



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, Boston, MA 02108-4619

MAURA T. HEALEY
Governor

KIMBERLEY DRISCOLL
Lieutenant Governor

KATHLEEN E. WALSH
Secretary

MARGRET R. COOKE
Commissioner

Tel: 617-624-6000
www.mass.gov/dph

Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes
January 24, 2023

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Quanesha Fuller
Scune Carrington
Yvonne Ruiz
Tamara Lundi
Carrie Kelley (arrived at 12:00 p.m.)
Marie Pierre-Victor

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:35 a.m.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Welcome to the Department of Public Health, Bureau of Health Professions Licensure:** James Lavery, Director, and Lauren Nelson, Acting Deputy Director, introduced themselves and welcomed the Board to the new agency.

Application Review Interviews – Reference

- **Sherylin Fontaine, Applicant for LICSW**

- **Interview of Supervisor Donna Hayes:** Ms. Hayes appeared to discuss her reference for Ms. Fontaine. Ms. Hayes expressed concerns about Ms. Fontaine’s treatment of clients, understanding of proper boundaries with clients, and billing practices. She explained that, although Ms. Fontaine was placed on a performance improvement plan, she did not improve, and her employment was terminated from Ms. Hayes’ employer.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Fontaine to a meeting for an interview.

- **Heather Colangelo, Applicant for LICSW**

- **Interview of Heather Colangelo:** Ms. Colangelo appeared to discuss her application and reference from her former supervisor Michelle LaPierre. Ms. Colangelo stated that she was shocked by the reference, and although she received good clinical supervision from Ms. LaPierre, she did not receive productive “non-clinical” supervision.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Colangelo to provide letters from additional supervisors that include their recommendations on whether she should be licensed, and the number of supervision hours she obtained from them.

Application Review Interviews – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Roy Hogan, Applicant for LICSW**

- **Interview of Roy Hogan:** Ms. Hogan appeared to discuss his prior discipline in Washington in 2016 and Utah in 2018 for practicing without supervision. He explained that the guidelines for required supervision were not clear at the time, and Mr. Hogan thought he was being supervised appropriately. Now he is licensed in five states and relies on peer supervision and regular supervision sessions with his employer.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to allow Mr. Hogan to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review Interview – No Reference

- **Evelyn Romero, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Romero’s application, including an explanation of why she did not receive a reference from her former supervisor Jessica Smith. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms.

Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to allow Ms. Romero to continue with the licensing process if she provides a satisfactory reference with supervision hours. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review – Prior Discipline

- **Robin Alt, Applicant for Relicensure as LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Alt’s application, including her non-disclosure of a continuing education violation.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow Ms. Alt to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Courtney Chapman, 2020-001724-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Chapman’s petition. After a brief discussion, Ms. Pierre-Victor made a motion to accept the petition, then withdrew the motion. Ms. Fuller then made a motion, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to direct Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Chapman to a meeting for an interview. 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

The Board discussed whether students can be paid by employers for fieldwork and determined that the answer is yes.

Application Review Interview – No Reference

- **Evelyn Romero, Applicant for LICSW**
 - **Interview of Supervisor Jessica Smith:** Ms. Smith appeared to discuss why she would not provide a reference for Ms. Romero. Ms. Smith explained that Ms. Romero sometimes did not answer emergency calls when Ms. Romero was “on call” because she was sleeping, and Ms. Romero did not display clinical skills in crisis evaluations. She sometimes did not create treatment plans and used poor judgment when interacting with clients, including in choosing her clothing, even after Ms. Romero acknowledged the problem, and the topic was reviewed during her orientation. Although Ms. Smith only supervised Ms. Romero for a short period, she does not think Ms. Romero should practice independently at this point and does not want her name included in supporting documentation for Ms. Romero’s application.

After a brief discussion, the Board asked Ms. Smith to provide the number of supervision hours she provided for Ms. Romero. The Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Romero to a meeting for an interview.

Executive Session (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B, to review sensitive medical information)

At 12:00 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B, to review sensitive medical information in an application review. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 12:00 p.m. The Chair announced that the Board would not resume public session after closed session.

Ms. Kelley arrived at 12:00 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:48 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on March 28, 2023.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of January 24, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of December 13, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of December 13, 2022
- LICSW Application of Sherylin Fontaine
- LICSW Application of Heather Colangelo
- LICSW Application of Roy Hogan
- LICSW Application of Evelyn Romero
- LICSW Relicensure Application of Robin Alt and Case File for SW-10-021 (Robin Alt)
- Courtney Chapman, 2020-001724-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension