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## Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 25, 2021

**TIME:** 9:30 a.m.

**ATTENDANCE:** Dana Zais, Chair  
Richard Powers, Vice Chair  
Jeffrey Trant  
Shaynah Barnes Munro

**STAFF:** Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel  
Alan Van Tassel, Investigator

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.

The meeting was called to order at 9:37 a.m.

### Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. Zais, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2021:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes Munro, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

### Discussion

- **5.6.21 Letter from S. Weisman re: Waiver of Examination:** The Board reviewed the letter from Ms. Weisman, who is licensed in New York, asking for an exception from the examination requirement. The Board directed Ms. Gasson to respond that the Board's regulation at 258 CMR 9.07(3) requires reciprocity applicants to pass the licensing examination, and the Board has no power to waive it.



- **Board Counsel Report:** Ms. Gasson reported that the COVID-19 state of emergency declared by Governor Baker that allows meetings by videoconference expires on June 15, 2021, and that the Board's CE Policy meeting scheduled for June 15, 2021 will be in person. Ms. Gasson also reported that legislation filed by the Governor will transfer 13 licensing boards, including the Social Work Board, to the Department of Public Health if the legislature does not take action within 60 days, and other legislation filed by the Governor would change the requirements for Social Work Board membership.

### Application Review Interviews – Negative Reference

- **Jennifer Vanderlinden, Former Supervisor of LCSW Applicant Jill Demeny:** The Board will interview Ms. Vanderlinden at its next meeting.
- **Jill Delahunt, Supervisor of LCSW Applicant Jill Demeny:** Ms. Delahunt, Ms. Demeny's current supervisor, appeared to discuss Ms. Demeny's performance. Ms. Delahunt explained that Ms. Demeny has focused on appropriate uses of self-disclosure with clients, and although Ms. Demeny is still improving, Ms. Delahunt has no concerns about Ms. Demeny oversharing in the future.

### Application Reviews – Negative Reference

- **Suzanne Macaluso, Applicant for LICSW:** The Board considered Ms. Macaluso's application, including a negative reference. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Trant, to approve the application. The motion passed unanimously.

### Monitoring Reports

- **Elio Carretta, 2018-000455-IT-ENF, 5th and 8th Quarterly Monitoring Reports and Petition to Terminate Probation:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Powers, to accept the reports and terminate Mr. Carretta's probation. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Michelle Varady, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Petition to Terminate Conditional Licensure Agreement:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes Munro, seconded by Mr. Powers, to accept Ms. Varady's reports and terminate her Conditional Licensure Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to accept the report. The motion passed unanimously.

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

- **Emergency Policy on Teletherapy for Applicant Experience and Supervision Hours:** The Board considered its Emergency Policy on Teletherapy for Applicant Experience and Supervision Hours as a matter not reasonably anticipated by the Chair within 48 hours of the meeting. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to update the policy language for after the state of emergency ends and to amend the policy not to allow supervision by telephone. The motion passed unanimously.

**Executive Session** (Closed Session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1), individual character rather than competence, and 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 10:17 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Trant, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed executive session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 21(a)(1) to review the good moral character of four applicants, and 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 as part of two CE extension requests; (2) then enter into a closed quasi-judicial session under G.L. c. 30A, s. 18 to review two final decisions and orders; (3) then enter into investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to review cases; and then, after the conclusion of the investigative conference, (4) not return to the public meeting and adjourn. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The Board entered executive session at 10:17 a.m.

The Board did not enter quasi-judicial session or investigative conference and adjourned the meeting at 11:38 a.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on July 27, 2021.



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Brian Bialas, Executive Director

### **List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:**

- Agenda for Meeting of May 25, 2021
- Public Meeting Minutes of April 27, 2021
- Executive Session Minutes of April 27, 2021
- 5.6.21 Letter from S. Weisman re: Waiver of Examination
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LCSW Application of Jill Demeny
- Documents regarding Negative Reference from LICSW Application of Suzanne Macaluso

- Elio Carretta, 2018-000455-IT-ENF, 5th and 8th Quarterly Monitoring Reports and Petition to Terminate Probation
- Michelle Varady, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Petition to Terminate Conditional Licensure Agreement
- Kelli Fowle, 2020-000364-IT-ENF, 1st Quarterly Monitoring Report
- Emergency Policy on Teletherapy for Applicant Experience and Supervision Hours