



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Executive Office of Health and Human Services
Department of Public Health
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Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes
July 25, 2023

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Quanesha Fuller
Scune Carrington
Charlene Zuffante
Marie Pierre-Victor
Carrie Kelley (left meeting at 1:12 p.m.)
Yvonne Ruiz (left meeting at 12:03 p.m.)
Tamara Lundi

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Sheila York, Board Counsel (left meeting at 12:55 p.m.)
Marine Jardonnet, Board Counsel
Meghan Bresnahan, 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. Quanesha Fuller, Scune Carrington, Charlene Zuffante, Marie Pierre-Victor, Carrie Kelley, Yvonne Ruiz, and Tamara Lundi all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Lundi abstaining.

- **Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2023:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Lundi abstaining.
- **Board Member Appointments:** Mr. Bialas announced that board members whose terms have expired or are about to expire and wish to be reappointed may submit a resume, cover letter, and optional demographic form to him for consideration by the Governor’s Office.
- **Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2024:** The Board considered electing officers for the new fiscal year.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to elect Ms. Fuller as Chair for fiscal year 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to elect Ms. Kelley as Vice Chair for fiscal year 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to elect Ms. Pierre-Victor as Secretary for fiscal year 2024. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Hearing on the Denial of Application

- **Joanne Werther, Applicant for LICSW:** Ms. Werther appeared for the continuation of her hearing on the Board’s denial of her application. The Board denied her application because she failed to show that she will conduct her professional activities in accordance with generally accepted professional standards pursuant to G.L. c. 112, § 131. Specifically, the Board based its decision on its prior interview with Ms. Werther and her discipline in Maine for having a romantic relationship with a former client.

Ms. Werther explained that her case in Maine was “nuanced,” and that the factual allegations she admitted to in her consent agreement in Maine were incorrect, but she signed the agreement “to move on.” The discipline in Maine was “meticulous and thorough.” The incident happened a long time ago, she has learned a lot since, and she began meeting with Dr. Frederic Reamer, an ethics expert who testified at the first part of the hearing, without being required to do so by the Maine Board. Ms. Werther reiterated that she began a relationship with her former client in couples therapy 11 months after the couple’s relationship had ended. That former client is now her partner.

The Board then discussed the matter. Ms. Ruiz stated that she does not think the Board should “condone” Ms. Werther’s behavior by reversing its denial, and Ms. Fuller agreed.

In particular, Ms. Ruiz explained that Ms. Werther had not discussed her abuse of the “power and privilege” of being a therapist in the relationship.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to deny Ms. Werther’s application on the same grounds as the Board’s preliminary denial. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Discussion

- **Policy on Delegation of Authority re: Drafting Orders to Show Cause and Consent Agreements to Board Counsel and the Prosecution Unit:** The Board reviewed a proposed policy that allows a prosecutor (1) to negotiate with respondents in adjudicatory matters within a range of discipline provided by the Board; and (2), in consultation with the executive director and board counsel, to add violations to orders to show cause for cases that are not included in the Board’s referral to the Office of Prosecutions.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Chief Prosecutor Jessica Uhing-Luedde to a meeting to discuss the policy.

- **Policy re: Standard Consent Agreement Terms:** The Board reviewed a draft policy that creates standard language about violations for consent agreements.

After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Chief Prosecutor Jessica Uhing-Luedde to a meeting to discuss the policy.

Application Review – Experience

- **Katherine Neidorf, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Neidorf’s application, including experience hours obtained while she worked in Cambodia. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask whether Ms. Neidorf’s supervisor for that experience, who was based in the United States, was licensed in Cambodia when she obtained those experience hours.

Application Review – Reference

- **Savannah Skye Walker, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Walker’s application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Fuller, to allow Ms. Walker to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Ruiz abstaining.
- **Jocelyn Monti, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Monti’s application, specifically an email regarding the applicant. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to allow Ms. Monti to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed by a majority vote, with Ms. Carrington voting no.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to refer the email to the Office of Investigations.

- **Andrea Iovino, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Iovino's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to allow Ms. Iovino to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Bridget Twomey, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Twomey's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Twomey's supervisor who provided the reference to a meeting for an interview.
- **Cindy Garcia, Applicant for LSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Garcia's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow Ms. Garcia to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Melissa Brouillard, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Brouillard's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to allow Ms. Brouillard to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Michele Sessa, applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Sessa's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Sessa's supervisor who provided the reference to a meeting for an interview.
- **Tina Baygboe, Applicant for LSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Baygboe's application, specifically a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to request more detail from Ms. Baygboe's supervisor, including any performance improvement plans for her.

Application Review – Request for Reconsideration

- **Rosalee Heaney-Balf, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Heaney-Balf's request for the Board to reconsider its decision requiring her to adhere to terms of a conditional licensure agreement to be licensed as an LICSW. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to deny Ms. Heaney-Balf's request. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring

- **Elizabeth Tener, 2020-001030-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension:** The Board reviewed Ms. Tener's petition to terminate the suspension of her license. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to allow the petition. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Fuller abstaining.
- **Aimee Monette, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed the report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by

Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Executive Session (Closed Session 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)

At 11:12 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Fuller, to (1) exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session 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 discuss and evaluate an application, requests for continuing education extensions, and a request for reinstatement that involve medical records and information of patients, then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer, new cases, and the report of the complaint subcommittee, 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.

Ms. Ruiz left the meeting at 12:03 p.m.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:18 p.m.

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

Approval of Complaint Subcommittee Report

The Board approved the following actions recommended by the complaint subcommittee:

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| 2022-000255-IT-ENF (MR): | Dismiss |
| 2022-000907-IT-ENF (AB): | Refer to office of investigations |
| 2022-000952-IT-ENF (NR): | Dismiss |
| 2022-000978-IT-ENF (MG): | Open formal complaint |
| 2022-001081-IT-ENF (MF): | Dismiss; refer complaint to Bureau of Substance Addiction Services |
| 2022-001083-IT-ENF (EA): | Dismiss |
| 2022-000830-IT-ENF (BK): | Refer to office of prosecutions |
| 2022-000862-IT-ENF (PN): | Refer to office of investigations |
| 2022-000989-IT-ENF (MY): | Refer to office of prosecutions |
| 2022-001017-IT-ENF (JG): | Dismiss |
| 2022-000927-IT-ENF (TR): | Hold for consideration by full Board |
| 2022-000964-IT-ENF (MC): | Hold for consideration by full Board |
| 2022-000947-IT-ENF (DU): | Refer to office of prosecutions |
| CASE-2023-0060 (RS): | Open formal complaint |
| CASE-2023-0008 (JH): | Refer to office of prosecutions |
| CASE-2023-0083 (RG): | Dismiss |

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| CASE-2023-0047 (KB): | Dismiss |
| CASE-2023-0045 (MM): | Dismiss |
| CASE-2023-0042 (ER): | Dismiss |
| CASE-2023-0039 (AD): | Dismiss |
| CASE-2023-0040 (SR): | Dismiss |
| CASE-2023-0146 (LF): | Refer to office of investigations |
| 2022-000538-IT-ENF (SR): | Dismiss |
| 2022-000629-IT-ENF (LG): | Dismiss |
| 2022-000997-IT-ENF (TP): | Dismiss; open complaint for CE violation |
| 2022-001060-IT-ENF (SM): | Hold for consideration by full Board |
| CASE-2023-0022 (AH): | Dismiss |

Settlement

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| 2021-001085-IT-ENF (PC): | Gave direction to prosecutor. |
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Cases

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| 2022-000862-IT-ENF (PN): | Dismiss; refer complaint to Vermont Board |
| 2022-000927-IT-ENF (TR): | Dismiss with advisory letter |
| 2022-000964-IT-ENF (MC): | Dismiss; open complaint for CE violation |

Ms. York left the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

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| 2022-001060-IT-ENF (SM): | Refer to Office of Investigations |
| CASE-2023-0003 (AH): | Refer to Office of Prosecutions |

Ms. Kelley left the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

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| 2022-000904-IT-ENF (SY): | Review at next meeting after Board ensures a quorum is available. |
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Adjournment

At 1:15 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:15 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on August 22, 2023.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of July 25, 2023
- Public Meeting Minutes of May 23, 2023
- Executive Session Minutes of May 23, 2023
- LICSW Application of Joanne Werther
- Draft Policy on Delegation of Authority re: Drafting Orders to Show Cause and Consent Agreements to Board Counsel and the Prosecution Unit
- Draft Policy re: Standard Consent Agreement Terms
- LICSW Application of Katherine Neidorf
- LCSW Application of Savannah Skye Walker
- LICSW Application of Jocelyn Monti
- LICSW Application of Andrea Iovino
- LICSW Application of Bridget Twomey
- LSW Application of Cindy Garcia
- LCSW Application of Melissa Brouillard
- LCSW Application of Michele Sessa
- LSW Application of Tina Baygboe
- LICSW Application of Rosalee Heaney-Balf and Request for Reconsideration of Rosalee Heaney-Balf, Applicant for LICSW
- Elizabeth Tener, 2020-001030-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension
- Aimee Monette, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report