

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS

250 Washington Street

Boston, MA 02108

Thursday, August 1, 2024

VIA WebEx

9:30 AM

GENERAL SESSION BOARD MEETING MINUTES

(Open Session)

Board Members Present: Allison Cirino, Genetic Counselor
Diane Ahern, Genetic Counselor
Shelley McCormick, Genetic Counselor
Stephanie Coury, Genetic Counselor

Board Members

Not Present: Jillian Fleming, Public Member

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Tracy Tam, Assistant Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski, Management Analyst, Multi-Boards, BHP
Carol Larkin, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Heather Engman, Chief Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, BHPL

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

At 9:36 AM Ms. Allison Cirino, Board Chair, welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order. Ms. Cirino reminded Board members the meeting was being recorded and asked for a roll call vote to determine quorum.

Roll call as follows: Allison Cirino: present; Diane Ahern: present; Shelley McCormick: present; Stephanie Coury: present

Absent: Jillian Fleming

II. Approval of General Session Agenda

The Board reviewed the August 01, 2024, General Session Agenda.

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Allison Cirino asked if any Board members needed to recuse themselves from an item listed on the agenda. No recusals were noted.

ACTION:

Ms. Allison Cirino made a motion to approve the agenda, which was seconded by Ms. Shelley McCormick, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Allison Cirino: approve; Diane Ahearn: approve; Shelley McCormick: approve; Stephanie Coury: approve.
Absent: Jillian Fleming

Document: August 01, 2024, General Session Agenda

III. **Approval of Minutes**

The Board reviewed the April 04, 2024, General Session Minutes.

DISCUSSION:

None.

ACTION:

Ms. Allison Cirino made a motion to approve the minutes, which was seconded by Ms. Shelley McCormick, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Allison Cirino: approve; Diane Ahearn: approve; Shelley McCormick: approve; Stephanie Coury: approve.
Absent: Jillian Fleming. Recused: None.

Document: April 04, 2024, General Session Minutes

IV. **Flex Session**

DISCUSSION:

Mr. Stephen Joubert asked for attendance at the next board meeting scheduled on Thursday, October 3rd, 2024, at 9:30 AM. All Board members present stated they would be able to attend.

Ms. Allison Cirino asked for an update on a previous discussion about a pathway for foreign trained individuals with certification from another country to obtain licensure in Massachusetts such as Canadian applicants that are certified with CAGC. Mr. Steven Joubert stated that the ABGC recognizes programs from Canada and Australia and those applicants could be approved for licensure in Massachusetts. Ms. Engman stated that the statute for licensure would require all applicants to meet the requirements for licensure and foreign applicants should be reviewed on a case-by-case basis to make sure they match up to the ABGC standard. Ms. Engman also stated they have a blanket policy on Australia and Canada, but other foreign applicants would have to have qualifications equal to American candidates. Mr. Joubert advised the Board to defer to the mass.gov website for the section on foreign trained individuals.

Ms. Cirino asked about the term limits for Board members. Ms. Cirino was concerned about the time frame for replacing Board members whose term limits are coming to an end. Mr. Joubert stated that the term limit was three years. Mr. Joubert also stated that if a Board member would like to be reappointed, they just need to send an updated resume and letter of interest would have to be sent to the Commissioner's office for approval with no guarantee that the extension would be approved. The Governor could also choose to appoint a Board member for one or two years also. Mr. Joubert stated

that he actively reaches out to the community to recruit new candidates through word of mouth, LinkedIn, and the mass.gov website. Mr. Joubert also talked about Board members can submit a resignation letter if they no longer want to serve. Mr. Joubert also talked about holdover seats when a Board member's term limit is up so they can continue to stay on the Board. Ms. Cirino stated if we need to replace a Board member, she can spread the word by putting up a posting on the Massachusetts Genetic Counselor's Facebook page.

V. Executive Session

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Allison Cirino, Board Chair, read the Executive Session Statement as follows: "The Board will meet in Executive Session as authorized pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(1) for the purposes of discussing the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health, rather than professional competence, of an individual, or to discuss the discipline or dismissal of, or complaints or charges brought against an individual. 1. The Board will consider approving prior executive session minutes in accordance with M.G.L. ch.30A, § 22(a) for previous executive sessions of the Board. 2. Specifically, the Board will discuss a good moral character matter, and decide whether to reactivate a licensee's application. The Board will not reconvene in public session subsequent to the closed session(s)."

ACTION:

Motion to move to the Executive Session was made by Ms. Allison Cirino, which was seconded by Ms. Shelley McCormick, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Allison Cirino: approve; Diane Ahearn: approve; Shelley McCormick: approve; Stephanie Coury: approve. Absent: Jillian Fleming. Recused: None.

VI. 65C Session

N/A

VII. Adjudicatory Session

N/A

VIII. Adjournment

There being no other business before the Board, Ms. Allison Cirino motioned to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Ms. Shelley McCormick, and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Allison Cirino: approve; Diane Ahearn: approve; Shelley McCormick: approve; Stephanie Coury: approve.

Absent: Jillian Fleming. Recused: None.

Let the records show the meeting adjourned at 9:51 AM.

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors is scheduled for October 3rd, 2024, via WebEx at 9:30AM.

Respectfully submitted,
The Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors