



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting Minutes
February 17, 2023

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member (left meeting at approximately 11:20 a.m., returned at 11:46 a.m.)
Frank Gomez, Member (left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.)
Susan Egan, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member (arrived at 10:08 a.m., left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.)
Ashley Williams, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:01 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

All members were in attendance.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Executive Session Minutes of January 20, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 20, 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. 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.

Ms. Gagliardi arrived at 10:08 a.m.

- **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 at DPH.

Hearings on Denials of Applications

- **Ferdiane Cadet, Applicant for LMHC:** Dr. Cadet appeared for a hearing on the Board's denial of her application because she did not complete an internship as a component of her graduate degree as required by 262 CMR 2.02 and 2.04(3)(d). Ms. Cadet explained that an internship was not a part of the master's degree program she completed in 1999, but she believes her work experience since then satisfies that requirement. She is a substance-abuse clinician now. Kristen Purvis appeared in support of Dr. Cadet's application and stated that Dr. Cadet's work experience reflects the "spirit" of the internship requirement. Midge Williams from the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association (MaMHCA) suggested that Dr. Cadet may benefit from MaMHCA's application counseling service.

After a brief discussion, the Board continued the hearing to a future date.

- **Ana Correa De Ornelas, Applicant for LMHC:** Dr. Ornelas appeared for a hearing on the Board's denial of her application because she did not complete graduate courses in Counseling Theory, Human Growth and Development, Psychopathology, Group Work, Clinical Skills, Professional Orientation, and Social and Cultural Foundations or a pre-master's degree practicum or internship as required by 262 CMR 2.04. Dr. Ornelas explained that she completed graduate-level coursework in her undergraduate program in Brazil. She also provided documentation that she completed a practicum and internship before she began her master's degree program.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Dr. Ornelas to provide documentation that the practicum and internship she completed were part of her master's degree program. The Board continued the hearing to a future date.

- **Christine Piltzecker, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Piltzecker appeared for a hearing on the Board's denial of her application because she does not have the requisite two years of acceptable post-master's degree clinical field experience required by 262 CMR 2.07(1). Specifically, Ms. Piltzecker did not complete the required coursework before beginning her post-master's degree experience. Ms. Piltzecker asked the Board to accept the post-master's degree experience hours she completed before she completed her coursework. Ken Frohock appeared in support of Ms. Piltzecker's application and stated that he was licensed with the same degree Ms. Piltzecker received, so she should not have been required to complete additional coursework and should be licensed.

After a brief discussion, the Board continued the hearing to a future date.

LMHC Application Review

- **Zachary Etter**

Ms. Woodbury recused herself from consideration of the application and left the meeting at approximately 11:20 a.m.

- **Interview of Supervisor Amy Belanger:** Ms. Belanger appeared with her supervisor Krista Berardi to discuss Ms. Belanger's reference for Mr. Etter's application. Ms. Belanger stated that Mr. Etter initially was an intern and then became a clinician under her supervision. She noticed discrepancies in Mr. Etter's session notes and session times in 2020-2021, including sessions that did not occur and sessions that were noted as longer than what actually took place. Ms. Belanger called some of Mr. Etter's clients to confirm the problem. Mr. Etter did not dispute the problem but was not able to correct it after retraining. Ms. Belanger had no issue with Mr. Etter's clinical skills. Ms. Berardi explained that Mr. Etter was given several warnings over the course of six months but eventually was terminated by their employer.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Etter to a meeting for an interview.

NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request

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

Ms. Woodbury returned to the meeting at 11:46 a.m.

Discussion

- **Board Member Composition in Proportion to Number of Licensees under Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022:** The Board discussed determining the Board's seats under Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022 to match the proportion of licensees of each license type. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Egan, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, for the Board to have the following seats, in addition to 3 public members:
 - 5 LMHCs
 - 3 LABAs
 - 2 LMFTs
 - 1 LEP
 - 1 LRC

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Licensee Discipline at DPH:** Ms. York explained that there are some differences between DOL and DPH in the options available to the Board when resolving enforcement cases, including potential use of non-disciplinary agreements not to practice and stayed probation at DPH. Ms. York will provide more information in writing when it is available.

Monitoring

- **Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Decrease Frequency of Supervision:** The Board reviewed the report and the petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to accept the report and petition. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to advise Ms. DeQuevedo that the Board expects her to strictly comply with the terms of her agreement, in particular the number of supervision sessions she is required to attend.

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

Kylie Schuster asked about the status of her LaABA application. Mr. Bialas told her that he would make sure she receives an update.

Midge Williams from MaMHCA asked for an update on the status of the changes to the Board's regulations. Ms. Williams also asked for the Board's minutes to be posted, and stated she will provide a proposal for regulations to guide the Board in evaluating the education received by

LMHC applicants in foreign countries. Jami Osborne from MaMHCA introduced herself to the Board and explained that she helps LMHC applicants assess their credentials before they apply.

Ms. Gagliardi and Mr. Gomez left the meeting at 12:35 p.m.

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 12:37 p.m., a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, 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 NCMHCE accommodation requests; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to discuss an order to show cause and settlement offer, conduct a case interview, and review 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.

Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 12:37 p.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of Executive Session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:55 p.m.

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

Discussion of Order to Show Cause

2022-000631-IT-ENF (EK):	Dismiss with advisory letter
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Settlement

2021-000533-IT-ENF (CS):	Gave direction to prosecutor
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Case Interview

2022-000861-IT-ENF (LW):	Interviewed respondent; dismiss with advisory letter
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Adjournment

At 2:09 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 2:09 p.m.

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



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of February 17, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of January 20, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of January 20, 2023
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2023 through February 16, 2023
- Documents from LMHC Application of Ferdiane Cadet
- Documents from LMHC Application of Ana Correa De Ornelas
- Documents from LMHC Application of Christine Piltzecker
- Documents from LMHC Application of Zachary Etter
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Marcelle Botros
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Debora Barbosa
- 2.15.23 Memorandum to Board from B. Bialas and S. York re: Composition of MH Board in Proportion to Number of Licensees under Chapter 177 of the Acts of 2022
- Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Decrease Frequency of Supervision