

CHARLES D. BAKER GOVERNOR

> KARYN E. POLITO LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

MIKE KENNEALY SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Division of Occupational Licensure Board of Registration of Social Workers

1000 Washington Street, Suite 710 Boston, Massachusetts 02118 EDWARD A. PALLESCHI UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS REGULATION

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 2, 2022

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

- ATTENDANCE: Richard Powers, Vice Chair Carrie Kelley Scune Carrington Quanesha Fuller Yvonne Ruiz
- STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director Kristina Gasson, Deputy General Counsel Seth Henderson, Board Counsel Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m.

Board Business

- New Board Members Quanesha Fuller, Scune Carrington, Yvonne Ruiz, and Marie-Andree Pierre-Victor: Mr. Bialas announced the recent appointments to the Board, and all board members and staff in attendance introduced themselves.
- New Board Counsel Seth Henderson: Mr. Bialas announced that, because Ms. Gasson was promoted to Deputy General Counsel, Seth Henderson is the Board's new Board Counsel. Mr. Henderson introduced himself to the Board.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.

• DPH COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-13 – Extends Temporary Licenses Through June 30, 2022: Mr. Bialas reported that the Commissioner of the Department of Public Health issued an order on November 12, 2021 extending the validity of emergency temporary licenses for social workers through June 30, 2022.

Application Review Interview– Negative Reference

• Maria Rosati, Applicant for LCSW: Ms. Rosati appeared to discuss her negative reference. She explained that she met regularly with her supervisor and thought everything was going fine until she learned during a field visit that she needed improvement. Since November 2021, Ms. Rosati has been working in group homes managing adults with serious mental illnesses. She believes her current supervisor would say she has good documentation and assessment skills. To gain the trust of her patients, she explains her duty of confidentiality to them. She resolves ethical issues by discussing them with her client, supervisor, and other clinicians. When dealing with clients by teletherapy, she plans for client safety by asking her clients for their locations, reviewing a safety plan with them, and making sure the clients know phone numbers to call in an emergency.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Rosati to obtain a letter from her current supervisor regarding her performance.

Application Reviews – Negative Reference

- Elena Nolan, Applicant for LICSW: The Board reviewed Ms. Nolan's application, including her negative reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Nolan's supervisor to a meeting for an interview.
- Scott Johnson, Applicant for LICSW: The Board reviewed Mr. Johnson's application, including his negative reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Johnson's supervisor to a meeting for an interview.
- **Stephanie Murdock, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Murdock's application, including her negative reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to allow Ms. Murdock to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review – Prior Discipline

• Keri Norris, Applicant for LCSW: The Board reviewed Ms. Norris's application, including the prior discipline against her nursing license and certification as an emergency medical technician. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Norris to a meeting for an interview.

Monitoring Report

• Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Probation: The Board reviewed Ms. Fowle's report and petition. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to accept the report and petition. The motion passed unanimously.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of <u>Meeting</u>

Ms. Fuller asked that elections for the vacant Chair and Secretary officer positions for the remainder of fiscal year 2022 be placed on the agenda for the meeting on March 22, 2022.

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

At 10:39 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Powers, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B, to review sensitive medical information in an application review interview, an interview regarding a request for reinstatement, and a petition to terminate a conditional licensure agreement. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 10:39 a.m.

Public Meeting

The Board returned to the public meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Adjournment

At 12:17 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 12:17 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on March 22, 2022.

Brian P. Biela

Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of March 2, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of January 25, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of January 25, 2022
- DPH COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Order No. 2021-13
- LCSW Application of Maria Rosati

- LICSW Application of Elena Nolan
- LICSW Application of Scott Johnson
- LCSW Application of Stephanie Murdock
- LCSW Application of Keri Norris
- Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 4th Quarterly Monitoring Report and Petition to Terminate Probation