



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**  
September 29, 2023

**Board Members Present:**

William Ahearn, Acting Chair (arrived at 11:38 a.m.)  
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member  
Frank Gomez, Member (left meeting at 12:15 p.m.)  
Amy Vercillo, Member  
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member (arrived at 10:58 a.m.)  
Jennifer Paine, Member (arrived at 10:30 a.m.)  
Ashley Williams, Member (left meeting at 12:01 p.m.)  
Kristen Woodbury, Member  
Susan Egan, Member (arrived at 10:11 a.m., left meeting at 12:01 p.m.)

**Staff Members Present:**

Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Sheila York, Board Counsel  
Marine Jardonnet, Board Counsel  
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor  
Doris Lugo, Investigator  
Tristan Kelley, Board Administrator

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, Kristen Woodbury all present by videoconference.

## **Board Business**

- **Public Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of June 16, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of June 16, 2023 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Board Meeting Dates for 2024:** The Board considered proposed Board meeting dates for 2024. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to approve the proposed meeting dates for 2024. 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.
- **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.

Dr. Egan arrived at 10:11 a.m.

## **Hearing on Denial of Application**

- **Esther Kim, Applicant for LMHC:** Ms. York stated that the Board will cancel the hearing and review this application in executive session.

## **Correspondence**

- **6.13.23 Email from J. Edwards George re: LMHC Internship Across Two Sites:** The Board reviewed an email asking whether an internship for the LMHC license can take place in two separate sites. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to respond that, although the internship can take place in two separate sites, that is not recommended.

## **LMHC Application Review**

- **Jennifer Harrington:** The Board reviewed Ms. Harrington's application. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to request information from Ms. Harrington regarding the course she completed within her master's degree program that covered psychopathology.

## **NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Requests**

- **Elisenda Santiago-Lopez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Santiago-Lopez's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, 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.
- **Veronika Lovecka:** The Board reviewed Ms. Lovecka's request. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to allow Ms. Lovecka 50% extra time and the use of a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Paine arrived at 10:30 a.m.

## **Monitoring**

- **Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 6th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. DeQuevedo's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Jessica Soto Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Soto Sierra's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Dr. Williams, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Jacqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension, Approval of Proposed Supervisor, and Submission of Continuing Education:** The Board reviewed the petition, submission of a proposed supervisor, and submission of continuing education. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Dupont and her proposed supervisor to a meeting for an interview.
- **Catherine Stavrakas, 2020-000400-IT-ENF, Initial Report and 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Stavrakas's reports. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to accept the reports. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

## **Hearing on Denial of Application**

- **Ferdiane Cadet, Applicant for LMHC:** Dr. Cadet appeared with her attorney Kristin Purvis for a hearing on the 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. Purvis argued that Dr. Cadet should be permitted to complete an internship now, after having completed her degree, because of: (1) the "substantial equivalency" language

in the regulations for applicants licensed in another state, (2) the Board's policy allowing applicants who graduated during the pandemic to complete internship hours after graduating, and (3) the need for licensed mental health professionals in the Commonwealth – it would be a “detriment” to the state to require Dr. Cadet to be licensed and work elsewhere first before she could get licensed in Massachusetts.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Dr. Cadet's 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). The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Gagliardi arrived at 10:58 a.m.

### **Monitoring Interview**

- **Charlene Kelly, 2020-000430-IT-ENF, 3rd and 4th Quarterly Monitoring Reports, Approval of Proposed Continuing Education, and Petition to Reduce Probation**
  - **Interview of Charlene Kelly and Supervisor Joseph Kelly:** Ms. Kelly and Mr. Kelly appeared to discuss the reports. Mr. Kelly explained that, although Ms. Kelly had numerous grammar and spelling problems in her treatment records, including her treatment plans, and the information was not clear, she made remarkable progress from April to June and is now “on mark.” They missed 2-3 supervision sessions and work in the same building.

Ms. Kelly explained that she is doing her best to follow through on Mr. Kelly's suggestions. She has learned to slow down and know when to ask for help. Ms. Kelly asked for the Board to release her from her probation now.

Ms. Bialas noted that the consent agreement does not allow Ms. Kelly to petition to terminate her probation early. The Board suggested that Mr. Kelly provide more specifics in his future reports about Ms. Kelly's progress, including improvements she has made in the flow and quality of her notes and treatment plans. The Board thanked Mr. Kelly for serving as Ms. Kelly's supervisor.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny Ms. Kelly's petition to reduce probation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Gomez, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to accept Ms. Kelly's proposed continuing education. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Ms. Kelly does not have to complete any continuing education in person.

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

Midge Williams from the Massachusetts Mental Health Counselors Association asked from what email address and mailing address renewal notices will come. Mr. Bialas stated that he will find out. Ms. Williams also asked about continuing education audits and the status of the proposed regulations. Mr. Bialas stated that no decision has been made on audits, and Ms. York stated that the proposed regulations are being reviewed by the Bureau of Health Professions Licensure.

**Executive Session** (CLOSED under G.L. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding an application, and 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 interview an applicant and discuss and evaluate an application and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients)

At 11:38 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to exit the public meeting and (1) enter into a closed executive session under G.L. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation regarding an application, and 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 interview an applicant and discuss and evaluate an application and examination accommodation requests that involve medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, § 18, to discuss a draft final decision and order; then (3) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer, conduct a case interview, and review new cases; and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (4) 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. Ahearn arrived at 11:38 a.m.

Dr. Egan and Dr. Williams left the meeting at 12:01 p.m.

Mr. Gomez left the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

**Quasi-Judicial Session** (CLOSED under G.L. c. 30A, § 18)

The Board entered quasi-judicial session at 1:07 p.m.

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

### **Final Decision and Order**

2020-001656-IT-ENF (RF):

Determined sanction for final decision and order

Dr. Egan returned to the meeting at 1:05 p.m.

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

At 1:09 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to exit quasi-judicial session and enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer, conduct a case interview, and review new cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 1:09 p.m.

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

**Settlement**

2021-001025-IT-ENF (RG):	Gave instructions to prosecutor
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**Case Interview**

AMH-2023-0005 (KH):	Interviewed respondent; dismiss
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**Cases**

AMH-2023-0009 (SP):	Interview respondent
INV6641 (SM):	Dismiss
INV6774 (AM):	Dismiss
INV6829 (DR):	Dismiss with advisory letter
INV7256 (HM):	Dismiss
FAMH-2023-0002 (PS):	Review at next meeting
2022-000570-IT-ENF (PB):	Dismiss; open complaints for CE violations against both licenses
2022-000920-IT-ENF (KG):	Dismiss

**Adjournment**

At 1:58 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Paine, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on October 20, 2023.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of September 29, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of June 16, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of June 16, 2023
- Board Meeting Dates for 2024
- Applications Reviewed Under Application Review Policy: January 1, 2023 through August 17, 2023, January 1, 2023 through September 28, 2023, July 1, 2023 through July 31, 2023, and August 1, 2023 through August 31, 2023
- 6.13.23 Email from J. Edwards George re: LMHC Internship Across Two Sites
- Documents from LMHC Application of Jennifer Harrington
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Elisenda Santiago-Lopez
- NCMHCE ESL Accommodation Request of Veronika Lovecka
- Cassandra DeQuevedo, 2020-001070-IT-ENF, 6th Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Jessica Soto Sierra, 2021-000229-IT-ENF, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Jacqueline Dupont, 2021-000408-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension, Submission of Proposed Supervisor, and Submission of Continuing Education
- Catherine Stavrakas, 2020-000400-IT-ENF, Initial Report and 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Documents from LMHC Application of Ferdiane Cadet
- Charlene Kelly, 2020-000430-IT-ENF, 3rd and 4th Quarterly Monitoring Reports, Submission of Proposed Continuing Education, and Petition to Reduce Probation