

**Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee
Open Session Minutes**

May 30, 2003

A. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. in the Sussex conference Room, 6th Floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by Chairman E. 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 Sylvia Lippe
Committee Member Frederick Reihl
Committee Member Georgene Brazer

Staff Present:

Executive Director Dennis E. Gonzalez
Deputy Attorney General Susan Berger
Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson
Jane Cofone Administrative Staff

C. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF APRIL 25, 2003 PUBLIC MEETING

On a motion by D. Weinbaum, seconded by S. Lippe, minutes were approved with corrections.

D. LEGISLATIVE/ REGULATORY

Regulation Update

Regulatory Analyst, Danielle Swenson informed the Committee that the regulations are now in the Governor's Office. She indicated that in the best case scenario, the regulations will be ready for publication within two to three weeks. She also informed the Committee that barring any major obstacles, the Committee should be able to begin licensing in January, 2004.

E. CORRESPONDENCE

1. Raymond Dreitlein, Ph.D. - The Committee received a letter from Mr. Dreitlein in response to the statement that was mailed by the Committee a few weeks ago regarding the status of the regulations. Mr. Dreitlein indicated he was pleased with the work of the Committee.

2. Carolann Kane-Cavaiola - Committee received a copy of a letter written by Ms. Kane-Cavaiola, Assistant Commissioner, Department of Health and Senior Services, to Ms. Reni Erdos, Director of the Division in response to a letter written to her by Ms. Erdos.

F. OLD BUSINESS

1. Agreement with Addiction Professionals Certification Board of New Jersey

Committee members reviewed the draft submitted by DAG Susan Berger of the latest draft of the agreement with the Certification Board. After making minor modifications, on a motion by S. Lippe, seconded by G. Brazer, the agreement was approved by the Committee. Ms. Berger will now submit the agreement for Division and Departmental approval.

2. Licensure Application Review

The Committee was informed that the Print Production Unit was unable to have the applications available for a review. However, the applications should be ready within the next couple of weeks. Committee member G. Brazer volunteered to speak to the Print Production Unit on behalf of the Committee in an attempt to get this process expedited. The Committee also indicated that it would like to begin mailing out the applications in October or November in anticipation of initial licensing in January.

3. HIPAA

Committee member D. Weinbaum shared with the Committee information provided to his office from the Federal Government regarding the new HIPAA Regulations. Committee members were also informed of the informational session being planned by the Marriage Board on HIPAA for all the mental health boards and committees. It was suggested that the Executive Director work with Mr. Weinbaum in obtaining the name of someone who might be able to arrange for a representative of the Federal Government to speak at this session regarding HIPAA.

4. Teaching Disclaimer

Chairman E. Reading reminded DAG Berger that the Committee members need a disclaimer before they began to teach the regulations. Ms. Berger indicated that she will discuss this with her superiors and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

G. NEW BUSINESS

1. Recusal of Members

Committee members asked DAG Susan Berger to advise them on what the procedures are when reviewing the application of someone that has been a student of a Committee member. DAG Berger indicated that she will get a definitive answer and report back to the Committee.

2. Federal Grant

Committee member D. Weinbaum informed the Committee that the Divisions of Addictions Services and Mental Health are applying for a federal grant available from SAMHSA. Mr. Weinbaum asked if the Committee would be interested in writing a letter of support. After a lengthy discussion, it was decided that the Committee would not provide a letter of support, but would be available to provide information that might be needed to complete the grant.

H. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

I. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee will be June 27, 2003.

J. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by G. Brazer, seconded by F. Reihl, Committee went into Executive Session.

K. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 noon.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis E. Gonzalez
Executive Director

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