

The University of the State of New York
State Education Department
Office of the Professions

**State Board for Mental Health Practitioners
Meeting Minutes**

Friday, June 23, 2023

This meeting was held in-person via WebEx at the following locations:

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 150, Albany, NY 12234
Office of the Professions, 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Syracuse Regional Office, 333 East Washington Street, Suite 211, Syracuse, NY 13202
Rochester Regional Office, 109 S. Union Street 2nd Floor, Rochester, NY 14607

Board members present:

Helena Boersma (Rochester)
Susan Boxer Kappel (New York)
Ann Canastra (Syracuse)
Angela Musolino (New York)
Christopher Smith (New York)
Thomas Biglin (New York)
Timothy Mooney (Albany)
Jasmine Thomas (New York)
Michele “Mikki” Meyer (Albany)

Board members absent:

Renee Jones
Sargam Jain

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary (New York)
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst (Albany)
Henry Phillips, Education Program Assistant (Albany)
Kayla Apple, Licensing Services Clerk (Albany)

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Evan Seiden called the meeting to order at 10:04 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves. There were no changes in the agenda.

Review of the February 3, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the February 3, 2023 Board meeting were reviewed. There were no changes made. A motion was made to approve the minutes; motion was passed unanimously. Minutes accepted. All previous minutes accepted. A quorum of members was present.

Executive Secretary's Report

Evan Seiden announced the retirement of Mary Fish, Associate in Professional Education. Phone staff member Tim Simmons also retired on June 30. Board discussed using email as supplement to phones for fielding questions/providing information to licensees and applicants. Processing Unit reported 14% higher volume (over previous year). Review of licensure applications continues with the assistance of all staff. Board actively in the process of recruiting new members. Nomination forms for potential Board members are being reviewed and additional candidates continue to be recruited. Board nomination forms can be found on the NYSED website. It was noted Executive Order allowing licensees to legally practice without active registration expired the day prior, 6/22/2023.

Legislation and Regulation affecting Mental Health Practice: Mental Health Practitioners' Diagnosis Privilege (Chapter 230 of the Laws of 2022)

Status of adoption and implementation of diagnostic privilege application discussed. Application process being formulated in collaboration with DPLS staff. Board discussed requirements to obtain diagnostic privilege. Board discussed acceptable supervisors for experience towards privilege. Board discussed details of attaining the privilege as it continues to head for adoption in the Fall of 2023.

Discussion: Tele- Supervision

Board discussed advantages of virtual supervision of Mental Health Practitioners. Board discussed possible permanent regulatory requirements for virtual supervision. Board discussed potential requirements that virtual supervision be integrated with "in-person" supervision in some fashion. Board discussed informed consent/contract-agreement between supervisor and supervisee. Board discussed the ethics of virtual supervision, discretion, safety re: covid-19 and the benefit of being unmasked during virtual supervision. Board discussed what might be best practices for virtual supervision.

Other Business

The Board discussed what counts and what does not count for direct and indirect hours for LCAT applicants.

Elections

Board Member Susan Boxer Kappel was elected as Board Chair. Board Member Angela Musolino was elected for position of Vice Chair.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Evan Seiden thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. The next Board meeting will be scheduled for a date in October 2023. The meeting was adjourned at 11:13am by Board Chair Susan Boxer Kappel.