

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Public Session Minutes

February 27, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:45 a.m. in the Sussex Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by Chairman Edward Reading who gave notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chair, Edward Reading
Committee Vice Chair, Donald Weinbaum
Committee Member, Sylvia Lippe
Committee Member, Frederick Reihl
Committee Member, Georgene Brazer

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars
Deputy Attorney General, Susan Berger
Regulatory Analyst, Danielle Swenson
Administrative Staff, Celeste Sweeper
Administrative Staff, Tawana Thomas

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion made by Sylvia Lippe and seconded by Donald Weinbaum, the minutes for the public session of the January 23, 2004 meeting were approved as presented.

IV LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY RULES ADOPTION

A. Proposed Regulations (N.J.A.C. 13:34C - The Alcohol and Drug Counselor Licensing and Certification Act)

Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson informed the Committee that the proposed regulations (N.J.A.C. 13:34C) publication date has been set for March 15, 2004. On this date the rule adoption will appear in the New Jersey Register. It will subsequently be posted to the Committee's Web-page. It was also noted that following the adoption, the Committee will be authorized to issue certifications and licenses for applicants who have satisfied all requirements.

B. ASSEMBLY BILL 1913

The Committee received a copy of the Second Reprint of Assembly Bill 1913 which would have The Division of

Consumer Affairs' Health Care Professional Boards transferred to the Department of Health and Senior Services.

The Committee, although not directly impacted by A-1913 in its current form, opposes the bill. The Committee views the bill as having no value because it does not provide justification, nor does it explain the reasons why transferring the responsibility for licensure and regulation of health care professionals under the jurisdiction of the noted boards to another state agency would effectively strengthen the oversight of such health care professionals. There is also major concern about the tight time frames that may be imposed on investigations and other processes that are done by these Boards.

In addition, the Committee fears that transferring responsibility to another State agency, whatever that State agency may be, would diminish the benefits that the general public and the consumer currently reaps and the protection provided by the Division of Consumer Affairs.

The public member was on record as being particularly concerned about the negative impact on the Division's consumer protection mission.

On a motion made by Fred Reihl, seconded by Georgene Brazer, with Edward Reading abstaining, the Committee voted to oppose the legislation. Ms. DeMars will correspond by informing the Director of Legislation that the Committee is opposed to the bill in its present state. The Committee is unclear as to the value and its justification in moving these Boards to another State agency. The Committee objects to the bill, for it strongly believes that it defeats the purpose of the Board's ability and purpose which is to protect the consumer.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. PACADA (Essex County Professional Advisory Committee on Alcohol and Drug Abuse)

The Committee received an invitation to speak to a group regarding the transition to State responsibility for certification of alcohol and drug counselors and the newly created licensure process..

The Committee agreed that Committee Chairman, Edward Reading, Committee Member Sylvia Lippe and Executive Director Elaine DeMars would attend the March 19, 2004 session at Essex County College, Newark, New Jersey to provide a presentation on the requirements for certification and licensure

B. Monmouth University

An invitation to address students enrolled in the graduate and post-graduate education in the treatment of addictions at Monmouth University has been received. The Committee agreed that Committee Member, Donald Weinbaum and Executive Director DeMars will attend the March 24, 2004 session to provide a presentation on the requirements for certification and licensure.

C. Jim Brittain, MA. CADC, CPS

The Committee reviewed a letter from Jim Brittain of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence-NJ. Mr. Brittain states that his office has received a number of questions about the CADC and LCADC certification/licensure processes. The Committee will thank Mr Brittain, in writing for his letter. He will be referred to N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.3 (b)4 for clarification of the 270 hours of education requirement. Finally, the Committee will advise him that all such inquiries regarding CADC and LCADC certification/licensure should be referred to the Committee and/ or the Web page.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Web Site Application

The Committee reviewed a copy of the LCADC/CADC application that is available online. The Committee

members agreed that the copy of application (s) presented were satisfactory. Donald Weinbaum suggested that a "Frequently Asked Questions" section also be included .

B. Out- of- State Application

The Committee reviewed a listing of the member boards of the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse, Inc. (ICRC) The Committee will request a list of those states that require the ICRC examination to establish a basis for substantial equivalency for out-of-state applicants.

C. Application Processing Issues

The items in this section were discussed in Executive Session to determine Committee policy.

1. Photos that are unsigned will be accepted with the application since the application directions do not require a signed photo.

2. APCBNJ Certification Documentation

a. A copy of the current recertification will be accepted for applicants who cannot provide a copy of their original certification Committee staff will verify the original certification date on the verified copy of the APCBNJ certification list.

3. Incorrect Application Submitted

a. Grandfather application for those who are not eligible must be returned and the regular application must be submitted.

b. Regular application submitted by those who are grandfather eligible will be processed since all the requirements for grandfather are included.

4. Out-of-State certified applicants will be required to complete the non-grandfather (regular) application

5. Grandfather requirements - N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.1

a. CAC + 30 drug education classroom hours -CADC eligible.

b. CDC + 50 alcohol education classroom hours - CADC eligible

c. CADC + 7500/5 years hours experience - LCADC eligible

d. Applicants with an expired certification may be eligible for certification.

6. Examination Exemption

a. N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.5 provides for an exemption of the examination to licensed health care providers. The regular application would be required with the required supervision and course work.

7. Child Support/Student Loan Default

a. Certification/licensure may be denied based on evidence of default in payment of child support and/or student loans.

8. Criminal History

a. There may be a 3- week delay in being scheduled for Sagem-Morpho appointment for New Jersey residents (longer for out-of-state). The report will also take several weeks.

9. Committee Application Review

a. The applications of the Committee members will be reviewed by the Deputy Director, Executive Director and Deputy Attorney General. The applications will then be presented to the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners for final approval.

D. Transition Issues

Executive Director reported that a sub-committee met with the Executive Director and Chairman of the Addiction Professional Certification Board of New Jersey on February 19, 2004. The following issues were discussed:

1. Examination

a. Applicants will be required to submit a completed (regular) application through Schedule B for review. Upon approval, the Committee will submit written notification (e-mail/hard copy) to APCBNJ as authorization to schedule the applicant for the written examination.

b. Upon successful completion of the written examination, APCBNJ will schedule qualifying candidates for the oral examination.

c. APCBNJ will provide notification of the written and oral examination results to each candidate and a list (candidate identification information and scores) of the results to the Committee within 4 weeks following the examination.

d. In order to provide the highest qualified individuals as examination evaluators, APCBNJ will require each to be at the LCADC level. The Committee will be provided with a current list of evaluators. An updated (revised) list will be provided as the list is changed.

2. APCBNJ Credential Verification

a. Copies of the current re-certification (with an original issue date) will be accepted in lieu of the original certification in cases where the applicant does not have the original certification. The original issue date will be verified using the APCBNJ certification list.

3. Sanctions

a. APCBNJ will provide the Committee with a copy of the final disposition letter for every individual APCBNJ sanction of a CAC, CDC and CADC.

4. Records Verification

a. APCBNJ will provide, through the applicant's submission of an APCBNJ request form, a verification of records including education, examination scores, supervised practical training, etc.

b. APCBNJ will evaluate course work for out-of-state applicants. The report will include the ICRC reciprocal status for the state of the applicant's original certification.

VII. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Jim O'Brien, Executive Director, Associated Treatment Providers

Mr. O'Brien appeared at the meeting to congratulate and thank the Committee for finalizing the regulations on Alcohol and Drug Counseling. He asked the Committee to look favorably at those applicants who are close to being grandfathered into licensure and he offered his agencies' services in helping to assist the Committee. In order to provide members of ATP with information regarding the requirements for certification and licensure, Mr.

O'Brien will advise the Committee of the next available meeting which would provide a forum for the Committee's presentation.

B. Greg Tardiff, (CADDC)

Mr. Tardiff addressed the Committee with an application processing inquiry.

At 11:16 a.m., a motion was made by Fredrick Reihl and seconded by Sylvia Lippe , with the Committee voting unanimously to close the Public Session in order to discuss the APCBNJ contract and other confidential matters.

On a motion by Sylvia Lippe, seconded by Donald Weinbaum, the meeting adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director

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