



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

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, MD, PhD
Commissioner

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

Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes
February 27, 2024

TIME: 9:32 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Marie Pierre-Victor
Carrie Kelley
Yvonne Ruiz
Tamara Lundi
Scune Carrington

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel
Judith Bromley, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigator Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Marie Pierre-Victor, Carrie Kelley, Yvonne Ruiz, Tamara Lundi, and Scune Carrington all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Pierre-Victor and Ms. Lundi abstaining.
- **Executive Session Minutes of January 23, 2024:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 23, 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Pierre-Victor and Ms. Lundi abstaining.

Application Review Interview – Reference

- **Jacqueline Klock, Applicant for LICSW**
 - **Interview of Madelyn Sauget:** Ms. Sauget appeared to discuss her reference for Ms. Klock. She explained that she was Ms. Klock’s coworker and not Ms. Klock’s supervisor. Ms. Sauget stated that Ms. Klock received meals from a particular client and went rock climbing with that client because, according to Ms. Klock, the client “would have a hard time doing it on his own.” Ms. Sauget told Ms. Klock that it was a bad idea.

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

Application Review Interview – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Melanie Miller, Applicant for LICSW**
 - **Interview of Melanie Miller:** Ms. Miller appeared to discuss her disclosure of discipline in New York in 2019 for attesting that she provided supervision hours that she did not provide. Ms. Miller explained that she did provide the supervision hours but did not document those hours. Ms. Miller accepts the situation as a “learning moment.” She keeps better records now and does not supervise anyone.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Miller to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Reviews – Reference

- **Jeremiah Elsinger, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Mr. Elsinger’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to allow Mr. Elsinger to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Melissa Melnikov, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Melnikov’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Melnikov to a meeting for an interview.
- **Lisa Tervil, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Tervil’s application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Lundi, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Tervil to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Application Reference Form:** Mr. Bialas presented draft revisions to the application reference form for all license types. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve the revisions. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure:** Ms. York presented a draft policy outlining the procedures to be followed for the summary suspension of a license before a hearing to prevent an immediate and serious threat to the public health, safety, and welfare. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to approve the policy. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Workforce Development:** Mr. Bialas asked the Board whether it is interested in revising its regulations to lower the total clinical hours required for the LICSW license from 3,500 to 3,000 to support workforce development and to match the requirements in surrounding states. The Board did not want to initiate a change at this time.

Mr. Bialas also reported that Massachusetts allows waivers in certain circumstances to the standard 90-day wait period required by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) before someone who fails the examination can take it again. Ms. Carrington asked Mr. Bialas to investigate whether ASWB will allow up to four waivers within a year rather than just two.

Monitoring

- **Pamela Bourque, 2021-001010-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Bourque's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

At 11:00 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Lundi, 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) and under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B to discuss and evaluate the good moral character of an applicant as required for licensure and an application and monitoring report that involve medical records and information of patients, then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to conduct a case interview and 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 11:42 a.m.

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

Cases

2022-000904-IT-ENF (SY): INV8710 (AH):	Review at next meeting Invite respondent and each complainant for interviews at a meeting
SW-2023-0011 (HS): SW-2023-0014 (MN):	Dismiss Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview
SW-2023-0024 (MF):	Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview

Case Interview

SW-2023-0009, SW-2023-0010, FSW-2023-003 (KJ):	Interviewed respondent; refer each case to office of prosecutions
--	---

Cases

SW-2023-0028 (JL): SW-2023-0026 (CT):	Refer to board counsel Invite respondent to a meeting for an interview
INV7513 (SS): SW-2023-0031 (LV):	Open a formal complaint Refer to office of prosecutions
SW-2023-0052 (KA): INV7886 (KF):	Dismiss Open a formal complaint

Adjournment

At 1:35 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on March 26, 2024.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of February 27, 2024
- Public Meeting Minutes of January 23, 2024
- Executive Session Minutes of January 23, 2024
- LICSW Application of Jacqueline Klock
- LICSW Application of Melanie Miller
- LICSW Application of Jeremiah Elsinger
- LICSW Application of Melissa Melnikov
- LCSW Application of Lisa Tervil
- Draft Application Reference Form
- Draft Policy on Summary Suspensions Conducted by Boards of Registration Formerly Under the Supervision of the Division of Occupational Licensure
- Pamela Bourque, 2021-001010-IT-ENF, 3rd Quarterly Report