

ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
June 27, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 a.m. in the Hudson Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by 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, Donald Weinbaum
Committee Member, Sylvia Lippe

Absent:

Georgene Brazier

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 Sylvia Lippe and seconded by Edward Reading, the minutes of May 20, 2005 public session were approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A) S-2369 "New Jersey Advance Directives for Mental Health Care Act" This Bill will allow patients the right to make voluntary, informed choices to accept, reject or chose among alternative courses of treatment and for competent adults to plan ahead for health care.

The Committee applaud's the intent, but finds that the issue is very complex and the current version of the Bill would require further clarification including:

- 1) "Mental illness" needs to be clearly defined
- 2) Is it intended that the representatives of the patients do not have the ability to revoke the directive?
- 3) Does directive include an expiration date?
- 4) The provisions of current judicial system's responsibility to determine competency is not considered.
- 5) An individual's opinion should not be the deciding factor when decisions are made. The opinions of the attending professionals (physician, nurse, mental health counselor, etc.) should also be considered.

B) S-2526

This Bill will cap non-economic damages in medical malpractice actions arising from emergency care at \$250,000.

The Committee voted unanimously to oppose the Bill as written as it removes the existing protection of the public without any added benefit. While the intent of the Bill is not clear, the provisions would impact a broad array of professionals and work settings.

C) A-4138

This Bill will provide immunity for certain volunteer health care professionals and non-profit clinics. The Committee supports the principle of the proposal but suggests that if the intention is to protect volunteers, all other providers should be excluded.

Additionally, the following clarification is suggested :

- 1)What is the criteria of "free-standing clinic"?
- 2) Identify the health care professionals who would qualify.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. Application Processing

Executive Director Elaine DeMars, reports that the Committee is current in the review of applications. The Committee has licensed 216 regular , 694 grandfather LCADCs, 158 regular CADCs and 16 grandfather CADCs.

There are currently 172 regular LCADCs, 138 grandfather LCADCs, 251 regular CADCs and 14 grandfather CADC applications pending. Pending applications include those with deficiencies, pending payment of certification/licensure fee, or pending further review.

B. Unlicensed Practice Notification

The Committee was informed that the letter to agencies regarding the requirement for licensure or certification for all counselors has been prepared. An exception to certification or licensure is for those who are working toward meeting the requirements of State certification, in agencies, under supervision, during an internship program. It was noted that the regulations governing the practice of alcohol and drug counselors were written on the premise that the existing provisions of the Division of Addiction Services facility regulations, specifically, N.J.A.C. Title8, Chapter 42A, would remain in effect.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. James Brittain

Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse of Bergen, Inc. Mr. Brittain wrote to request clarification of the continuing education requirement for six contact hours in legal standards and whether the Legal Aspects (C502A) course would satisfy the requirement. The Committee directed that Mr. Brittain be informed that courses required for initial certification will not be accepted for continuing education credit.

The Committee noted that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.2(d), all licensees and certificate holders are required to complete at least six contact hours of continuing education in legal standards related to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling during their initial biennial period. A special course, designed to develop competency in the New Jersey statute and regulations governing the practice of alcohol and drug counselors, will become available in the Fall. In order to assure that all certificate holders and licensees complete the required course of study, the time period in which to complete the legal standards continuing education requirement will be extended for one

additional renewal period. Therefore, all those certified or licensed between August 1, 2004 and July 31, 2006 must complete the special legal standards course by July 31, 2008.

The Committee directed that this continuing education update be mailed to all LCADCs and CADCs.

B. Judith Tufaro

Judith Tufaro, LCADC, LPC, wrote to request confirmation that a program entitled "Legal Issues in Behavioral Health in New Jersey" is acceptable to meet the requirements for the ethics continuing education credit. The Committee will inform the writer that there is no ethics course requirement for continuing education., however, a special legal standards course is required. The course presented is acceptable for continuing education, but does not satisfy the legal standards course requirement. The continuing education update noted above will also be provided to Ms. Tufaro.

UNLICENSED PRACTICE NOTIFICATION

The Committee will forward notices to agency directors to advise that individuals employed to provide alcohol and drug counseling are required to obtain State certification or licensure. The notice will inform the counselors of the mandate for licensure and or certification and the Committee's plan to enforce the regulations. Those who continue to practice without State certification/licensure are in violation of the law. Current law provides that unlicensed practice will result in discipline. The letter will include the deadline for licensure/certification application without discipline. Individuals who have filed applications but have not completed the process will also be notified.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

2005 Meeting Dates:

July 22, 2005

August 26, 2005

September 19, 2005

October 28, 2005

November 18, 2005

December 16, 2005

IX. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

Applications for licensure and certification were presented to the Committee for review.

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by, Sylvia Lippe the following applications were approved:

CADC - Regular

1. Alvarez, Rafael
2. Butler, Robert P.
3. Campbell, Tonette
4. Cannady, Anthony
5. Carden, Pinky
6. Castelao, Maria L.
7. Cerio, Mark G.
8. Cizi, Mary
9. Dennis, Kathleen D.
10. DeSantis, Michael W.
11. Doral, Andrew J.
12. Duffy, Michael J.

13. Finnerty, Thomas J.
14. Generoso, Mark A.
15. Horner, Lorraine
16. Johnson, Deborah A.
17. Koch, Holly R.
18. Leck, Linda M.
19. Lieb, Adri M.
20. Linington, Kristie Marie
21. Lorenzini, Deleen H.
22. McCorkell, Terry
23. McMaster, Curtis P.
24. Miller, Lorraine A.
25. Migut, Melissa M.
26. Munene, Karuri
27. Montas, Bienvenido
28. Nelson, Diane M.
29. Paff, Frederick Sr.
30. Patterson, Terri L.
31. Sanchez, Luis E.
32. Sanzari-Mapes, Rosemary
33. Sauls, Antoinette Y.
34. Shawiak, Marie A.
35. Snyder, Kimberly E.
36. Stemmermann, Mark
37. Wallace, Nailah A.
38. Wess, Donna M.
39. Whitney, Teresa E.
40. Williams, Emma
41. Williams, Ronald H.
42. Zwicker, Pamela

CADC - Grandfather

1. Hopkins, Charles
2. Koehler, Teresa L.

LCADC - Regular

1. Bard, Nirala
2. Bercovici, Linda
3. Borris, Albert F.
4. Britton, Lillian*
5. Canary-Digironimo, Nicole
6. Carpio, Marysella
7. Daku, Barbara H.
8. Day, Sandra N.
9. Florentino, Marie Claire
10. Freid, Lauren M.
11. Gassoumis, Athena M.
12. Ginsberg, Jean C.
13. Gordon, Gillian
14. Gurian, Sandy
15. Hayden, Donna
16. Hernandez, Arelis M.

17. Hunt, Michelle S.
18. Jones, Carol A.
19. Kerlinger, Stephen C.
20. Kleinman, Carolyn S.
21. Kullen, Emily A.
22. Lutz, Kathleen
23. Mc Intosh, Helen Marie
24. Mladenetz, George J.*
25. Moyles, Edward J.
26. Nies, Diane L.
27. Nobleman, Susan A.
28. Orsini-Brown, Andrea
29. Perlstein, Iris
30. Scheidemann, Lisa
31. Schroeder-Barda, Susan
32. Tillson, Jacqueline*
33. Thorne, Sarinet
34. Wry, Joan Elizabeth

Recusal: Donald Weinbaum recused from the vote on the applications of Ms. Lillian Britton and Mr. George J. Mladenetz. Sylvia W. Lippe recused from the vote on the application of Ms. Jacqueline Tillson. Recusal was based on either personal or professional knowledge of the individual noted.

LCADC - Grandfather

1. Alexander, John H.
2. Aveson, Marian H.
3. Bittle, Margaret A.
4. Cohen, Mindy
5. Cohen, Sharon Lee
6. Diangelo, John J.
7. Fitzpatrick, Mary Noel
8. Harris, Jane
9. Hoffman, James R.
10. Hogg, Bobbie
11. Martin, Thomas F.
12. McDonald, Mary Beth
13. Merritt, Carol A.
14. Moran-Kudisch, Cathleen F.
15. Okonsky, Anne Marie
16. Richardson, Georgia E.
17. Shabazz, Shaheed
18. Tablas, Maureen
19. Von Hartleben, Joanne

Approved to Sit for the Oral Examination

1. Heron, Clarie M. CADC
2. Hopkins, Bernard CADC
3. Levine, Torry CADC
4. Lombardi, Vincent CADC
5. Mondaca, Marisol R. LCADC
6. Ogasawara, Liliko LCADC
9. Wilke, Heather C. LCADC

Approved to Sit for the Written and Oral Examination

1. Fonseca, Guido CADC
2. Hurley, Florence A. CADC
3. Moses, Paulette E. CADC
4. Muhammad, Helena CADC
5. Neal, Alphonso CADC
6. Rimbart, Larry Jr. CADC
7. Schwartz, Judith S. LCADC
8. Simmons-Thorpe, Nicole CADC

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 12:25 p.m., on a motion by Donald Weinbaum, seconded by Sylvia Lippe, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session to discuss pending applications, confidential and disciplinary matters.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is scheduled for July 22, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by Sylvia Lippe, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 6:24 p.m.