

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

Public Meeting Minutes

March 7, 2025

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.

Valerie Machinist, Chair, noted a quorum of members present via video or phone and called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Valerie Machinist, Chair
Elizabeth Natale
Stella Uzogara
Theresa Moutafis
Wendy Ng
Mitali Bixby

STAFF PRESENT

Lisa Guglietta, Board Executive Director
Katie Goldrick, Board Associate Executive Director
Sheila York, Esq., Board Counsel
Mark Waksmonski, Director of URAMP
Ed Taglieri, URAMP
Jonathan Dillon, Director of Policy
Gilian Coffey, Health Communications Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT

Pranita Amarasinghe
Sylvia Passley-Harris

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, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby*

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 March 7, 2025 agenda as drafted.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby
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. Board Counsel will be providing this reminder twice per year going forward.

VOTE TO AUTHORIZE REMOTE PARTICIPATION IN BOARD MEETINGS

Attorney York explained that the deadline to extend remote board meetings was March 31, 2025. Prior to the pandemic, Open Meeting Law required a quorum of board members, including the Chair or acting Chair, to be physically present in the same room. The Board needed to vote to allow other members to participate remotely if needed should the extension of remote board meetings not pass. Thereafter a motion was made by Valerie Machinist, seconded by Elizabeth Natale, and VOTED (roll call); **to authorize remote participation in future meetings.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby

opposed: none

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

The Board discussed the draft public meeting minutes of 12/6/2024.

Thereafter a motion was made by Valerie Machinist, seconded by Wendy Ng, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the December 6, 2024 Public Meeting minutes as drafted.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby

opposed: none

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

Lisa Guglietta, Executive Director, introduced the new Board member, Mitali Bixby. Mitali then shared information with the Board about her background in dietetics and nutrition. Lisa Guglietta thanked member Elizabeth Natale for agreeing to be sworn into the Educator seat on the Board which allowed Mitali Bixby to fill her registered dietitian seat. The Executive Director reported that the Public Member 2 seat on the Board is open.

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

UNIFIED RECOVERY AND MONITORING PROGRAM (URAMP)

Ed Taglieri and Mark Waksmonski attended the meeting to present the URAMP Program Conditions and Staff Action Procedure to the Board and request Board approval. Ed Taglieri provided an overview of the program for the benefit of newer board members. The program conditions and staff action procedure were provided to the Board prior to the meeting for review. At the conclusion of the presentation, a motion was made by Theresa Moutafis, seconded by Valerie Machinist, and VOTED (roll call); **to authorize and approve URAMP Operational Policy 24-08.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby

opposed: none

Before the second vote, Ed Taglieri informed Board members that they could customize the URAMP practice restrictions for the dietitian and nutritionist profession at a future Board meeting and vote to approve the changes.

Thereafter a motion was made by Valerie Machinist, seconded by Wendy Ng, and VOTED (roll call); **to approve the generic practice restrictions inclusive of supervisor qualifications.**
in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby
opposed: none

UPDATE FROM MAND (MA ACADEMY OF NUTRITION AND DIETETICS)

Christine Weithman, RDN, LDN, Consumer Protection Coordinator for MAND, provided the following update:

MAND

MAND elections are currently taking place. There is a Day on the Hill with MA legislators and dietetic interns scheduled on March 10th and March 24th. The Annual Nutrition Education Conference (ANCE) is on April 4th.

Dietitian Licensure Compact Update

Seventeen (17) states have filed bills in the current legislative session. Some states have held hearings and heard testimony from registered dietitians. Some states are experiencing opposition from the Grocer's Association. The Council of State Governments is providing resources. Four states that have enacted legislation are Nebraska, Tennessee, Alabama, and Ohio. Seven states are needed to pass the Model Practice Act for a commission to be formed to draft regulations for the Compact.

MAND Legislative Update

The Telehealth Parity bill has been refiled. A licensure modernization bill has been filed.

ADJOURNMENT

At 9:46 a.m. a motion was made by Valerie Machinist, seconded by Stella Uzogara, and VOTED (roll call); **to end the public meeting.**

in-favor: Machinist, Natale, Uzogara, Moutafis, Ng, Bixby
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 March 7, 2025
- Draft public meeting minutes of December 6, 2024
- URAMP Generic Practice and Supervision Criteria
- URAMP Operational Policy 24-08 Staff Action Policy
- MAND Update from Christine Weithman