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MIKE KENNEALY
SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
Board of Registration of Dietitians and Nutritionists
1000 Washington Street, Suite 710
Boston, Massachusetts 02118

EDWARD A. PALLESCHI
UNDERSECRETARY OF CONSUMER
AFFAIRS AND BUSINESS
REGULATION

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

Board Meeting Minutes

June 11, 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 9:02 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 March 5, 2021

The Board reviewed the Public Meeting Minutes from March 5, 2021. A motion was made Ms. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Amarasinghe 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 spoke about pending legislation that would move the Board to the Department of Public Health. He also reported that remote meetings were permitted to continue through April of 2022.

Board Counsel Report

Attorney Gasson spoke about recent legislation that would extend the Commonwealth's allowance of remote Board meetings.

Correspondence:

1. Email from B. Burgos on Course Requirements for Licensure

The Board discussed an email asking about whether specific courses would be accepted towards the educational requirements for licensure. The Board gave direction to staff that the Board cannot pre-approve courses, and that it may make sense for the individual to work with an accredited Dietetics and Nutrition program, and consider a Didactic Program in Dietetics, which would provide the required coursework.

2. Email from C. Russo regarding the Eligibility of University Courses for Continuing Education

The Board discussed an email asking how many credits would be awarded for a university course that was started before the licensee's official licensure date, but was completed after they were licensed. The Board gave direction to staff to respond that the Board would use the date of completion of the course as the determination of when the credits were earned, and that the licensee can receive full credit for the course for her Continuing Education Units ("CEUs").

3. Email from M. Oliveira on Using Prior Continuing Education Credits for Reinstatement

The Board discussed an email asking if a licensee could use the hours earned from a CDE certification from 2014 towards their reinstatement CEUs. The Board gave direction to staff that these hours would not be credited towards their reinstatement, as the CDE hours were earned prior to the lapsed cycles, and that the licensee will need to obtain an additional 60 CEUs in order to qualify for reinstatement.

4. Email from S. Donofrio on Eligibility of Work Experience as Solo Practitioner

The Board discussed an email asking if their work experience as an independent practitioner would be able to be used towards the Board's work experience requirement for licensure. The Board gave direction to staff to respond that work experience must be supervised, and that the individual may want to reach out to licensed Dietitians and Nutritionists to arrange for supervision, and that they may also be able to arrange for supervision through their graduate program if it's related to dietetics and nutrition.

Discussion:

Review of Board Regulations – 268 CMR 2.00-6.00

The Board reviewed regulations 268 CMR 2.00-6.00. Areas of discussion included removing waivers of CEUs, adjusting reinstatement fees, and reinforcing the requirement of supervised work experience for licensure.

After discussion, a motion was made by E. Reese, seconded by Ms. Hanley, to approve the discussed changes to the regulations, and to submit the changes for review by the agency.

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.

Public Comment:

None

Reinstatements

The Board reviewed the following applications for reinstatement:

1. Andrea Dacey

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Ms. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Sedlacko 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.

2. Shira Hirshberg

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by E. Reese, seconded by Ms. Amarasinghe 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.

3. Sara Mostafavian

After review of materials provided, a motion was made by Ms. Hanley, seconded by E. Reese to approve 112.5 CEUs and 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.

Application Approvals:

1. Andrea Feeney

The Board reviewed the applicant's education and work experience. After discussion, the Board gave direction to staff to request the applicant to take additional coursework to fulfill the Board's requirements.

2. Joanne Malocca

The Board reviewed the applicant's information. After discussion, a motion was made by Dr. Nichols, seconded by Ms. Hanley, to waive the requirement for an official transcript due to the unique circumstances preventing a European Union university from sending an official transcript to the Board, and to move forward with the application.

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.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Ms. Hanley, seconded by Ms. Sedlacko to adjourn the public meeting at **11:41 a.m.**

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.

Documents Used During the Meeting:

Agenda

Draft Minutes of the March 5, 2021 Public Meeting

Email dated 5.21.21 from B. Burgos

Email dated 5.2.21 from C. Russo

Email dated 5.27.21 from M. Oliveira

Email dated 5.24.21 from S. Donofrio

268 CMR 2.00-6.00

Continuing Education Documentation for Andrea Dacey, Shira Hirshberg, and Sara Mostafavian
Applications for Andrea Feeney and Joanne Malocca

The above minutes were approved at the open meeting held on October 1, 2021.

Richard Lawless
Executive Director