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## Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 15, 2021

**TIME:** 10 a.m.

**PLACE:** Room 1C  
1000 Washington Street  
Boston, MA 02118

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

**STAFF:** Brian Bialas, Executive Director  
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel

The meeting was called to order at 10:14 a.m.

### Board Business

- **Remote Participation Under 940 CMR 29.10 and G.L. c. 30A, §§ 25(a) and (b):** The Board considered whether to approve remote participation under 940 CMR 29.10 and G.L. c. 30A, §§ 25(a) and (b). Such approval would be necessary if there is no legislative extension of authorization for remote meetings. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Robinson Findlay, seconded by Mr. Trant, to allow members, if necessary, to participate at board meetings by telephone or electronic means if a quorum is physically present. The motion passed unanimously.

### Discussion

- **Proposal for Anti-Racism CEU Requirement:** The Board considered whether to adopt a policy that would require licensees to complete a specific number of continuing education (CE) hours in anti-racism activism and organizing.

Samantha Crowley, LCSW, who initially proposed the idea, appeared to discuss the proposal with the Board. She emphasized that many social workers do not understand systemic racism and that adopting this proposal would help correct that problem.



The Board then discussed the proposal. The Board noted that NASW Code of Ethics 1.05(d), which the Board adopts at 258 CMR 20.01(10)(a), requires social workers to obtain education in “the nature of . . . oppression with respect to race,” but also other classes including “ethnicity, national origin, color, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, and mental or physical ability.” For this reason, the Board concluded that all such classes should be included in any policy. The Board then directed Ms. Gasson to draft a policy for the Board’s consideration at a future meeting that requires licensees to complete three CE hours each licensing cycle focused on oppression: two hours focused on oppression with respect to race, and one hour on another class listed in NASW Code of Ethics 1.05(d).

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

The Board next considered as an unanticipated matter the creation of a complaint subcommittee. After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Mr. Powers, to create a subcommittee of Ms. Zais, Mr. Powers, and Ms. Robinson Findlay to review open cases and recommend actions on those cases to the full Board, with Ms. Barnes Munro serving as an alternate. The motion passed unanimously.

### **Adjournment**

At 11:25 a.m., a MOTION was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Robinson Findlay, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

The meeting adjourned at 11:25 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:**

- 6.4.20 Letter from S. Crowley re: Anti-Racism CEUs
- 6.9.20 Email from S. Crowley re: Anti-Racism CEUs
- 7.30.20 Email from M. Robinson Findlay re: Anti-Racism CEUs
- 6.14.21 Letter from R. Gewirtz of NASW-MA re: Anti-Racism CEUs