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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists
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REGULATION

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

Board Meeting Minutes

March 5, 2021
Conference Call
9:00 AM

Members Present:

Lisa Brown, Chair
Irene Sedlacko, Vice-Chair
Pranita Amarasinghe
Heather Hanley
Dominica Nichols
E. Reese

Members Absent:

Catherine Drennan

Staff Present:

Richard Lawless, Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m. Pursuant to Governor Charles D. Baker's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, s. 20, dated March 12, 2020, all board members and staff appeared telephonically or by videoconference.

Approval of the Public Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2020

The Board reviewed the Public Meeting Minutes from December 4, 2020. A motion was made Ms. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Sedlacko to approve the minutes as drafted.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The motion passed.

Executive Director Report



Mr. Lawless reported that Associate Executive Director Debbie Cassano was no longer with the Board, and that he would be handling all Board operations for the time being. He also reported an increase in telehealth and licensure requirement questions.

Board Counsel Report

Attorney Gasson spoke about the Board's ongoing review of regulations.

Reinstatements

The Board reviewed the following applications for reinstatement:

1. **Erin Burtnyk**

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Ms. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Amarasinghe to request additional information from the licensee and delegate review of additional information to Board Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

2. **Jennifer Racine**

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Ms. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Amarasinghe, to ratify the Board Chair and Vice-Chair's approval of the submitted continuing education credits.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

3. **Natalie Marsh**

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Ms. Hanley, seconded by E. Reese to request additional information from the licensee and delegate review of additional information to Board Chair and Vice Chair.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

4. **Shira Hirshberg**

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by E. Reese, seconded by Ms. Hanley to request additional information from the licensee and for the Board to review any additional information at a future meeting, and to delegate review of information to the Chair and Vice-Chair if needed.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

5. Tracey Smith

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by E. Reese, seconded by Ms. Hanley to request additional information from the licensee and for the Board to review any additional information at a future meeting.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

6. Victoria Roberts

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Dr. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Hanley to approve the submitted continuing education credits and move forward with the reinstatement process.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Amarasinghe (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

Ms. Amarasinghe left the meeting at or around 11:00 a.m.

Application Approvals:

1. Nivia Lisboa

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Dr. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Hanley to approve the applicant's education and work experience and to be approved to take the exam.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

Discussion:

Telehealth Policy

The Board discussed the proposed policy on telehealth services, which was written to address inquiries from licensed Dietitians and Nutritionists in other states regarding treatment of patients in Massachusetts, and Massachusetts licensees treating patients outside of Massachusetts.

After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Nichols, seconded by E. Reese, to approve the telehealth policy.

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

Application Process for Candidates Who Have Passed the CNS Exam

The Board discussed the application process for applicants who have passed the CNS exam. The board gave direction to staff to no longer require applicants who have completed the CNS exam to complete a work experience form and have their work experience approved by the Board.

Correspondence:

1. Email from A. Abdelfattah on MD degree course work for licensure as a Dietitian and Nutritionist.

The Board discussed an email asking if a Medical Doctorate degree from outside the United States could be used towards fulfilling the Board's educational requirements for licensure. The Board gave direction to staff to respond that the candidate would still need to complete the Board's required coursework in Dietetics and Nutrition in order to meet the educational requirements for licensure.

2. Email from K. Booth regarding the eligibility of distance-based internships.

The Board discussed an email asking if distance-based internships would count towards fulfilling the Board's experience requirement. The Board gave direction to staff to respond that if the internship is approved by CDR, then it is acceptable to the Board.

Other Topics From the Floor

Mr. Hanley suggested that the Board move discussion and correspondence items to earlier in the meeting, and move reinstatements and application approvals to later in the agenda, to accommodate members of the public who are attending for discussion items.

Public Comment:

Jule O'Donovan from the Massachusetts Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (MAND) spoke about legislation that will define and establish permanent telehealth provisions in Massachusetts, and that MAND is receiving many questions about telehealth. She also mentioned that she will be leaving her position at MAND and a new representative will be attending future meetings.

Adjournment

A motion was made by E. Reese, seconded by Ms. Sedlacko to adjourn the public meeting at **12:00 p.m.**

The Chair called for a Roll call vote:

Dr. Brown (Yes), Ms. Sedlacko (Yes), Ms. Hanley (Yes), Dr. Nichols (Yes), E. Reese (Yes)

The Motion passed.

Documents Used During the Meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes of the December 4, 2020 Public Meeting

Continuing Education Documentation for Erin Burtnyk, Jennifer Racine, Natalie Marsh, Shira Hirshberg, Tracey Smith, Victoria Roberts

Application for Nivia Lisboa

Draft Policy on Telehealth

Email dated 1.25.21 from A. Abdelfattah

Email dated 1.8.21 from K. Booth

The above minutes were approved at the open meeting held on June 11, 2021.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Richard Lawless', written in a cursive style.

Richard Lawless
Executive Director