



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

KIAME MAHANIAH, MD, MBA
Secretary

ROBERT GOLDSTEIN, MD, PhD
Commissioner

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

**Board of Social Workers
Public Session Meeting Minutes**
September 23, 2025

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Charlene Zuffante
Carrie Kelley (left the meeting at 12:34 p.m., returned to the meeting at 12:47 p.m.)
Tamara Lundi
Quanesha Fuller
Marie Pierre-Victor (arrived at 9:42 a.m.)

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Judith Bromley, Board Counsel
Lauren McShane, Investigative Supervisor
Doris Lugo, Investigator
Jacob Edwards, Investigator

All board members and staff appeared by videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:30 a.m.

Board Business

- **Roll Call Vote for Attendance:** Mr. Bialas called the roll of board members. Charlene Zuffante, Carrie Kelley, Tamara Lundi, and Quanesha Fuller all present by videoconference.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zuffante, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Fuller abstaining.

- **Executive Session Minutes of August 26, 2025:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Lundi, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of August 26, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Fuller abstaining.

Ms. Pierre-Victor arrived at 9:42 a.m.

- **Election of Officers for Fiscal Year 2026:** The Board considered the election of officers for the next fiscal year. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Lundi, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to elect the following officers for fiscal year 2026:
 - Carrie Kelley – Chair
 - Quanesha Fuller – Vice Chair
 - Marie Pierre-Victor – Secretary

The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

- **Meeting Schedule for 2026:** The Board considered a proposed meeting schedule for 2026. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to approve the proposed schedule. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Petition for Reinstatement – Interview

- **John Leavitt, Applicant for LICSW**
 - **Interview of John Leavitt:** Mr. Leavitt appeared with his attorney Maxwell Kraynak and Peter Barbuto and Amy Matthews from the Gavin Foundation to discuss his petition for reinstatement. He explained that he has been working with people who suffer from substance abuse at the Gavin Foundation. Mr. Barbuto, the CEO of the Gavin Foundation, noted that Mr. Leavitt has worked there for a long time, and that Mr. Barbuto relies on him. Ms. Matthews, the Clinical Director, explained that she works with Mr. Leavitt every day, and that he is her “go to” person.

Regarding the complaint that led to the revocation of Mr. Leavitt’s license by default, Mr. Kraynak stated that Mr. Leavitt told his clients that he was leaving his position and how to continue to receive services from the company. Mr. Leavitt explained that he regrets not giving written notice to his clients and noted that his clients were not harmed because the work was brief, crisis work, no care lapsed, and the clients knew where to go for help.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Kelley, seconded by Ms. Fuller, to allow Mr. Leavitt to continue with the license reinstatement process. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Monitoring Interviews

- **Cara Segal, 2019-001028-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor**

- **Interview of Cara Segal and Proposed Supervisor Kathryn Schechter:** Ms. Segal appeared with Dr. Schechter and Ms. Segal's attorney Ingrid Martin to discuss her proposal for Dr. Schechter to be her supervisor for her probation. Dr. Schechter explained that she has been a supervisor for many years and has been practicing since 1996. She has not supervised someone on probation before but has supervised students. She believes that countertransference is the biggest problem that her supervisees experience along with discussing political issues with clients and sexual boundaries – Dr. Schechter described a situation involving a particular supervisee.

The Board then explained procedural issues for Dr. Schechter and Ms. Segal.

After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Zuffante, to approve Dr. Schechter as Ms. Segal's supervisor for her probation. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote, with Ms. Pierre-Victor abstaining.

- **Jessica Serrano, 2019-001387-IT-ENF, Approval of Proposed Supervisor**

- **Interview of Jessica Serrano and Proposed Supervisor Melissa Carriveau:** Ms. Serrano and Ms. Carriveau appeared to discuss Ms. Serrano's proposal for Ms. Carriveau to supervise her for her probation. Ms. Carriveau explained that she has worked with Ms. Serrano before and would need to discuss countertransference with her during supervision. The Board noted that they would prefer a supervisor who is not a friend of Ms. Serrano and is experienced in supervising social workers.

Ms. Serrano withdrew her proposal for Ms. Carriveau to be her supervisor during her probation.

Application Reviews – Reference

- **Eimy Urbaez, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Urbaez's application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Ms. Urbaez's former supervisor who wrote the reference to a meeting for an interview.
- **Robert Bloom, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Mr. Bloom's application, including a reference. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to invite Mr. Bloom's former supervisor who wrote the reference to a meeting for an interview.

Application Review – Experience

- **Sivan Madar, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Madar’s application, including her foreign education and experience. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Pierre-Victor, to deny Ms. Madar’s application because she was not an LCSW and was not under the supervision of the equivalent of an LICSW when she received her experience hours. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review – Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Marie Okonkwor, Applicant for LSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Okonkwor’s application, including her disclosure of discipline in New York, Florida, and California for false statements. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Okonkwor whether she would like to withdraw her application or have the Board deny it.

Application Review – Pending Discipline in Another Jurisdiction

- **Martha Amador, Applicant for LCSW:** The Board reviewed Ms. Amador’s application, including her disclosure of a pending case against her in California for unlicensed practice. After a brief discussion, the Board directed Mr. Bialas to ask Ms. Amador for documentation showing that the case against her is now closed.

Monitoring

- **Tara Keefe, 2022-000297-IT-ENF and 2022-000338-IT-ENF, 1st 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 for more detail about specific cases and situations discussed during supervision and to submit a revised report.

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

At 11:30 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Fuller, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to (1) enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, § 65C to review a settlement offer, conduct case interviews, and review new cases, and then, after the conclusion of investigative conference, (2) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered investigative conference at 11:30 a.m.

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

Cases

SW-2023-0077 (JL):

Refer to the Office of
Prosecutions

SW-2024-0022 (SS):

Dismiss with advisory letter

Settlement

SW-2023-0037 (DS):

Gave direction to prosecutor

Case Interviews

Ms. Kelley recused herself from the following matter and left the meeting at 12:34 p.m.

SW-2024-0011 (AA) and SW-2024-0012 (AA):

Interviewed respondent;
dismiss

Ms. Kelley returned to the meeting at 12:47 p.m.

SW-2024-0025 (TK):

Interviewed respondent; refer
to the Office of Prosecutions

Case

SW-2025-0026 (AG):

Dismiss

Adjournment

At 1:59 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Pierre-Victor, seconded by Ms. Kelley, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Approval

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on October 28, 2025.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of September 23, 2025
- Public Meeting Minutes of August 26, 2025
- Executive Session Minutes of August 26, 2025
- LICSW Reinstatement Petition of John Leavitt
- Cara Segal, 2019-001028-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor Kathryn Schechter
- Jessica Serrano, 2019-001387-IT-ENF, Submission of Proposed Supervisor Melissa Carriveau
- LCSW Application of Eimy Urbaez

- LICSW Application of Robert Bloom
- LICSW Application of Sivan Madar
- LSW Application of Marie Okonkwo
- LCSW Application of Martha Amador
- Tara Keefe, 2022-000297-IT-ENF and 2022-000338-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report