

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Open Session Minutes

March 28, 2003

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Sussex Room, 6th Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by Chairman Reading who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

B. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chairman Edward Reading
Committee Vice Chair Donald Weinbaum
Committee Member Georgene Brazer
Committee Member Sylvia Lippe

Absent:

Committee Member Frederick Reihl

Staff Present:

Executive Director Dennis E. Gonzalez
Deputy Attorney General Susan Berger
Deputy Director Anthony Miragliotta
Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF DECEMBER 20, 2002 PUBLIC MEETING

On a motion by D.Weinbaum, seconded by E. Reading, minutes were approved with corrections.

D. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

1. Final Review of Regulations

Committee members met with Regulatory Analyst, Danielle Swenson and made a final extensive review of the regulations. Regulations will now be sent to Trenton in preparation for publication at a later date.

2. Criminal Background Check Law

The Committee members were informed of the new State Law which requires an applicant to undergo a criminal background check at their own expense. Committee members expressed concern that since many counselors in this profession are recovering addicts with criminal records, this law might intimidate some individuals from applying.

E. OLD BUSINESS

1. Agreement with APCBNJ

Committee members were given a copy of the draft of the agreement with the Addictions

Professional Certification Board of New Jersey (APCBNJ). Committee members were told to review this draft and be prepared to discuss at the next Committee meeting.

2. February 28, 2003 conference call

Committee members were given a synopsis prepared by Executive Director of what was discussed at the February 28, 2003 conference call.

3. Public Hearing on the Regulations

Committee members decided that they will not hold public hearings regarding the regulations, but will, once the regulations are approved, hold a public educational forum to discuss and explain the regulations.

F. NEW BUSINESS

1. Mailing list for regulations

Committee members were informed that in preparation of the publication of the regulations, the Committee must begin to put together a comprehensive mailing list.

2. Committee statement on the status of the regulations

Committee members adopted a statement explaining the current status of the regulations. This statement will be mailed out to all current CADC's and other interested parties.

G. CORRESPONDENCE

Barry Johnson, President of the New Jersey Association of County Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Directors

Committee received a letter from Mr. Johnson urging the prompt approval of the regulations.

H. APPEARANCES

1. Assistant Commissioner Carol Ann Kane-Cavaiola

Ms. Kane-Cavaiola is Assistant Commissioner of the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services , Division of Addiction Services. She appeared before the Committee to express on behalf of the Department of Health and Senior Services the need for these regulations to be adopted as soon as possible. She indicated that it is possible that some federal grants which are received by the State might be affected should there be significant delays in the approval of these regulations. Deputy Director, Tony Miragliotta appeared at the meeting and explained the adoption process to the Assistant Commissioner and thanked her for her appearance and her concern.

2. Richard Bowe, Executive Director -APCBNJ

Mr. Bowe appeared before the Committee to begin discussing the transitional issues between the APCBNJ and the Committee once the Committee begins certifying and licensing alcohol and drug counselors.

I. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

J. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the committee will be April 25, 2003 at 9:30 a.m.

K. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by S. Lippe, seconded by G. Brazer, Committee went into Executive Session.

L. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Gonzalez
Executive Director

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