



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
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Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes
October 24, 2023

TIME: 9:37 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Quanesha Fuller
Charlene Zuffante
Tamara Lundi
Carrie Kelley
Yvonne Ruiz

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Marine Jardonnet, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Quanesha Fuller, Charlene Zuffante, Tamara Lundi, Carrie Kelley, and Yvonne Ruiz all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Lundi, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of September 26, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 26, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review Interviews – Reference

- **Bridget Twomey, Applicant for LICSW**

- **Interview of Supervisor Catherine Givens:** Ms. Givens appeared to discuss her reference for Ms. Twomey. She explained that Ms. Twomey had to “warm up” to the supervision process, including learning about introspection and countertransference. Ms. Twomey is very good at satisfying the “tangible needs” of clients, but she did not “dig deep” to identify other client problems. For those reasons, Ms. Twomey would be excellent doing case management work but would need more supervision in a clinical setting. Ms. Twomey had the same problems when working with other supervisors and did not try to improve. Ms. Givens stated that Ms. Twomey is “employable” and can learn to do better, but she might provide inadequate treatment.

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

- **Michele Sessa, Applicant for LCSW**

- **Interview of Michele Sessa:** Ms. Sessa appeared to discuss a reference from her former supervisor Wendy Rosenblum. Ms. Sessa explained that she missed time while she was supervised by Ms. Rosenblum because of “life problems,” including contracting COVID-19 and pneumonia, food poisoning, and when her grandmother died. She was terminated when her field placement site would not allow her time to attend her grandmother’s funeral.

She provided documentation to her field placement site of her COVID-19 and pneumonia but not for food poisoning.

Ms. Sessa also discussed a client she “got close to” who was a twin like Ms. Sessa. Ms. Sessa does not disclose too much personal information in therapy sessions with clients and tries to understand the patient’s history.

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

Application Review Interview – No Reference

- **Michael Cortez, Applicant for LICSW**

- **Interview of Michael Cortez:** Mr. Cortez appeared to discuss his former supervisor Karen Loftus’s refusal to provide a reference for him. He explained that his position in “behavioral-health integration” is not focused on “ongoing therapy,” yet that is what Ms. Loftus focused on in supervision. Mr. Cortez

touches the “surface level” of clients only and focuses on the most important problem. Ms. Loftus wanted Mr. Cortez to have longer sessions with his clients and to focus on all clinical problems. He spoke with his manager and his other supervisor Paige Shaw about his issues with Ms. Loftus’s supervision but not with Ms. Loftus herself. Mr. Cortez’s grant provided funds for a different supervisor, so he found one.

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

Discussion

- **Proposed Revisions to 258 CMR 9.00:** The Board considered proposed regulation changes to extend the time after which examination scores expire and to eliminate the reference requirement for certain license applications. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to place the proposed regulation changes on the agenda for the next meeting.

Application Reviews – Reference

- **Madison Pozner, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Pozner’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Pozner to a meeting for an interview.
- **Jacqueline Klock, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Klock’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Klock’s coworker Madelyn Sauget to a meeting for an interview.
- **Judith Boutiette, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Boutiette’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Boutiette’s former supervisor Paula Thompson to a meeting for an interview.
- **Terri O’Toole, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. O’Toole’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to allow Ms. O’Toole to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Executive Session (Executive session CLOSED under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) and G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B)

At 11:31 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to (1) exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, to discuss and evaluate the good moral character of an applicant as required for licensure, 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 conduct an interview for an application that involves

medical records and information of a patient, then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review new cases, and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (3) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:08 p.m.

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

Cases

2022-001012-IT-ENF (JA):	Gave direction to board counsel and executive director
SW-2023-0004 (RI):	Dismiss with advisory letter
2022-000904-IT-ENF (SY):	Review case at next meeting
SW-2023-0008 (JD):	Dismiss
SW-2023-0010 (KJ):	Review case at next meeting
SW-2023-0012 (AB):	Dismiss. Open complaint for continuing education violation.
SW-2023-0015 (JS):	Dismiss
SW-2023-0020 (PL):	Interview respondent
INV6782 (MM):	Review case at next meeting
FINV6793 (EF):	Dismiss
2022-000994-IT-ENF (SB):	Review case at next meeting
2022-001106-IT-ENF (AW):	Review case at next meeting

Adjournment

At 1:11 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Lundi, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on November 21, 2023.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of October 24, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of September 26, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of September 26, 2023
- LICSW Application of Bridget Twomey
- LCSW Application of Michele Sessa
- LICSW Application of Michael Cortez
- Draft Proposed Revisions to 258 CMR 9.00
- LCSW Application of Madison Pozner
- LICSW Application of Jacqueline Klock
- LCSW Application of Judith Boutiette
- LCSW Application of Terri O'Toole