

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS

THIS AGENDA CONSTITUTES NOTICE OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE OPEN MEETING LAW, M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20

Tuesday, July 13, 2021
12:30 p.m.

General Session is open to the public and will be held via Webex at:
<https://state.ma.webex.com/state/ma/j.php?MTID=mbfe6edf292e7d5d563fa0f78db0831f5>

Call-In Telephone number 1-866-692-3580 (toll-free)

Meeting Number/Access Code: 161 410 8892

Meeting Password: xiJaxwY3B78

Agenda

All votes must be via roll call

Time	Item #	Item	Exhibits	Staff Contact
12:30p.m.	I	Call to Order & Introductions Determination of Quorum Notice of Electronic Recording	None	Board Chair
	II	Conflict of Interest Approval of Agenda	Draft Agenda	Board Chair
	III	Approval of Minutes: A. June 8, 2021	Draft Minutes	Board Chair
	IV	<u>Amendment to 272 CMR 4.00 and Emergency Order</u>	Memo	Board Counsel
	V	<u>Review of Training and Education Application</u> A. <u>Berkshire Community College</u>	Application	ED

Board Meeting Agenda July 13, 2021
Board of Certification of Community Health Workers

ADA Compliance Notice: If you need reasonable accommodations in order to participate in the meeting, contact the DPH ADA Coordinator Yulanda Kiner, Phone: 617-624-5848 in advance of the meeting. While the Board will do its best to accommodate you, certain accommodations may require distinctive requests or the hiring of outside contractors and may not be available if requested immediately before the meeting.

	VI	<u>Impact of COVID-19 on Training Program Design Discussion</u>	None	Board Chair
	VII	<u>Community College CHW Training - Credit vs. Non-Credit Programs</u>	None	Board Chair
	VIII	<u>Review of Training Program FAQs</u>	FAQs	Board Chair
	IX	<u>Flex Session</u> A. Announcements 1. Board Vacancies Update B. Topics for future agenda 1. Tiering 2. Reciprocity	None	ED/Board Counsel/Chair
	X	<u>Executive Session:</u> N/A	N/A	
	XI	<u>65C Session:</u> N/A	N/A	Board Counsel
	XII	<u>Adjudicatory Session:</u> N/A	N/A	Board Counsel
4:00 p.m.	XIII	Adjournment: Next meeting scheduled for August 10, 2021.	N/A	Board Chair

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COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
BOARD OF CERTIFICATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH WORKERS
BOARD MEETING

July 13, 2021
239 Causeway Street - 4th floor, Room 417A/B
Boston, MA 02114 VIA WebEx
(OPEN SESSION)
MINUTES

Board Members

Present: Claire Santarelli, Chair | Commissioner's Designee
Joanne Calista, Vice Chair | Community Health Worker Training
Organization Representative
Denise Lau, Secretary | Public Member
Catherine Bourassa | Community-Based Community Health Worker
Employer
Sharon George | Community Health Worker 4
Sheila Och | Community Health Worker 2
Hugo Santos | Community Health Worker 3

Board Members

Not Present: Susan Dargon-Hart | Massachusetts League of Community Health Centers
Representative

Staff Present:

Steven Joubert | Executive Director – Multi-Boards, BHPL
Karen Geoghegan | Assistant Executive Director - Multi-Boards, BHPL
Mary Strachan | Board Counsel - Office of the General Counsel, DPH
Heather Engman | Board Counsel – Office of the General Counsel, DPH
Eleanor Montgomery | Office Support Specialist – Multi-Boards, BHPL

Guests:

Dr. Elena Nuciforo | Director of Workforce Development: Health Care
Berkshire Community College

I. Call to Order | Determination of Quorum:

Ms. Claire Santarelli, Board Chair, called the meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers to order at 12:36 P.M. and provided verbal notice of recording. A quorum was established with members present via WebEx via roll call as follows: Claire Santarelli: Present; Joanne Calista: Present; Sharon George: Present; Denise Lau: Present; Catherine Bourassa: Present; Sheila Och: Present; Hugo Santos: Present. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart.

II. Conflict of Interest | Approval of Regular Session Agenda

Ms. Santarelli asked members to review the agenda.

DISCUSSION:

None.

ACTION:

Motion by Ms. Santarelli to approve the agenda, seconded by Ms. Denise Lau and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Claire Santarelli: yes; Joanne Calista: yes; Sharon George: yes; Denise Lau: yes; Catherine Bourassa: yes; Sheila Och: yes; Hugo Santos: yes. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

Document: July 13, 2021, Agenda

III. Approval of Minutes: June 8, 2021,

DISCUSSION:

None.

ACTION:

Motion to approve the June 8, 2021, minutes as presented by Ms. Lau, seconded by Ms. Santarelli and passed unanimously by roll-call vote as follows: Claire Santarelli: yes; Joanne Calista: yes; Sharon George: yes; Denise Lau: yes; Catherine Bourassa: yes; Sheila Och: Abstain; Hugo Santos: yes. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart. Recused: None. Abstained: Sheila Och. Ms. Sheila Och was having connectivity issues which prevented her from voting.

Document: June 8, 2021, Minutes

IV. Amendment to 272 CMR 4.00 and Emergency Order

DISCUSSION:

Board Counsel, Ms. Mary Strachan explained that the Board had voted on amendments to 272 CMR 4.00 which would extend the experience-only pathway. This pathway ended on June 30, 2021, but the amended regulations have not yet been passed. Because of this, the Commissioner has issued an emergency order which allows the Board to continue issuing certification to applicants. She elaborated that the Board needed to vote to expedite the emergency regulations so that they can be put in place before the emergency order expires. This would mean the Board would have a compressed time to hold a public hearing and get them passed on an emergency basis. Ms. Strachan explained the process for the public hearing and let Board members know that she would share the date once it had been decided.

ACTION:

Motion to expedite the regulations on an emergency basis by Ms. Joanne Calista, seconded by Ms. Santarelli and unanimously approved by roll-call vote as follows: Claire Santarelli: yes; Joanne Calista: yes; Sharon George: yes; Denise Lau: yes; Catherine Bourassa: yes; Sheila Och: yes; Hugo Santos: yes. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

V. Review of Training and Education Application

A. Berkshire Community College

Executive Director, Mr. Steven Joubert welcomed Dr. Elena Nuciforo to the meeting and introduced her to the Board. Dr. Nuciforo thanked the Board for reviewing the program application and giving feedback.

DISCUSSION:

Dr. Nuciforo explained that Berkshire Community College (BCC) had developed the program as a non-credit alternative based on feedback from participants in the credit-bearing program in Community Health, a number of whom had advanced degrees. She explained that they have amended their program to no longer use the word “certified” to avoid confusion with state certification. She additionally noted that BCC was unable to dictate whether or not a field used a CORI, but that BCC was comfortable with field placements not using it so long as the participant was not working directly with patients in their placement. She further elaborated that a positive CORI was not always a barrier to a field placement. Pointing to the 10th Grade English Language Proficiency requirement, she stated that she discussed this with the Dean and explained that they advise people to have at least intermediate English proficiency in order to gain the best educational experience as the courses are conducted in English and the assignments require English proficiency. She noted that they would work with any student where there was a language barrier, and that BCC was in the process of developing a course in healthcare vocabulary and community health for English language learners. Ms. Calista asked Dr. Nuciforo to talk a little more about the students in the program who had Master’s or PhD level education. She explained that many of them had personal and/or impactful experience with community health which got them interested in the field. Ms. Sharon George noted that she agreed that an English language proficiency is important and felt that they should encourage CHWs to have or obtain a GED even if it is not required. Dr. Nuciforo agreed and stated that Community Health Work was also a great entry into higher education in the medical field.

ACTION:

Motion to approve Berkshire Community College’s application by Ms. Calista, seconded by Ms. Catherine Bourassa and unanimously approved by roll call vote as follows: Claire Santarelli: yes; Joanne Calista: yes; Sharon George: yes; Denise Lau: yes; Catherine Bourassa: yes; Sheila Och: yes; Hugo Santos: yes. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

VI. Impact of COVID-19 on Training Program Design

DISCUSSION:

Ms. Santarelli reminded the Board that during the COVID-19 state of emergency, the Board had waived the requirement that no more than 70% of an education and training program take place online. Now that the state of emergency is over, the Board wanted to revisit that requirement. Recalling the Board’s original conversation about online learning, Ms. Calista stated that the Board put this regulation in place to avoid a scenario where there is exclusively didactic learning

and limited student interaction. She stated that since schools were forced to adapt during COVID, there have been lots of innovative ways to address this. Ms. Gail Hirsch stated that the Board had originally wanted to deter online programs from out of state applying to certify CHWs in Massachusetts. Ms. Calista additionally noted that it was important to consider the impact of reverting to the original requirement as there have been disparities in vaccination rates within the communities that CHWs live and work in. She also stated that access to public transportation is an important factor. Ms. Sheila Och voiced her agreement and elaborated that she felt that the Board should consider both the short-term and the long-term. She stated that she would like to waive the requirement and then revisit it again in the spring. Ms. Santarelli pointed out that some training and education programs are putting together their applications and are looking to the Board to know if they are considered eligible if they have a fully online program. She stated that she would like to be able to give them an extension to the waiver for at least the short-term future. Given the timeline, Ms. Strachan recommended that the Board vote on a waiver and then revisit for the long-term future.

ACTION:

Motion by Ms. Santarelli to extend the waiver of the in-person requirement for training and education programs through July 31, 2022, seconded by Ms. Och and unanimously approved by roll-call vote as follows: Claire Santarelli: yes; Joanne Calista: yes; Sharon George: yes; Denise Lau: yes; Catherine Bourassa: yes; Sheila Och: yes; Hugo Santos: yes. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

The Board took a break at 1:47 PM.

The Board reconvened at 1:57 PM.

VII. Community College CHW Training – Credit vs. Non-Credit programs

DISCUSSION:

At the last meeting, Board members had run up against a number of potential barriers with the program presented by Berkshire Community College. In conversation, it came up that some of these (for example, English language proficiency) were requirements to be an accredited program. Ms. Santarelli acknowledged a member of the public who wished to speak. Ms. Jacqueline Dick from Northern Essex Community College stated that she understood that this kind of training from an academic institution was fairly new. She explained that many community colleges prided themselves in equity and social justice within their programs, which was a similar goal to that of the Board. She reiterated that they are invested in their communities and that even non-matriculated students receive access to the school's services and facilities. She elaborated that she felt it was important for CHWs to have a variety of training and educational program options because they do not all have the same career goals and each type can provide a great step forward. Ms. Calista thanked Ms. Dick for her statement and agreed that the Board does need many options for training. Ms. Santarelli echoed Ms. Calista's thanks and stated that this was important context through which to look at community college-based training programs.

VIII. Review of Training Program FAQs

DISCUSSION:

The Board wanted to ensure that the FAQs reflected the Board's most recent discussion, regarding the online requirement for training programs. Mr. Joubert explained that Board members should forward any changes to him, and he would incorporate them into the document. Ms. Santarelli stated that she would like this to be an external document to either circulate or post to the website. Mr. Joubert replied that they would bring it back to the Board for a vote next month. ACTION: None.

IX. Flex Session

A. Announcements

- i. Board Vacancies Update Mr. Joubert stated that names have been submitted to the Governor's office but that there is no new update.

B. Topics for Future Agenda

Ms. Santarelli requested that the Board discuss the process of approving an organization for continuing education. She noted that the Board had been tabling their discussion regarding tiering and reciprocity and wondered if they might be interested in bringing it up again. Ms. Hirsch stated that she receives inquiries regarding tiering and felt that it could be worth discussing what the Board would need in order to make an informed decision regarding tiering.

X. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 2:27 P.M. by Ms. Santarelli, seconded by Ms. Lau and unanimously approved by roll-call vote as follows: Claire Santarelli: yes; Joanne Calista: yes; Sharon George: yes; Denise Lau: yes; Catherine Bourassa: yes; Sheila Och: yes; Hugo Santos: yes. Absent: Susan Dargon-Hart. Recused: None. Abstained: None.

The next meeting of the Board of Certification of Community Health Workers is scheduled for Tuesday, August 10, 2021.

Respectfully submitted:

The Board of Certification of Community Health Workers.