

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

**State Board for Mental Health Practitioners
Meeting Minutes (Draft)**

Friday, September 20, 2024

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

State Education Building, 89 Washington Avenue, EB 201, Albany, NY 12234
Office of the Professions, 1411 Broadway, 10th Floor, New York, NY 10018
Syracuse OPD Office, 333 E. Washington Street, Suite 211, Syracuse, NY
Rochester Regional Office, 109 S. Union Street 2nd Floor, Rochester, NY 14607

Board members present:

Susan Boxer Kappel
Renee Jones
Christopher Smith
Timothy Mooney
Jay Cerio
Melissa Dukofsky
Shirley Disu
Helena Boersma
Ann Canastra
Smita Bhatt
Angela Musolino
Jasmine Thomas
Thomas Biglin

Staff present:

Evan Seiden, Executive Secretary
Kate Letzelter, Associate in Professional Education
Michele Govertsen, Senior Administrative Analyst
Henry Phillips, Education Program Assistant

Welcome and Review of the Agenda

Evan Seiden called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM. Board members and staff introduced themselves. New Board member Smita Bhatt was introduced and welcomed.

Review of the June 7, 2024, Board Meeting Minutes

The minutes of the June 7, 2024, Board meeting was reviewed. There were no changes made. A quorum of members was present. A motion was made and seconded to approve the previous meetings' minutes; motion was passed unanimously. Minutes accepted.

Executive Secretary's Report

Reviewed board office staffing. Executive Secretary reviewed production for Limited Permit applications is 8 weeks out, experience reviews are about 8 weeks out. Diagnostic Privilege experience reviews are 8 weeks out.

Board actively in the process of recruiting new members – looking for 1 LMHC or LMFT, and 1 Psychoanalyst. 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.

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

Executive Secretary Evan Seiden thanked stakeholders and staff for their continued efforts around implementation of the Diagnostic Privilege. Number of applications is increasing. Application process as well as review process moving along. Processing unit now taking phone calls Monday through Friday to assist applicants. Board members discussed education review Colleges and universities may be changing their programs to meet DP requirements; they are working with Professional Education Program Review (PEPR) office. Diagnostic Privilege FAQ is available on the NYSED OP website. Diagnostic Privilege forms are available on the NYSED OP website.

Applicants should email the Board Office with any questions on experience (Form 4D). Applicants will be notified if more information is needed during experience reviews. Copy of Operating Certificate for exempt settings is required to be submitted with Form 4D.

An FYI and review of an amendment of Mental Hygiene Law (Chapter 233 of the Laws of 2024)

Mental Health Peer, FPA, YPA, NYCPS, CYPA. An Act to amend the mental hygiene law, in relation to providing definitions of mental health and family and youth peer and requires the office of mental health to establish peer service qualifications.

Discussion: Tele-Supervision

Regulations to make tele-supervision allowed permanently were adopted and go into effect on 9/25/2024. Guidelines are being developed and will be posted in the future.

Other Business

Board members discussed proper advertising of DP credential for licensees. Professional entities with Diagnostic Privilege should consult Professional Corporations for assistance.

Next Board meetings are not yet scheduled. 2025 meetings not yet scheduled. Board members expressed desire for in-person meeting in June and for meetings to start later in the day.

Closing Remarks and Adjournment

Evan Seiden thanked the Board for their participation in the meeting. Board Chair Susan Boxer Kappel called for adjournment. Seconded by Helena and Angela. The meeting was adjourned at 11:11am by Board Chair Susan Boxer Kappel.