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Division of Occupational Licensure
Board of Registration of Social Workers

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OCCUPATIONAL LICENSURE

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 26, 2022

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Quanesha Fuller, Chair (left at 11:39 a.m. and returned at 12:15 p.m.)
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Carrie Kelley (arrived at 1:16 p.m.)
Scune Carrington (left at 10:00 a.m. and returned at 11:00 a.m.)
Yvonne Ruiz (left at 11:00 a.m. and returned at 11:39 a.m.)
Marie Andree Pierre-Victor (left at 1:47 p.m.)
Tamara Lundi (left at 2:00 p.m.)

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Clinton Dick, General Counsel
Esther Laine, Associate Deputy Commissioner
Doris Lugo, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

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

Board Business

- **New Board Member Tamara Lundi:** Ms. Lundi, board members, and staff introduced themselves.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of April 26, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 26, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.



- **Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Adopt Remote Meeting Procedures:** Mr. Dick reported that a new law extends the Board's ability to conduct meetings by videoconference through March 31, 2023.

The Board discussed allowing some Board members to participate in meetings by videoconference or telephone under 940 CMR 29.10 provided a quorum is present in person if the Board is again required to meet in-person. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to adopt the remote meeting procedures under 940 CMR 29.10. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Executive Order Protecting Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth:** Mr. Dick reported on a new executive order that, among other things, prohibits the Board from disciplining licensees or denying or restricting licenses for applicants because of crimes or discipline in other states related to certain reproductive health services if the same conduct is not illegal in Massachusetts. Mr. Dick explained that the Board will update its CORI policy at a future meeting to incorporate the executive order.
- **Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2023:** The Board considered the election of officers for fiscal year 2023.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to elect the following officers for fiscal year 2023:

- Quanesha Fuller – Chair
- Richard Powers – Vice Chair
- Shaynah Barnes Munro – Secretary

The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review – Prior Discipline

- **Kerry Higgins, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Higgins' application, including her disclosure of prior discipline as an LICSW in Massachusetts. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Mr. Powers, to allow Ms. Higgins to continue with the licensing process. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Reviews – Negative Reference

- **Chelsea Cheatham, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Cheatham's application, including her negative reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Cheatham's supervisor who provided the negative reference to a meeting for an interview.

- **Deena DiMaria, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. DiMaria’s application, including her negative reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to:
 - Ask Ms. DiMaria how many hours of telephone supervision she had; and
 - Explain to Ms. DiMaria’s supervisor who gave her the negative reference that telephone supervision does not count for licensure and ask her:
 - where she was located when she provided supervision to Ms. DiMaria;
 - where she is licensed;
 - who knew that Ms. DiMaria’s supervision was by telephone, including whether Ms. DiMaria’s school knew or whether Ms. DiMaria’s supervisor’s supervisor knew; and
 - for copies of Ms. DiMaria’s mid-term evaluation and final evaluation from the supervisor.

Monitoring Report

- **Aimee Monette, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Monette’s report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to not accept the report because it lacks sufficient detail and require the supervisor to revise and resubmit the report, providing more detail in line with what is required in Ms. Monette’s agreement and the Board’s monitoring instructions. The motion passed unanimously.

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 personal and medical information)

At 10:24 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to exit public session 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 review sensitive personal and medical information in a CE extension request and application. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Mr. Dick announced that the Board will return to public session at 10:45 a.m.

The Board entered executive session at 10:24 a.m.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 10:46 a.m.

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

Cases

2021-001085-IT-ENF (PC):	Interview respondent
2021-001160-IT-ENF (SG):	Dismiss
2022-000122-IT-ENF (SP):	Refer to Office of Investigations

Public Meeting

At 10:59 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to exit investigative conference and return to the public meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board returned to the public meeting at 10:59 a.m.

Ms. Carrington returned to the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Application Review Interviews – Negative Reference

- **Jill Demeny, Applicant for LCSW:**

Ms. Ruiz recused herself from Ms. Demeny's interview and the consideration of her application and left the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Demeny appeared with her attorney, David Gould, to discuss the Board's offer of a conditional licensure agreement to allow Ms. Demeny to sit for the LCSW examination and, if she passes, to be licensed.

Ms. Demeny explained that, although she struggled with self-disclosure with clients in the past, she is doing much better now. She has two jobs and has a supervisor at each. Ms. Demeny took a long time to respond to the Board's offer because she was seeking legal advice and had a full caseload. She now understands transference and countertransference through supervision and the unique confidentiality challenges of working in a small community like Martha's Vineyard.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Mr. Powers, to allow Ms. Demeny to continue with the licensing process without a conditional licensure agreement. The motion passed unanimously, with Ms. Carrington abstaining.

Ms. Ruiz returned to the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

- **Kassie Olver, Former Supervisor for LICSW Applicant Scott Johnson:**

Ms. Fuller recused herself from Ms. Olver's interview and the consideration of Mr. Johnson's application and left the meeting at 11:39 a.m.

Ms. Olver appeared to discuss her negative reference for Mr. Johnson. She explained that she provided clinical supervision for Mr. Johnson, and that her agency had a plan to handle his clients when he abruptly resigned. Although Mr. Johnson described the supervisory relationship as "toxic," Ms. Olver described her supervision style as

“reflective” and stated that Mr. Johnson was not meeting standards, including having late and missing documentation. He did not have good reasons why he was not meeting those standards. The director created a schedule for him to use to create documentation, but that did not work. Ms. Olver followed up on her feedback by asking Mr. Johnson what would be helpful. Mr. Johnson had the documentation problems even though he had a six-month orientation period before being held to those standards and had a lower-than-normal caseload. He worked at the agency for about seven months before he resigned.

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

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

At 12:00 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review settlement offers and new cases. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:00 p.m.

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

Settlements

2020-001094-IT-ENF (VS):

Gave direction to prosecutor; Ms. Pierre-Victor recused herself and did not participate in the discussion of, or vote on, the case.

2020-001030-IT-ENF (ET):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Ms. Fuller returned to the meeting at 12:15 p.m.

2020-001685-IT-ENF (MB):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

2022-000129-IT-ENF (NN):

Refer to Office of Prosecutions

2022-000258-IT-ENF (BV):

Dismiss; Mr. Powers recused himself and did not participate in the discussion of, or vote on, the case.

2022-000259-IT-ENF (JM):	Dismiss; Mr. Powers recused himself and did not participate in the discussion of, or vote on, the case.
2021-001141-IT-ENF (MP):	Dismiss
2021-001169-IT-ENF (Trinity Care Associates):	Dismiss
2021-001200-IT-ENF (MB):	Dismiss with advisory letter; open complaint for CE violation
2021-001218-IT-ENF (MT):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2022-000282-IT-ENF (LB):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2022-000441-IT-ENF (GC):	Dismiss with advisory letter

Ms. Kelley arrived at 1:16 p.m.

2021-001208-IT-ENF (MN):	Dismiss
2022-000008-IT-ENF (MB):	Dismiss
2022-000055-IT-ENF (SE):	Dismiss
2022-000080-IT-ENF (AM):	Dismiss
2022-000126-IT-ENF (KM):	Dismiss
2022-000290-IT-ENF (MS):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions

Ms. Pierre-Victor left the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

2022-000297-IT-ENF (TK):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2022-000338-IT-ENF (DT):	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2022-000376-IT-ENF (JM):	Interview respondent

Ms. Lundi left the meeting at 2:00 p.m.

Adjournment

At 2:05 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on September 27, 2022.

Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of July 26, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of April 26, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of April 26, 2022
- Public Meeting Minutes of May 24, 2022
- Executive Session Minutes of May 24, 2022
- Executive Order Protecting Reproductive Health Care Services in the Commonwealth
- LCSW Application of Kerry Higgins
- LCSW Application of Chelsea Cheatham
- LCSW Application of Deena DiMaria
- Aimee Monette, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report
- LCSW Application of Jill Demeny, including correspondence regarding conditional licensure agreement
- LICSW Application of Scott Johnson