



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

Board Members Present:

William Ahearn, Acting Chair
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Frank Gomez, Member (arrived at 10:14 a.m.)
Susan Egan, Member (arrived at 10:06 a.m.)
Amy Vercillo, Member (arrived at 10:12 a.m., left meeting at 1:13 p.m.)
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member
Jennifer Paine, Member
Ashley Williams, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
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 10:02 a.m.

Roll Call for Attendance

Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. William Ahearn, Ashley Williams, Jacqueline Gagliardi, Jennifer Paine, Cynthia Belhumeur all present by videoconference.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the Public Meeting

Minutes of February 17, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Executive Session Minutes of February 17, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of February 17, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Dr. Egan arrived at 10:06 a.m.

- **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 presented application review data and stated that application reviews have been going well in the new eLX system. Board members suggested that Mr. Bialas ask the professional associations to notify their members to create accounts in the new system so they can access the system and receive notices by email.

Dr. Vercillo arrived at 10:12 a.m.

Mr. Gomez arrived at 10:14 a.m.

Hearings on Denials of Applications

- **Suzanne Muldoon, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Muldoon appeared with Joyce MaGuire Pavao, Lynette Ingram Cassel, and Maleita Olson for a hearing on the Board's denial of her application because she did not complete 60 credits as required by 262 CMR 2.04(1). Ms. Muldoon explained that the breadth and depth of her education and experience should allow the Board to license her despite not having completed 60 credits. Specifically, Ms. Muldoon completed a post-graduate externship program for which others received formal graduate credit. (She did not seek credit at the time because she did not need it for licensure.) She applied in 2013 for licensure, but at the time did not have experience hours that complied with the Board's regulations. Further, Ms. Muldoon received a temporary emergency license in Massachusetts, completed a three-credit course at Boston College, and completed an extensive "play therapy" course.

Mr. Bialas explained that Ms. Muldoon is not eligible for licensure at this time because she does not have 60 credits, but she possibly could complete additional coursework and apply as a reciprocity candidate because she is licensed in Pennsylvania.

After a brief discussion, at Ms. Muldoon's request, the Board took no final action and left the application open.

- **Christine Piltzecker, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. Piltzecker appeared with Ken Frohock for a continuation of her 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 submitted a letter from Susan Sabelli of Assumption University stating that Ms. Piltzecker met the educational requirements for the LMHC license at the time she completed her master's degree.

Mr. Bialas explained that the regulatory requirements have changed, so Ms. Piltzecker must meet the requirements in effect now. She also must pass the NCMHCE again once her scores expire.

After a brief discussion, at Ms. Piltzecker's request, the Board took no final action and left the application open.

- **Ana Correa De Ornelas, Applicant for LMHC:** Dr. Ornelas appeared for a continuation of her 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 provided additional documentation that the practicum and internship she completed were part of her master's degree program and more documentation regarding her education.

After a brief discussion, the Board continued the hearing until next month so that the LMHC Board members can analyze Dr. Ornelas's submissions.

LMHC Application Review Interview

- **Zachary Etter**
 - **Interview of Zachary Etter:** Mr. Etter appeared to discuss his former supervisor Amy Belanger's reference for his application. Mr. Etter explained that he was supervised by Ms. Belanger during the COVID-19 pandemic, so he was adapting to several changes. Specifically, he and others were forced to use time logs and different video tools for therapy for the first time. He was told by his employer to "round up" any sessions that were more than 52 minutes to a full hour. Later, his employer told him that was unacceptable, and that after he learned that the billing platform maintained exact times for him, he did not have any billing problems. Mr. Etter emphasized that Ms. Belanger had no concerns about his clinical skills and now, while working in a private practice and in the Athletics Department at the University of Massachusetts, he receives more supervision and routinely reviews his notes and logs. In the instances where clients claimed he billed for services that were not rendered, Mr. Etter explained that the clients forgot that he appeared in person and thought he was billing for services over the phone.

Mr. Etter does not know whether others had the same problems. He was not surprised that Ms. Belanger brought up these problems in her reference, but he was surprised by the reference's severity.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow Mr. Etter to continue with the licensing process if he agrees to a conditional licensure agreement with the following terms:

- one year of biweekly supervision with quarterly reports to the Board from the supervisor; and
- the supervisor may be someone at his employer.

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

LMHC Application Review

- **Esther Kim:** The Board reviewed Ms. Kim's application. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Ms. Kim's application under 262 CMR 2.04(1) because she did not matriculate into her Certificate of Advanced Graduate Studies (CAGS) program on or before July 1, 2017. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Anna Cardoso, 2021-000360-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Cardoso's petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny the petition because Ms. Cardoso only has 20 biweekly supervision sessions instead of the required 24, and she must show that the "Global Impacts" continuing education course is approved by a Board-recognized entity. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Cardoso may file a renewed petition with the additional information requested by the Board.

- **Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Brennan's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Paine, 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

Midge Williams from MaMHCA asked how LMHC licensees interested in serving on the Board can submit applications. Mr. Bialas said that Ms. Williams can forward resumes and cover letters to him to pass on to the Governor's Office. Ms. Williams also asked for an update on the regulatory review process. Ms. York explained that she needs to complete the forms required to

submit the regulations to the Department of Public Health and the Executive Office of Health and Human Services for review before a public hearing is scheduled.

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 12:07 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 NCMHCE accommodation requests; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to 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.

Board maintains separate minutes of Executive Session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:28 p.m.

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

Case Interview

2022-000864-IT-ENF (AS):

Interviewed
respondent; refer to
Office of Prosecutions

Dr. Vercillo left the meeting at 1:13 p.m.

Cases

2022-001073-IT-ENF (KC):

Dr. Ahearn and Dr.
Williams recused
themselves from the
consideration of, and
vote on, the case.
Board will consider
the case again when a
quorum is available.

2022-000972-IT-ENF (SB):

Dismiss

CASE-2023-0014 (AT):

Dismiss

2022-000963-IT-ENF (MS):

Dismiss

Adjournment

At 1:34 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:34 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on April 21, 2023.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of March 17, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of February 17, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of February 17, 2023
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2023 through March 16, 2023
- Documents from LMHC Application of Suzanne Muldoon
- Documents from LMHC Application of Christine Piltzecker
- Documents from LMHC Application of Ana Correa De Ornelas
- Documents from LMHC Application of Zachary Etter
- Documents from LMHC Application of Esther Kim
- Anna Cardoso, 2021-000360-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Stayed Suspension
- Kathleen Brennan, 2021-000311-IT-ENF, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report