

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Board of Allied Mental Health and Human Services Professions
Public Meeting
December 18, 2020
1000 Washington Street
Boston, MA 02118

Board Members Present:

Bill Ahearn, Acting Chair
Amy Vercillo, Member (arrived at 10:11 a.m.)
Jacqueline Gagliardi, Member
Heidi Creighton, Public Member
Kristen Woodbury, Member
Jennifer Paine, Member
Ashley Williams, Member
Frank Gomez, Member (arrived at 10:15 a.m.)

Staff Members Present:

Brian P. Bialas, 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 10:05 a.m.

Board Business

- **Public Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Woodbury, seconded by Dr. Williams, to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2020 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Executive Session Minutes of November 20, 2020:** After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Creighton, to approve the Executive Session Minutes of November 20, 2020 as drafted. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Ratification of Decisions by Board Staff to Approve Applications:** A MOTION was made by Dr. Williams, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to approve the decisions made by staff on applications processed since the last Board meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

Discussion

- **Emergency Policy on Pre-Master's Degree Experience:** The Board discussed extending this policy, which permits LMHC and LMFT applicants, because of the state of emergency, to make-up missing pre-master's degree experience hours after graduating if they graduated from March 10, 2020 to August 30, 2020. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to extend the policy to those who graduated or will graduate through August 31, 2021. The motion passed unanimously.
- **Application Deficiency Rates:** Mr. Bialas reported on the rates of incomplete applications for each license type. Specifically, Mr. Bialas noted the high rate of submitted LMHC applications that are incomplete when reviewed by Board staff. To reduce the number of incomplete applications, Mr. Bialas will add a list of common problems to the LMHC Application Guide.

Application Review – Request for Hearing on Denial of Application

- **Teresa Arroyave-Lopez:** The Board reviewed Ms. Arroyave-Lopez's request for a hearing on the denial of her LMHC application. After a brief discussion, a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Woodbury, to (1) deny the request for a hearing because Ms. Arroyave-Lopez cannot dispute that her master's degree in Social Work is not a master's degree determined by the Board to be in a Related Field required by 262 CMR 2.04(1), and (2) delegate authority to Ms. Paine to review and approve the denial letter. The motion passed unanimously.

Adjourn Public Meeting, Enter Executive Session, and then Enter Investigative Conference

(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 a NCMHC Examination accommodation request, and Closed Investigative Conference under G.L. c. 112, s. 65C to review a settlement offer)

At 10:44 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Ms. Gagliardi, to: (1) adjourn the public meeting; (2) 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 a NCMHC Examination accommodation request; (3) then enter into a closed investigative conference under G.L. c. 112 s. 65C to review a settlement offer; and (4) then, after investigative conference, not return to the public meeting. The motion passed unanimously by a roll call vote.

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 in a NCMHC Examination accommodation request)

The Board entered executive session at 10:44 a.m. See separate minutes.

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

The Board entered investigative conference at 10:56 a.m.

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

Settlement:

2020-000330-IT-ENF (RB): Gave direction to prosecutor

Adjournment

At 11:31 a.m., a MOTION was made by Ms. Paine, seconded by Mr. Gomez, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 11:31 a.m.

The above minutes were approved at the public meeting held on January 15, 2021.



Brian Bialas, Executive Director

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

- Agenda for Meeting of December 18, 2020
- Draft Public Meeting Minutes of November 20, 2020
- Draft Executive Session Minutes of November 20, 2020
- Emergency Policy on Pre-Master's Degree Experience
- Chart of October 2020 Application Deficiency Rates
- Draft of Common Problems in LMHC Applications
- LMHC Application of Teresa Arroyave-Lopez and Associated Documents