

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting
July 17, 2020
1000 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02118

Board Members Present:

Bill Ahearn, Acting Chair
Susan Egan, Member
Amy Vercillo, Member
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member (left meeting at 12:45 p.m.)
Jennifer Paine, Member (left meeting at 12:45 p.m.)
Cynthia Belhumeur, Public Member
Heidi Creighton, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Ashley Williams, Member

Staff Members Present:

Brian P. Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Lynn Read, Board Counsel

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 by videoconference.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:03 a.m.

Monitoring Reports

- **Priscilla Griffin, 20151106MH022-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension**
 - **Interview of Licensee and Supervisor Sandra Madruga:** The Board interviewed Ms. Griffin and Ms. Madruga. Susan Devlin, Ms. Griffin's attorney, also appeared. Ms. Griffin explained that she has a much better grasp on boundary issues now and speaks with clients about informed consent at the beginning of therapy. She will consider voluntary supervision in the future and will continue to have a consultative relationship with Ms. Madruga, who mentioned that Ms. Griffin initially was appropriately remorseful and then later saw supervision as an opportunity to become a better clinician.

After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to approve the petition to termination suspension. The motion passed unanimously.

- **Lynn Oski, 2019-000401-IT-ENF, Approval of CEs:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Paine, to approve the proposed CEs. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Laura Schroeder, 2019-000864-IT-ENF, Approval of Supervisor:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to reject the proposed supervisors because of their prior relationships with Ms. Schroeder. The motion passed unanimously.

Board Business

- **Introduction of New Board Member Ashley Williams:** Dr. Ahearn introduced Dr. Williams, a LABA who teaches at Northeastern University and oversees 200 employees and 300 clients in her business. The Board members introduced themselves and welcomed Dr. Williams.
- **Public Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Paine, to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of June 19, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to accept the minutes. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Ratification of Decisions by Board Staff to Approve Applications:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Creighton, seconded by Ms. Vercillo, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Application Review

- **Michael Tiano, Applicant for LMHC – Request for Reconsideration:** Mr. Tiano and his attorney, Paul Tomasetti, appeared to request reconsideration of Mr. Tiano's post-master's degree experience that was rejected at the last Board meeting. Specifically, Mr. Tomasetti argued that although many of Mr. Tiano's post-master's degree experience hours were earned through a private practice, he actually worked mostly in public schools. Ms. Read advised the Board that its regulations do not permit applicants to earn post-master's degree experience hours through a private practice. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Woodbury, to uphold the decision of the Board last month to reject Mr. Tiano's post-master's degree experience hours that were earned through a private practice. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **AMFTRB Teletherapy Guidelines and Policy on Distance, Online and Other Electronic-Assisted Counseling**
 - **I. Scott Cohen, Massachusetts Delegate to AMFTRB:** Mr. Cohen discussed the AMFTRB's Teletherapy Guidelines and why it is important for licensing boards to explain how to practice teletherapy ethically and safely. Midge Williams of MaMHCA also mentioned teletherapy legislation pending in the Massachusetts legislature and offered to provide it to the Board. The Board agreed to discuss the topic again next month.

Open Session for Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair 48 Hours in Advance of Meeting

Ms. Williams of MaMHCA asked about the status of the proposed LMHC regulation revisions approved by the Board in June. Ms. Read explained the approval process.

Mr. Bialas stated that the Board would consider revisions to the LMFT regulations next month. He also promised to update the Board's website so that each Board member's license type appears after his or her name.

Mr. Bialas also updated the Board on the supervision of Jessica Goldstein in 2018-000635-IT-ENF. Ms. Goldstein is considering working for a company that also employs her supervisor, Dr. Donna Whipple. The Board directed Mr. Bialas to inform Ms. Goldstein that, if she takes the position, Dr. Whipple cannot continue to be her supervisor, and Ms. Goldstein's stayed suspension would take longer because she must propose a new supervisor for Board approval.

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

At 11:44 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(7) to comply with G.L. c. 4, s. 7, para. 26(c) and G.L. c. 214, s. 1B to review sensitive medical information in an NCMHC Examination accommodation request. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote. See separate minutes.

At 11:54 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Gagliardi, seconded by Ms. Belhumeur, to exit executive session and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to review a settlement offer and cases. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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

During the investigative conference, the Board took the following actions:

Settlement:

2020-000176-IT-ENF (DH): Direction given to prosecutor

Cases:

2020-000043-IT-ENF (EP): Refer to Office of Prosecutions. Dr. Ahearn recused himself and took no part in the discussion or vote on this case.

2020-000144-IT-ENF (CP): Dismiss. Open complaint for CE violation.

2020-000424-IT-ENF (MA): Dismiss

2020-000430-IT-ENF (CK): Invite Licensee to next meeting

2020-000446-IT-ENF (CC): Refer to Office of Prosecutions. Merge case with prior case.

2020-000400-IT-ENF (CS): Invite Licensee to next meeting

2020-000503-IT-ENF (MM): Table until next meeting

2020-000330-IT-ENF (RB): Add CE violation to referral to Office of Prosecutions from last month.

Adjournment

At 1:47 p.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Williams, to exit investigative conference, return to the public meeting, and adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The above minutes were approved at the open meeting held on August 21, 2020.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of July 17, 2020
- Priscilla Griffin, 20151106MH022-IT-ENF, Petition to Terminate Suspension
- Lynn Oski, 2019-000401-IT-ENF, Proposed CEs
- Laura Schroeder, 2019-000864-IT-ENF, Proposed Supervisors
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes of June 19, 2020
- Draft Executive Session Minutes of June 19, 2020
- LMHC Application of Michael Tiano
- AMFTRB Teletherapy Guidelines and Policy on Distance, Online and Other Electronic-Assisted Counseling