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Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Division of Professional Licensure
Board of Registration of Social Workers

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REGULATION

LAYLA R. D'EMILIA
COMMISSIONER, DIVISION OF
PROFESSIONAL LICENSURE

Public Session Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, October 27, 2020

TIME: 9:30 a.m.

ATTENDANCE: Dana Zais, Chair
Richard Powers, Vice Chair
Quanesha Boykins, Secretary
Jeffrey Trant
Shaynah Barnes

STAFF: Brian Bialas, Executive Director
Erin Murphy, Associate Executive Director
Kristina Gasson, Board Counsel
Doris Lugo, 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 9:34 a.m.

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 9:34 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Zais, 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 two 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 a CEU extension request and two application reviews. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

At 10:53 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to exit executive session and return to the public meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.



Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Trant, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of September 22, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of September 22, 2020. The motion passed unanimously.
- **2021 Meeting Schedule:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Mr. Powers, to approve the proposed meeting schedule for 2021. The motion passed unanimously.

Mr. Trant added that he encourages the Board to consider having in-person meetings in Western Massachusetts once in-person meetings resume.

- **Upcoming Adjudicatory Hearings:** Mr. Bialas updated the Board on upcoming adjudicatory hearings and asked whether any members are available to attend. Mr. Powers stated that he will attend the hearing in 2019-001028-IT-ENF (CS). Mr. Bialas will remind the Board about the hearing dates in 2019-000571-IT-ENF (SG) and 2019-001011-IT-ENF (AF) next month.

Discussion

- **Update on Meeting re: Anti-Racism CEU Requirement:** Mr. Bialas updated the Board on the scheduling of a public meeting on the proposal to require CEUs every licensing cycle in anti-racism activism and organizing. The Board stated that the meeting should be scheduled on a day when the Board does not have its regularly scheduled monthly meeting.

Monitoring

- **Jessica Serrano, 2019-001387-IT-ENF, Approval of Fitness to Practice Evaluator and CEUs:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Zais, to require Ms. Serrano to submit: (1) the letter from her proposed fitness to practice evaluator mandated in her Consent Agreement; and (2) information regarding how many hours her proposed CEUs are worth. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Joseph Papa, 20141002SW009-IT-ENF, Petition for Reinstatement:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to invite Mr. Papa to a Board meeting for an interview to discuss his petition. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Michelle Varady, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Approval of Proposed Supervisor:** After a brief discussion, a motion was made by Ms. Barnes, seconded by

Ms. Boykins, to approve Carl Graue as Ms. Varady's supervisor for the remainder of her Conditional Licensure Agreement. The motion passed unanimously.

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

At 11:20 a.m., a motion was made by Ms. Zais, seconded by Ms. Barnes, to exit the public meeting and enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C to review a settlement offer and new cases. The motion passed unanimously.

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

Settlement:

2019-001186-IT-ENF (JL): Gave direction to prosecutor

Cases:

2020-000606-IT-ENF (AV): Dismiss
2020-000717-IT-ENF (KS): Refer to Office of Prosecutions
2020-000696-IT-ENF (ET): Dismiss

Adjournment

At 11:58 a.m., a motion was made by Mr. Trant, seconded by Ms. Boykins, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:58 a.m.

The above Minutes were approved at the public meeting held on January 26, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

List of Documents Used During the Public Meeting:

- Agenda for Meeting of October 27, 2020
- Public Meeting Minutes of September 22, 2020
- Executive Session Minutes of September 22, 2020
- Proposed 2021 Meeting Schedule
- Jessica Serrano, 2019-001387-IT-ENF, Documents re: Approval of Fitness to Practice Evaluator and CEUs
- Joseph Papa, 20141002SW009-IT-ENF, Petition for Reinstatement
- Michelle Varady, Conditional Licensure Agreement, Documents re: Approval of Proposed Supervisor