meeting at 1:39 p.m.)  
Frank Gomez, Member (arrived at 1:24 p.m.)

**Staff Members Present:**

Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m.

**Board Business**

- **Public Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Paine, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2022 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of June 17, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 17, 2022 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Subcommittee Minutes of May 17, 2019, June 21, 2019, August 16, 2019, October 18, 2019, and February 21, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Dr. Vercillo, to approve the Subcommittee Minutes of May 17, 2019, June 21, 2019, August 16, 2019, October 18, 2019, and February 21, 2020 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. Williams, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Order Protecting Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth:** Ms. York reported on a new executive order that, among other things, prohibits the Board from disciplining licensees or denying or restricting licenses for applicants because of crimes or discipline in other states related to certain reproductive health services if the same conduct is not illegal in Massachusetts. Ms. York explained that the Board will update its CORI policy at a future meeting to incorporate the executive order.

### **Hearings on Denials of Applications**

- **Nancy Staelens, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Staelens appeared for the continuation of 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). Mr. Bialas announced the hearing will be recorded.

Ms. Staelens presented documentation from Antioch University, where Ms. Staelens completed her CAGS, that explains that she recently completed a three-credit course that is part of her CAGS program. That course gives her 61 total credits. Mr. Bialas stated that the Board can now accept her education but will not accept her experience as "post-master's degree" because she completed that experience before she finished all required coursework.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to deny Ms. Staelens' application because she did not complete the required post-master's degree experience under 262 CMR 2.07 after she completed all required education. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Board Business**

- **Application Processing Under Application Review Policy:** Mr. Bialas reported on the application review data for the year to date through July 15, the year to date through August 18, for June, and for July. He stated that reviews are going well, and he is pleased with the staff's progress.

### **Hearings on Denials of Applications**

- **Carissa Dagenais, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Dagenais appeared for a hearing on the Board's denial of her application under 262 CMR 2.06 because her pre-master's degree experience was supervised by a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (LCAT) in New York, which is not a license type equivalent to an approved supervisor under 262 CMR 2.02. Mr. Bialas announced the hearing will be recorded.

Ms. Dagenais explained that, although she was in training “cohorts” with LMHCs while gaining her pre-master’s degree experience, she was supervised by an LCAT. After a brief discussion, Ms. Dagenais decided to withdraw her application, and the Board took no action.

- **Emely Sosa Santana:** Ms. Sosa Santana appeared for a hearing on the Board’s denial of her application under 262 CMR 2.06 because she did not complete a pre-master’s degree practicum and completed an internship of only 596 hours. Mr. Bialas announced that the hearing will be recorded.

Ms. Sosa Santana provided documentation from her pre-master’s degree experience supervisor that explains that she did, in fact, complete a practicum and a 600-hour internship.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to approve Ms. Sosa Santana’s pre-master’s degree experience and allow her to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Discussion**

- **Policy on Pre-Master’s Degree Experience:** The Board considered extending the policy that allows certain master’s degree program graduates to make up pre-master’s degree experience hours with additional post-master’s degree experience hours. The Board took no action.
- **Policy on Teletherapy for Applicant Experience and Supervision Hours:** The Board considered extending the policy that allows all applicants to obtain experience and supervision hours by videoconference or telephone. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to extend the policy through September 30, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Senate Bill No. 3097: “A Bill Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health”:** Ms. York discussed new statutory changes that increase the number of Board members and modify the Board’s membership composition for “proportional” representation based on the number of licensees for each license type. The statutory changes also create a new Licensed Supervised Mental Health Counselor license and a new voluntary substance abuse rehabilitation program for licensees that the Department of Public Health will create. Ms. York will provide further updates as the agency analyzes the new law.

### **LMHC Application Reviews**

- **Dolores Cabral Soto:** The Board reviewed Ms. Cabral Soto’s application.

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

- **Elizabeth Landers:** The Board reviewed Ms. Landers' application.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Ms. Landers' application because she does not have 80 graduate quarter credits under 262 CMR 2.02 and 262 CMR 2.04. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **LaToya Johnson:** The Board reviewed Ms. Johnson's application.

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

- **Melissa Mello:** The Board reviewed Ms. Mello's application.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to deny Ms. Mello's application under 262 CMR 2.04 because she has a master's degree that is less than 48 credits and does not have a second master's degree, a doctorate, or a CAGS, in addition to the master's degree, to reach 60 credits. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Julie Duffy:** The Board reviewed Ms. Duffy's application.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to deny Ms. Duffy's application because she did not complete the required post-master's degree experience under 262 CMR 2.07 after she completed all required education. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **Monitoring Interview**

- **Bryan Frascati, 2019-001151-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation**

- **Interview of Bryan Frascati with Supervisor Jennifer Thorell:** Mr. Frascati appeared with his supervisor Ms. Thorell to discuss his petition to terminate probation. He explained that he has learned to consult with multiple people when he faces difficult issues in his practice. Ms. Thorell noted that Ms. Frascati now is more introspective and knows when to ask for help. As an example, Mr. Frascati has utilized the "back up" plan within the practice where he works to require other practitioners to complete assessments when Mr. Frascati is unable to for ethical or other reasons.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept Mr. Frascati's petition to terminate probation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests**

The Board considered NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Dr. Williams, to allow the following individuals 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary:

- Renisa DeAlvarenga
- Marcelle Botros
- Tahereh Nadim
- Amalid Roman-Marquez
- Carolina Polanco Rosario

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **Monitoring**

- **Virginia Childs, 2018-000909-IT-ENF, 9th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Childs' report and petition. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Childs and her supervisor to a meeting for an interview.
- **Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. DeQuevedo'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.
- **Jessica Soto-Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, Submission of CEs:** The Board reviewed Ms. Soto-Sierra's submission of completed CEs. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept 10 CEs for the supervision category and 10 for documentation, but to require Ms. Soto-Sierra to propose 10 new CEs for the remaining category before she completes the CEs. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

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

Raisa Kogan inquired about the status of her LMFT application. Mr. Bialas told her that someone from his staff would contact her.

**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 12:28 p.m., a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Paine, 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, to review sensitive medical information in a monitoring report and NCMHCE accommodation requests; 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 conduct interviews for cases and review new cases; and then (4) after the conclusion of the investigative conference, not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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 12:44 p.m.

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

**Final Decision and Order**

2020-000446-IT-ENF (CC)

Discussed final  
decision and order

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

At 12:53 p.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Williams, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to conduct interviews for cases and review new cases. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:53 p.m.

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

**Case Interviews**

Mr. Gomez arrived at 1:24 p.m.

2021-001003-IT-ENF (MN):

Interviewed  
respondent

Ms. Paine left the meeting at 1:39 p.m.

2022-000476-IT-ENF (KS):

Interviewed  
respondent; refer to  
Office of  
Investigations

2021-001003-IT-ENF (MN):

Refer to Office of  
Prosecutions

**Adjournment**

At 2:24 p.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on September 16, 2022.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of August 19, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of June 17, 2022
- Subcommittee Minutes of May 17, 2019
- Subcommittee Minutes of June 21, 2019
- Subcommittee Minutes of August 16, 2019
- Subcommittee Minutes of October 18, 2019
- Subcommittee Minutes of February 21, 2020
- Executive Order Protecting Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth and 6.24.22 Email from T. MacCormack re: same
- Documents from LMHC Application of Nancy Staelens
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2022 through July 15, 2022, January 1, 2022 through August 18, 2022, June 1, 2022 through June 30, 2022, July 1, 2022 through July 31, 2022
- Documents from LMHC Application of Carissa Dagenais
- Documents from LMHC Application of Emely Sosa Santana
- Policy on Pre-Master's Degree Experience
- Policy on Teletherapy for Applicant Experience and Supervision Hours
- Senate Bill No. 3097: "A Bill Addressing Barriers to Care for Mental Health"
- Documents from LMHC Application of Dolores Cabral Soto
- Documents from LMHC Application of Elizabeth Landers
- Documents from LMHC Application of LaToya Johnson
- Documents from LMHC Application of Melissa Mello
- Documents from LMHC Application of Julie Duffy
- Bryan Frascati, 2019-001151-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Renisa DeAlvarenga
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Marcelle Botros
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Tahereh Nadim
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Amalid Roman-Marquez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Carolina Polanco Rosario
- Virginia Childs, 2018-000909-IT-ENF, 9th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension
- Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Jessica Soto-Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, Submission of CEs