



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**  
October 20, 2023

**Board Members Present:**

Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member  
Frank Gomez, Member  
Amy Vercillo, Member (left the meeting at 11:37 a.m., returned to the meeting at 11:54 a.m.)  
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member  
Ashley Williams, Member  
Susan Egan, Member

**Staff Members Present:**

Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Marine Jardonnet, Board Counsel  
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor  
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.

**Roll Call for Attendance**

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Cynthia Belhumeur, Frank Gomez, Amy Vercillo, Ashley Williams, Jacqueline Gagliardi, and Susan Egan all present by videoconference.

**Board Business**

- **Public Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Egan, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of September 29, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the Executive

Session Minutes of September 29, 2023 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. Vercillo, 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 presented application review data and stated that application reviews have been going well in the new eLX system.

### **Hearings on Denials of Application**

- **Peyton Grant, Applicant for LMHC:** Mr. Grant appeared to discuss the Board's preliminary denial of his application because he did not complete a qualifying pre-master's degree internship or practicum under 262 CMR 2.04(c) and (d). He explained that he worked in a clinical setting before receiving his master's degree, and those experience hours may qualify as an internship and practicum. After a brief discussion, the Board continued the hearing to allow Mr. Grant to submit additional documentation.
- **Samantha Reis, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Reis appeared to discuss the Board's preliminary denial of her application because she did not complete a three-credit course in psychopathology as required by 262 CMR 2.02 and 2.04(3)(a)(3). Ms. Reis explained that, although the psychopathology course she completed was two credits, it covered three credits of material. After a brief discussion, the Board continued the hearing to allow Ms. Reis to submit additional documentation.

### **LMHC Application Review**

- **Jennifer Harrington:** The Board reviewed Ms. Harrington's application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to deny Ms. Harrington's application because she did not complete a course that covered psychopathology within her master's degree program under 262 CMR 2.04(3)(a)(3). The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

### **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests**

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

## **Monitoring**

- **Alyson Marcell, 2017-000973-IT-ENF, Approval of Fitness to Practice Evaluator:** The Board reviewed Ms. Marcell's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve Kaitlyn Peretti as Ms. Marcell's fitness-to-practice evaluator for her consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Gagliardi recused herself from the consideration of, and vote on, Ms. Marcell's request.

## **Monitoring Interview**

- **Jacqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension, Approval of Proposed Supervisor, and Submission of Continuing Education**
  - **Interview of Jacqueline Dupont and Proposed Supervisor Susan Hauschild:** Ms. Dupont appeared with Ms. Hauschild to discuss her requests. Mr. Bialas reviewed the responsibilities of a supervisor.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Dr. Williams, to terminate Ms. Dupont's suspension, approve Ms. Hauschild as Ms. Dupont supervisor, and accept Ms. Dupont's continuing education. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Jessica Soto Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, Petition to Decrease Supervision:** The Board reviewed Ms. Soto Sierra's petition to decrease her supervision from biweekly meetings to monthly meetings. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to approve the request. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Glen Powell, 2022-000450-IT-ENF, Approval of Continuing Education:** The Board reviewed Mr. Powell's submission of continuing education for his consent agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to accept Mr. Powell's submission of continuing education for his consent agreement. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Zachary Etter, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Report:** The Board reviewed Mr. Etter's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

At their request, Mr. Bialas provided application information to Jami Osborne of the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association and Jeremiah Gibson of the New England Association for Family and Systemic Therapy and provided an update on pending regulation changes and the license renewal process. Ms. Osborne stated that she will solicit candidates to be on the Board. Mr. Gibson asked to learn more about ethical issues that come up frequently in complaints against licensees.

**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 and a continuing education extension request that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 11:37 a.m., a MOTION was made by Mr. Gomez, 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, to discuss and evaluate examination accommodation requests and a continuing education extension request that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review settlement offers and conduct a case interview; 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.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 11:37 a.m.

Dr. Vercillo returned to the meeting at 11:54 a.m.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:06 p.m.

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

### **Settlements**

2022-000864-IT-ENF (AS):

Gave instructions to  
prosecutor

2022-000634-IT-ENF (BK):

Gave instructions to  
prosecutor

2021-000973-IT-ENF (RS):

Gave instructions to  
prosecutor

## **Case Interview**

AMH-2023-0009 (SP):

Interviewed respondent

## **Adjournment**

At 1:17 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 1:17 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on November 17, 2023.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of October 20, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of September 29, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of September 29, 2023
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2023 through October 19, 2023 and September 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023
- Documents from LMHC Application of Peyton Grant
- Documents from LMHC Application of Samantha Reis
- Documents from LMHC Application of Jennifer Harrington
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Gilda Garcia
- Alyson Marcell, 2017-000973-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Fitness to Practice Evaluator
- Jacqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension, Submission of Proposed Supervisor, and Submission of Continuing Education
- Jessica Soto Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, Petition to Decrease Supervision
- Glen Powell, 2022-000450-IT-ENF, Submission of Continuing Education
- Zachary Etter, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Report