

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting
December 20, 2019
1000 Washington Street, Room 1D
Boston, MA 02118

Board Members Present:

Bill Ahearn, Chair
Scott Cohen, Member
Jennifer Paine, Member
Steven Kaplan, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member
Susan Egan, Member
Heidi Creighton, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member

Board Members Not Present:

Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member

Staff Members Present:

James A. O'Connor, Board Legal Counsel
Brian P. Bialas, Executive Director
Doris Lugo, Investigator

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:20 a.m.

Public Meeting Minutes of November 15, 2019

The minutes for the public meeting of November 15, 2019 were discussed. A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to approve the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Investigative Conference (Closed Session under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C)

At 10:23 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Creighton, to enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to conduct a case interview and review cases. The motion passed unanimously.

During the investigative conference, the board took the following action:

2019-000615-IT-ENF (MS)	Interviewed Licensee; Dismissed with Advisory Letter
2019-000573-IT-ENF (KD)	Dismissed
2019-001146-IT-ENF (EK)	Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2019-001165-IT-ENF (AH)	Dismissed
2019-000139-IT-ENF (SN)	Dismissed
2019-001029-IT-ENF (ST)	Dismissed

At 11:26 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Egan, to exit investigative conference and return to open session. The motion passed unanimously.

Monitoring Report

- **Marilyn Perlman, 2016-000951-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation:** After a brief discussion, the Board directed staff to invite Ms. Perlman and her supervisor Dr. Marie Caparso to the next board meeting for an interview.

Discussion

- **Criteria for Fitness to Practice Evaluations:** Mr. Kaplan discussed the need for better fitness to practice evaluations that are mandated by consent agreements. The Board discussed the issue and determined that, in the future, the Board should specify referral questions and require evaluations by psychologists trained in forensic evaluations.
- **Applied Behavior Analyst Application Checklist:** Mr. Bialas presented a revised application checklist that will be the basis for creating an online-only application process for Applied Behavior Analysts. A motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Paine, to approve the application checklist and new application process. The motion passed unanimously.
- **NCMHC Exam English as a Second Language Accommodation Form:** Mr. Bialas presented a form for LMHC applicants to use when seeking an examination accommodation from the Board because English is not their primary language. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Kaplan, to: (1) revise the form, (2) permit staff to approve an accommodation if applicants provide documentation that they have been given an accommodation for this reason before, and (3) give all applicants who qualify for this accommodation 50% extra time and access to a word-for-word translation dictionary. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence

- **11.4.19 Email from N. Berry re: CEU Waiver:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Kaplan, to allow a six-month extension. The motion passed unanimously.
- **12.2.19 Email from R. Dean re: CEU Extension:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Paine, to allow a one-week extension. The motion passed unanimously.
- **12.10.19 Email from D. Hillis re: CEU Extension:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Creighton, to allow a three-month extension. The motion passed unanimously.
- **12.4.19 Email from A. Matthews re: CEU Exception:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Paine, to deny the request. The motion passed unanimously.
- **12.19.19 Email from J. Ronaghan re: CEU Extension:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Vercillo, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to allow a one-month extension. The motion passed unanimously.

Executive Session (Closed Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with M.G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and M.G.L. c. 214, s. 1B)

At 12:06 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Belhumeur, seconded by Ms. Creighton, to enter into a closed executive session under M.G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with M.G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and M.G.L. c. 214, s. 1B to review sensitive medical and personal information in CEU extension and waiver requests and NCMHC examination accommodation requests. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

At 12:28 p.m., a motion was made by Ms. Creighton, seconded by Mr. Kaplan, to exit executive session and return to open session. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

Application Review

- **Borja Vazquez-Roso:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Kaplan, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to approve the application. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:34 p.m.

The above minutes were approved at the open meeting held on January 17, 2020.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used by the Board at the Open Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of December 20, 2019
- Draft Public Minutes of November 15, 2019
- Marilyn Perlman, 2016-000951-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Probation
- Fitness to Practice Notes
- Mental Competency: Best Practices Model (National Judicial College)
- Applied Behavior Analyst Application Checklist
- NCMHC Exam English as a Second Language Accommodation Form
- 11.4.19 Email from N. Berry re: CEU Waiver
- 12.2.19 Email from R. Dean re: CEU Extension
- 12.10.19 Email from D. Hillis re: CEU Extension
- 12.4.19 Email from A. Matthews re: CEU Exception
- 12.19.19 Email from J. Ronaghan re: CEU Extension
- Application of Borja Vazquez-Roso