

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
February 17, 2006

I. CALL TO ORDER

This scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to order at 9:28 a.m., in the Somerset Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by Committee Chair Edward Reading who gave notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chair, Edward Reading
Committee Vice Chair, Sylvia W. Lippe
Committee Member, Robert Mackey

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars
Deputy Attorney General, Susan Berger
Administrative Staff, Celeste Sweeper
Administrative Staff, Waiman Yee
Administrative Staff, Tammarra King

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion made by Committee Vice Chair, Sylvia W. Lippe, and seconded by Robert Mackey, the minutes of the January 27, 2006 public session Committee meeting were approved as amended.

IV. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:2D-13, the Committee conducted the election of a Committee chair and vice-chair. On a motion made by Robert Mackey and seconded by Edward Reading, Sylvia Lippe was nominated for the office of Committee Vice-Chair. On a motion by Robert Mackey, seconded by Sylvia Lippe, Edward Reading was re-elected as Committee Chair. Both will serve through a February 2006 election of officers.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Cultural Competency

The Committee discussed a proposal to amend the current continuing education regulations to require completion of course work to insure that all licensees and certificate holders complete training in cultural competency-related areas. The Committee noted that cultural competence is in the foundation course work for alcohol and drug counselors in several of the required course topics in the 270 hours content area. The course content is repeated as an acceptable for continuing education at N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.3(d)7. The content area is also included in the graduate level course work requirement for licensure as "Social and cultural foundations." The Committee voted unanimously to amend the regulations to require completion of a minimum of 3 hours each renewal period in the content area which will include cultural and subcultural groups as special populations.

B. N.J.A.C. 13:34C - Proposed revisions

Following discussion regarding cultural competency, Regulatory Danielle Swenson will be asked to draft

revisions to the continuing education regulations to include the biennial requirement for the completion of a minimum of 3 hours each renewal period in the course content area, "Social and Cultural foundations." The Committee directed that upon approval of the proposal for the revised regulations, information be made available through posting to the Committee's Web-page and notice sent to continuing education trainers.

VI. APPLICATION PROCESSING ISSUES

A. N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.1(a)

March 15, 2006 is the expiration date for licensure/certification pursuant to the "grandfathering" provision was noted. Applications post marked on or before the expiration date will be accepted.

License Processing Report

B. The applications received and reviewed to date total 1,918. The total includes 1,079 active LCADCs and 317 CADCs. 514 applications are pending and include 235 LCADC applications and 279 CADC applications. There were 4 applications for certification and 4 applications for licensure that were denied on the basis of either child support or student loan arrearages. 61 applications are pending initial Committee review. The major categories of the pending applications include: 170 awaiting receipt of certification/license fee, 81 for whom the criminal history process is incomplete, 104 outstanding deficiency notice responses, 95 pending examination results, and 16 applicants will be scheduled for investigative inquiries.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Peter Myers, Ph.D., Essex County Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drugs Association, wrote to invite members of the Committee to address the annual meeting on March 17, 2006. Due to scheduling conflicts, representation of the Committee can not be provided. The Committee recommended, however, that any questions generated can be forwarded to the Committee for response.

B. Mindy Fritz

In an e-mail, Ms. Fritz requested information on internet counseling policies. Upon discussion, the Committee determined that a written proposed plan must be submitted for consideration. It was noted that the technology can be used as an adjunct in the therapeutic relationship, however, the treatment of clients requires the face-to-face intake and assessment. The Committee will continue to consider the issues involved and the measures necessary to provide consumer protection.

C. Lisa Bryk - Monmouth University Invitation

Ms. Bryk writes to ask the Committee to provide a presentation on the Alcohol and Drug Counselor licensure requirements. The Committee noted the difficulty in presenting information to a specific student population and determined that a meeting with the administrators for graduate counseling programs would be more effective in providing students to students. Preliminary plans to schedule an October meeting were discussed.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

Biennial Renewal Application

Elaine DeMars informed the Committee that a recent schedule update includes the mailing of renewal instructions and renewal application forms during the first two weeks of May. The continuing education audit was also discussed with a review of audit letters and procedures.

2006 Meeting Dates:

March 31, 2006 August 25, 2006
April 21, 2006 September 22, 2006
May 19, 2006 October 27, 2006
June 16, 2006 November 17, 2006
July 28, 2006 December 15, 2006

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is March 31, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

XI. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

Applications for licensure and certification were presented to the Committee for review. On a motion made by Sylvia W. Lippe and seconded by Edward Reading, the following applications were approved:

CADC - Regular

1. Cottie, Curtis W.
2. Doyle, John V.
3. Gormley, Ann
4. Greenblatt, Diane M.
5. Green, Sharon L.
6. Holloway, Robyn E.
7. McCabe, Ralph W.
8. Mitortando, Virginia
9. Molineros, Rodrigo
10. Murray, Christine S.
11. Olayemi, Vivian M.
12. Raposo, Jose R.
13. Rosenbaum, Judith
14. Watson, Patricia A.

LCADC - Regular

1. DiStefano, Donna J.
2. Duncan, Wayne
3. Morrison, James E.
4. Sanford, Jacqueline

LCADC - Grandfather

1. Chandra, Santosh
2. Friedman, Howard J.
3. King, Stuart
4. Libby, Linda
5. Lutz, Eileen C.
6. Miqueli, Terence L.

Approved to Sit for the Written and Oral Examination

1. Williams, Patricia A.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Sylvia Lippe and seconded by Robert Mackey, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session at 11:27 a.m. to discuss pending applications, confidential and disciplinary matters.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Sylvia Lippe, seconded by Edward Reading, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 3:50 p.m.