

**Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Bureau of Health Professions Licensure
Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists**

Public Meeting Minutes

December 6, 2024

A public meeting of the Massachusetts Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists (the Board) was held remotely with video and audio conference as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, signed into law on July 16, 2022.

Ms. Guglietta stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Board staff and Board members introduced themselves for the benefit of the three new Board members and the public.

Valerie Machinist, Vice Chair, noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 9:13 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Valerie Machinist, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Natale
Stella Uzogara
Sylvia Passley-Harris
Theresa Moutafis
Wendy Ng

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director
Heather Engman, Esq., Chief Board Counsel

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pranita Amarasinghe

ATTENDANCE:

Valerie Machinist took attendance by roll call and a quorum of board members was recorded with the following members present via video conference: *Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Chair asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda. Thereafter a motion was made by Theresa Moutafis, seconded by Stella Uzogara, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the December 6, 2024 agenda as drafted.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng
opposed: none

CONFLICT OF INTEREST and OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Attorney Engman reviewed Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law requirements with the Board. Members should contact Board Counsel with questions about possible conflicts with

applicants, petitioners, or cases before the Board. Please bring these matters to Board Counsel's attention before the meeting if possible.

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

The Board discussed the draft public meeting minutes of 9/6/2024.

Thereafter a motion was made by Stella Uzogara, seconded by Elizabeth Natale, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the September 6, 2024 Public Meeting minutes as drafted.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng

opposed: none

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Guglietta gave an update on open seats on the Board. Ms. Guglietta reported that the Public Member 2 seat is open and that the Board is awaiting the Governor's approval of a candidate for a Certified Dietitian seat. Once the Certified Dietitian seat is filled, board member Elizabeth Natale, RD could be moved to the Educator's seat.

Ms. Guglietta reported that since the last meeting the Board Vice Chair, Valerie Machinist, approved three license reactivation applications via delegated authority.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The Board Vice Chair, Valerie Machinist, called for nominations for Chair of the Board. Stella Uzogara nominated Valerie Machinist for Board Chair. There were no other nominations.

Thereafter a motion was made by Stella Uzogara, seconded by Elizabeth Natale, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve Valerie Machinist as Board Chair.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng

opposed: none

Valerie Machinist called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Board. Valerie Machinist nominated Elizabeth Natale for Board Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. c

UPDATE FROM MAND (MA ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS)

Christine Weithman, RDN, LDN, introduced herself as the new Consumer Protection Coordinator for MAND. Ms. Weithman provided an update on the Dietitian Licensure Compact. The Academy is looking to work with 22 states in 2025 to propose legislation in those states. Three states that have already enacted legislation are Nebraska, Tennessee, and Alabama. Seven states are needed to pass the Model Practice Act for a commission to be formed to draft regulations for the Compact. Massachusetts is not one of the 22 states as it is one of eight states in which licensure is only title protection. Ms. Weithman will provide the web site for Compact updates to the Board.

Ms. Weithman also reported that MAND will coordinate with other healthcare professionals to refile the Telehealth Bill in 2025.

CONTINUING EDUCATION EXTENSION REQUEST

The Executive Director reported that a continuing education extension request was made in writing by Katelynn Robinson LDN5656. The Vice Chair approved the extension request in

November with a due date of 11/29/24. The licensee was able to renew her license on time due to Board approval of the extension. She did not need to attend the December Board meeting because she completed the required continuing education and submitted proof of completion to the Board. Member Stella Uzogara commented that licensees should submit typed continuing extension requests to the Board as it may be difficult to read a licensee's handwriting. Board staff does request that extension requests are submitted by email.

DISCUSSION

Feedback on URAMP (Unified Recovery and Monitoring Program)

The Board was asked to provide feedback and suggestions on the URAMP presentation given at the September meeting. Member Stella Uzogara asked if other organizations had similar programs that were already operating and could provide input to the Board. Chief Board Counsel, Heather Engman, explained that the Nursing Board has had its own substance use disorder rehabilitation program for many years and the Pharmacy Board created its own program around 2015. She explained that these programs and URAMP were based on national standards that other states use as well. All Boards under DPH will now have access to this alternative to discipline program. Member Sylvia Passley-Harris asked if the Board would have a direct connection with URAMP. The Executive Director explained that, yes, URAMP was available to licensees of all DPH Boards. URAMP will be working in cooperation and consultation with the Board for licensed dietitians and nutritionists who volunteer to be in the program.

2025 Board Meeting Dates

The Board discussed the 2025 quarterly Board meeting dates for March, June, September, and December. Thereafter a motion was made by Stella Uzogara, seconded by Elizabeth Natale, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the 2025 Board meeting dates.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng

opposed: none

Delegation of Authority to Chair and Board Staff for Continuing Education Extensions

The Board discussed the need for delegated authority to approve continuing education extension requests in between quarterly Board meetings. Thereafter a motion was made by Stella Uzogara, seconded by Theresa Moutafis, and VOTED (roll call); **to delegate authority to approve continuing education extension requests to the Chair and Board staff.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng

opposed: none

APPLICATION REVIEW

LDNNE100577 – Lorena Braga

The Board discussed the exam application for Lorena Braga. The applicant's work experience and education were reviewed. The Board determined that the applicant met the required hours of supervised paid professional work experience. However, it was unclear if the signature on the applicant's work experience affidavit was that of her direct supervisor. The Board determined that the applicant met the education requirements.

Thereafter a motion was made by Elizabeth Natale, seconded by Stella Uzogara, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the applicant's education.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng
opposed: none

A second motion was made by Valerie Machinist, seconded by Wendy Ng, and VOTED (roll call); **to conditionally approve the applicant's work experience provided that the Board receives confirmation that the applicant's direct supervisor signed off on her work experience affidavit.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng
opposed: none

A third motion was made by Elizabeth Natale, seconded by Sylvia Passley-Harris, and VOTED (roll call); **to delegate approval of the applicant's work experience to the Chair and Board staff once confirmation of the applicant's direct supervisor's signature is confirmed.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng
opposed: none

ADJOURNMENT

At 10:10 a.m. a motion was made by Valerie Machinist, seconded by Wendy Ng, and VOTED (roll call); **to end the public meeting.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Passley-Harris, Moutafis, Ng
opposed: none

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Guglietta, Executive Director
Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists

Documents used by the Board during open session:

- Posted agenda December 6, 2024
- Draft public meeting minutes of September 6, 2024
- Continuing Education Extension Request LDN5656
- URAMP Introduction and PowerPoint Presentation Slides
- 2025 Board Meeting Dates
- Application LDNNE100577 Lorena Braga