



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**
August 26, 2025

TIME: 9:37 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Charlene Zuffante
Marcia Roddy
Yvonne Ruiz
Carrie Kelley
Tamara Lundi (left the meeting at 12:17 p.m., returned at 12:55 p.m.)
Scune Carrington

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Judith Bromley, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 9:33 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Charlene Zuffante, Marcia Roddy, Yvonne Ruiz, Carrie Kelley, Tamara Lundi, and Scune Carrington all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Executive Session Minutes of July 22, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of July 22, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review Interview – Denial of Prior Application

- **Sosa Samura, Applicant for LCSW**

- **Interview of Sosa Samura:** Ms. Samura appeared to discuss her prior denial by the Board for unethical conduct in 2021. She explained that she had just earned her master's degree at the time, did not set proper boundaries, and learned from the experience. She is a "clinical coach" now and would like to be a social worker so she can continue to grow. Ms. Samura stated that she knows now to bring all questions to her supervisor and focuses on self-improvement. She tells her supervisors about her prior denial and takes time to get answers when she does not have them right away.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to allow Ms. Samura to continue with the licensing process. After a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote, with Ms. Carrington and Ms. Lundi voting no.

Petition to Terminate Suspension

- **Cara Segal, 2019-001028-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension and Approval of Proposed Supervisor**

- **Interview of Cara Segal and Proposed Supervisor Virginia DeLuca:** Ms. Segal and Ms. DeLuca appeared with Ms. Segal's attorney Ingrid Martin to discuss Ms. Segal's petition and proposal for Ms. DeLuca to serve as Ms. Segal's supervisor. Ms. Segal recounted the circumstances that led to her suspension and explained that she has continued to "stay current" in the social work profession. She would like to use supervision to "heal" and develop her private practice. She has no plans to teach.

Ms. DeLuca explained that she is a seasoned LICSW who maintains a private practice and has experience in sex-offender treatment. She proposed discussing Ms. Segal's clients during supervision sessions.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to allow Ms. Segal's petition to terminate her suspension. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to deny Ms. Segal's proposal for Ms. DeLuca to serve as her supervisor during her probation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Ruiz and Ms. Kelley abstaining.

The Board explained that it was not confident that Ms. DeLuca could assess Ms. Segal's readiness to return to independent practice.

Application Review – Reference

- **Janelle Clyde, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Clyde's application, including her inability to obtain documentation of certain experience hours she claims she completed. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Clyde that she must complete the missing hours now.

Application Review – Experience

- **Sivan Madar, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Madar's application, including her documentation of experience hours earned in Israel. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Madar that she may withdraw her application if she does not want the Board to deny it because she did not receive supervision from an LICSW or the equivalent in Israel.

Application Review – Prior Discipline and Prior Denial of Application

- **Rita Towers, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Towers' application, including her disclosure of prior discipline with the Board and a prior denial of her application. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Towers to a meeting for an interview.

Application Review – Prior Discipline

- **Michelle Bicking, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Bicking's application, including her suspended LCSW license. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Lundi, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to deny Ms. Bicking's application because her LCSW license is suspended. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Carrington abstaining.

The Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform the Connecticut Board that Ms. Bicking's LCSW license in Massachusetts is suspended.

Application Reviews – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Colin Vesterfelt, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Mr. Vesterfelt's application, including his disclosure of discipline in New York. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Mr. Vesterfelt that he may withdraw his application or ask the Board to deny it because the Board will not license him while his New York license is on probation.

- **Rebeka Plaskon, Applicant for LSWA:** The Board reviewed Ms. Plaskon's application, including her disclosure of discipline on her Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor license with the Bureau of Substance Addiction Services (BSAS). After a brief discussion, the Board directed Ms. Bromley to investigate why the license verification Ms. Plaskon provided with her application is different than the license verification currently available online and whether Ms. Plaskon's agreement with BSAS is disciplinary.

Continuing Education Extension Request

- **Joan Whitney:** The Board reviewed Ms. Whitney's request for an extension to complete her continuing education credits for the last licensing cycle. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Roddy, to allow Ms. Whitney until November 26, 2025 to complete her continuing education credits for the last licensing cycle. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Petition for Reinstatement

- **John Leavitt, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Mr. Leavitt's petition to allow him to reinstate his revoked LICSW license. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Leavitt to a meeting for an interview.

Monitoring

- **Melina Freeman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Freeman's proposal that Geoffrey Cushner supervise her during the term of her conditional licensure agreement. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to approve Mr. Cushner as Ms. Freeman's supervisor. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.
- **Courtney Chapman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Chapman's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Ruiz abstaining.
- **Margie Smith, 2022-000290-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Smith's proposal for either Evelyn Lauture or Lisa Mortimer to supervise her during her probation. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Ruiz, to approve both proposed supervisors. After a roll call vote, the motion passed by a majority vote, with Ms. Carrington voting no.

- **Melissa Hales Keefe, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Keefe's report. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Keefe's supervisor to detail in a revised report Ms. Keefe's strengths and weaknesses, their discussion of Ms. Keefe's clients or supervision of other therapists with clients, and client issues Ms. Keefe has managed as a program director.
- **Jessica Serrano, 2019-001387-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** The Board reviewed Ms. Serrano's proposal that Melissa Carriveau supervise her during her probation. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Serrano and Ms. Carriveau to a meeting for an interview.
- **Meredith Bolden, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report:** The Board reviewed Ms. Bolden's report. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Carrington, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote

Executive Session (Closed 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 12:12 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Carrington, to (1) enter into executive session under G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, § 7, ¶ 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, § 1B; specifically, the Board will discuss and evaluate a continuing education extension request that involves medical records and information of patients; then (2) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer and 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.

The Board entered executive session at 12:12 p.m.

Board maintains separate minutes of executive session.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 12:17 p.m.

Ms. Lundi left the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

Settlement

SW-2023-0071 (DC):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases

SW-2025-0008 (DC):

Refer to the Office of
Prosecutions

SW-2024-0039 (EH):

Refer to the Office of
Prosecutions

SW-2024-0025 (TK):

Invite respondent to a
meeting for an interview

SW-2025-0013 (RJ):

Invite respondent to a
meeting for an interview

SW-2025-0021 (MC):

Invite respondent to a
meeting for an interview

Ms. Lundi returned to the meeting at 12:55 p.m.

SW-2025-0027 (KD):

Dismiss with advisory letter

Adjournment

At 12:57 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Ruiz, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 12:57 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on September 23, 2025.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of August 26, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of July 22, 2025
- LCSW Application of Sosa Samura
- Cara Segal, 2019-001028-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension and Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- LICSW Application of Janelle Clyde
- LICSW Application of Sivan Madar
- LICSW Application of Rita Towers
- LICSW Application of Michelle Bicking
- LICSW Application of Colin Vesterfelt
- LSWA Application of Rebeka Plaskon
- Continuing Education Extension Request of Joan Whitney
- Petition for Reinstatement of John Leavitt

- Melina Freeman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- Courtney Chapman, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 5th Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Margie Smith, 2022-000290-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- Melissa Hales Keefe, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 3rd Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Jessica Serrano, 2019-001387-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor
- Meredith Bolden, Conditional Licensure Agreement, 2nd Quarterly Monitoring Report