

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Department of Public Health
Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists

Public Meeting Minutes

March 1, 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 requested that members of the public mute their microphones and stated that the meeting was being recorded.

Dr. Lisa Brown noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 09:03 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Lisa Brown, Chair
Valerie Machinist, Vice Chair
Stella Uzogara
E. Reese
Elizabeth Natale
Pranita Amarasinghe

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director
Sheila York, Esq., Board Counsel

PUBLIC PRESENT

Camille Finn - MAND
Sarah Conca – MAND

ATTENDANCE:

Dr. Lisa Brown took attendance by roll call and a quorum of board members was recorded with the following members present via video conference: *Brown, Machinist, Reese, Uzogara, Natale, Amarasinghe*

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The **March 1, 2024 agenda was approved as presented** by roll call vote.
in-favor: Brown, Machinist, Reese, Uzogara, Natale, Amarasinghe
opposed: none

CONFLICT OF INTEREST and OPEN MEETING REQUIREMENTS

Atty. York reviewed Conflict of Interest and Open Meeting Law requirements with the Board. Members should contact Atty. York with questions about possible conflicts with applicants, petitioners, or cases before the Board. Please bring these matters to Atty. York's attention before the meeting if possible.

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

The Board discussed the draft public meeting minutes of 12/1/2023.
Thereafter a motion was made by Ms. Machinist, seconded by Ms. Natale, and VOTED (roll call);
to approve the December 1, 2023, Public Meeting minutes as drafted.

in-favor: Brown, Machinist, Uzogara, Natale

opposed: none

abstain: Reese, Amarasinghe

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Ms. Guglietta welcomed new Associate Executive Director, Katie Goldrick. She recognized and thanked Dr. Lisa Brown for reviewing and approving five license reactivation applications between board meetings. Ms. Guglietta informed the Board that there are three open seats on the Board which are for a registered dietitian, a baccalaureate member, and a public member.

DISCUSSION

268 CMR Review for Proposed Changes

The Board discussed proposed changes to the regulations in 268 CMR 2:00, 268 CMR 3:00, 268 CMR 4:00, 268 CMR 5:00, and 268 CMR 6:00.

Under 268 CMR 2.01 “The Division of Professional Licensure” needs to be removed as the Board is now under the Department of Public Health.

The Board discussed that under 268 CMR 3.01 (d) (2) the paid professional experience should be described as “supervised”.

Under 268 CMR 4.04 the Board discussed that it would extend the deadline of the continuing education requirements but not fully or partially waive them.

Dr. Brown noted that the continuing education requirements were narrower than those of the national accreditor, the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR). The Board does not accept everything that CDR accepts. Due to the narrowness of the continuing education regulations Massachusetts may not be able to participate in the Dietitian Licensure Compact. The Board is unable to change the continuing education requirements because the definitions have been set in the statute.

Under 268 CMR 5.01 (2) (j) the Board discussed that finger stick blood sugar measurements, blood pressure, and oral cavity assessment were included in “biochemical assessments”, “vital sign assessments”, and “nutrition-focused physical exams”.

Regarding client records in 268 CMR 5.04 (3) the Board agreed that in no instance shall a reasonable period of time exceed 30 days from the date of the record request.

Thereafter a motion was made by Dr. Uzogara, seconded by Reese, and VOTED (roll call); **to adopt the proposed changes and to direct board staff to seek approval of the proposed changes through the appropriate process.**

in-favor: Brown, Machinist, Reese, Uzogara, Natale, Amarasinghe

opposed: none

Sarah Conca and Camille Finn of the Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) posed the question of how Massachusetts could participate in the Dietitian Licensure Compact with such narrow continuing education requirements? Camille Finn noted the following obstacles that make it difficult for MA to be included in efforts to introduce such a compact: (1) There are not many interstate compacts for other professions that include MA, (2) MA has multiple pathways to licensure but the compact only applies to licensed RDNs, and (3) the CEU requirements for licensed dietitians/nutritionists in MA are

different than those for CDR. The Board may discuss the Dietitian Licensure Compact at a future meeting.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Ms. Guglietta gave the attendees from MAND information about the open seats on the Board.

NEW BUSINESS

A few Board members were locked out of their state email accounts before the meeting. Reese provided information to the Board that reminders to change your state email password do not get emailed to members. They appear as pop-ups on your device. Reese was given instructions by a representative of the IT department to change the password every 80 days because it will expire in 90 days. Dr. Brown asked if other Board members had received an email about a training that was due soon.

Sarah Conca of MAND asked if there was a way to get more information about licensed dietitian and nutritionists in MA such as years of experience. Ms. Guglietta explained that you can generate an Excel spreadsheet from the license lookup search and sort by license issue date.

APPLICATION REVIEW

Exam Application LDNNE100435: The Board discussed the application and supporting documents. After reviewing the applicant's education and internship information, it was determined that the Board required more detailed information about the work experience in the applicant's internships.

Thereafter, a motion was made by Ms. Amarasinghe, and seconded by Dr. Uzogara, and VOTED (roll call); **to accept the applicant's education.**

in-favor: Brown, Machinist, Uzogara, Reese, Natale, Amarasinghe

opposed: none

The Board gave direction to staff to ask the applicant for more detailed information about the work experience in her internships. The applicant may get a letter from her school with a description of the internship.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 10:31 a.m. by a roll call vote.

in-favor: Brown, Reese, Machinist, Uzogara, Natale, Amarasinghe

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 3/1/24
- Draft public meeting minutes of 12/1/23
- 268 CMR Proposed Changes
- Exam Application LDNNE100435 (VT)