

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF REGISTRATION OF GENETIC COUNSELORS
BOARD MEETING
250 WASHINGTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02108

October 6, 2022
9:30 a.m.
Via WebEx

MINUTES

Board Members Present: Allison Cirino, Genetic Counselor
Diane Ahern, Genetic Counselor
Shelley McCormick, Genetic Counselor
Jillian Fleming, Public Member
Stephanie Coury, Genetic Counselor

Board Members not present: Diane Ahern, Genetic Counselor

Staff Present: Steven Joubert, Executive Director, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Mary Strachan, Board Counsel, Office of the General Counsel, BHPL
Kayla Mikalauski, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Patricia Young, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL
Brian Arata, Office Support Specialist, Multi-Boards, BHPL

Staff not Present: None.

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum

Board Chair, Allison Cirino called the meeting of the Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors to order at 9:40AM and let everyone know that the meeting was being recorded. A quorum of the Board was established with members present via WebEx as follows: Allison Cirino: present; Jillian Fleming: present; Shelley McCormick: present; Stephanie Coury: present. Absent: Diane Ahearn

II. Approval of Agenda

DISCUSSION:
None.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the October 6th, 2022 Agenda by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Ms. McCormick and passed unanimously by Board members present via Webex as follows: Allison Cirino: Approve; Jillian Fleming: Approve; Shelley McCormick: Approve; Stephanie Coury: Approve Absent: Diane Ahearn

Document: General Session Board Meeting Agenda – October 6, 2022

III. Approval of Minutes:

DISCUSSION:

None.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the July 7, 2022 Minutes by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Ms. Coury and passed unanimously by Board members present via WebEx as follows: Allison Cirino: Approve; Jillian Fleming: Approve; Shelley McCormick: Approve; Stephanie Coury: Approve Absent: Diane Ahearn

Document: July 7, 2022 General Session Minutes

IV. Continuing Education Credits Review:

A. New Graduate Genetic Counselors & New Licensees

Ms. Cirino stated that the Board would like to decide whether to waive the Continuing Education requirement for new graduates and newly licensed Genetic Counselors for their first renewal period. Ms. Cirino suggested if a person is licensed within last year of a two-year renewal cycle before the first renewal period that 0 CEUs should be granted. Ms. Cirino also suggested if licensed within the first year of a two-year renewal cycle before the first renewal period that 25 CEUs should be granted.

Ms. Strachan stated that in order to change the number of required CEUs, the regulation language would need to be changed. Ms. Strachan stated that regulation 270 CMR 3.06(3)(a) states that “each fully licensed Genetic Counselor must complete a minimum of 50 continuing education hours per renewal period.” Ms. Strachan stated 270.CMR 3.06(3)(b) states “Genetic Counselors issued full licensure between February 1st of an even number year and January 31st of an odd number year shall complete a minimum of 25 continuing education hours.”

Ms. Cirino stated that she would like the regulation to be changed to include 0 continuing education hours until the first renewal period. Ms. McCormick agreed with Ms. Cirino stating she believes that it will be too much on the newly licensed Genetic Counselors. Ms. Coury stated that she also agreed with the 0 continuing education hours as they are just graduating and just had the most current education within school.

Ms. Strachan explained that changing regulatory language can only be changed by following the process set out in the law. That is, the Board proposes new language and votes to send it to executive review, meaning review by the Commissioner's Office, the Secretary of Health and Human Services Office and the Governor's Office. The executive review process may result in (a) accepting the language proposed, or (b) edits to the proposed language. The Board must vote to accept the edits, send it back for review and eventually, hold a public listening session to solicit public comments. After the public comments are received, Board members review and determine if any additional changes to the language should be made in light of the comments. Following the public listening session, any new edits must undergo executive review and then, eventually the changes get published. This is a lengthy process, and it can take about 2 years from start to finish. Ms. Cirino asked if Ms. Strachan can draft a policy to reflect their wishes? Ms. Strachan said the Board can't waive its own regulatory requirements by policy unless there is an emergency for a limited period of time. Ms. Strachan will confer with other board counsels and respond at the next meeting. Ms. Strachan also stated that she plans to retire in January 2023, so she will not be present for the next Board meeting scheduled for February 2023. Given that, Ms. Cirino asked if the Board could schedule another meeting prior to January 2023, so that Ms. Strachan can report back to Board members. Ms. Strachan stated that she would have a policy draft written and all board staff agreed to an Ad-Hoc meeting at 11am on November 7th, 2022.

V. Reactivation Licensure Fees:

A. License Reactivation Fees for Lapsed Licenses and Cost Prohibitive

Ms. McCormick stated that she was concerned that it is very expensive for Genetic Counselors who have allowed a Massachusetts license to lapse for a reason as such as moving to another state and then returning, taking a break in the profession etc. Ms. McCormick asked if the money to reinstate could be changed? As of right now, the board charges a late fee and a renewal fee for every cycle that is missed. Ms. Strachan stated that this a bureau-wide policy. Mr. Joubert stated that it has been discussed at a managers' meeting and is an ongoing topic. Mr. Joubert stated that they have identified an acceptable policy to change 2 renewal cycle fees and a late fee of \$57 and that all boards within the bureau have agreed to adopt this, and this proposal has been sent to the Secretary of Administration and Finance to consider and approve.

VI. Flex Session:

A. Announcements:

Mr. Joubert stated that he does not have any information to share at this time.

B. Topics for next agenda:

None.

VII. Adjournment:

Motion to adjourn at 11:25AM. by Ms. Cirino, seconded by Ms. Coury and passed unanimously by Board members present via Webex as follows: Allison Cirino: Approve; Shelley McCormick: Approve; Stephanie Coury: Approve Absent: Diane Ahearn, Jillian Fleming

(had to excuse herself at 1030am)

The next meeting of the Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors is scheduled on **November 7, 2022** via WebEx at 11AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Board of Registration of Genetic Counselors