

**ALCOHOL AND DRUG COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
December 16, 2005**

I. CALL TO ORDER

This scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to order at 10:05 a.m., in the Somerset Conference Room, 6th floor, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey by Committee Vice Chair Donald F. Weinbaum who gave notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chair, Edward Reading
Committee Vice Chair, Donald F. Weinbaum
Committee Member, Sylvia W. Lippe
Committee Member, Georgene Brazer

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion made by Sylvia W. Lippe and seconded by Georgene Brazer, the minutes of the November 18, 2005 public session Committee meeting were approved as amended.

IV. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. N.J.A.C. 13:34C- Proposed Amendments

Upon review of draft revisions of the regulations, the Committee authorized Regulatory Analyst, Danielle Swenson to submit the proposed revisions for Division and Department approval. The Committee has approved revisions to correct, clarify and update current language including the definition of "Health care provider," the scope of practice for certificate holders, the continuing education requirement for six credits in the legal standards related to the practice of alcohol and drug counseling and clarification of supervision and references to counseling interns.

B. New Jersey Professional Responsibility and Reporting Enhancement Act Public Law 2005, Chapter 83 went into effect on October 31, 2005 and requires that health care entities promptly report to the Division of Consumer Affairs, in writing, when they take a negative action against a health care professional who is employed by, under contract to render professional services to, or has privileges granted by, that health care entity, or who provides such services pursuant to an agreement with a health care services firm or staffing registry. The law also requires that health care professionals promptly notify the Division if they are in possession of information which reasonably indicates that another health care professional has demonstrated any impairment, gross incompetence or unprofessional conduct which would present imminent danger to a patient or the public. The law lists the affected boards and includes all licensees of the mental health licensed professions: Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (Professional Counselors and Alcohol and Drug Counselors), Board of Social Work Examiners and Board of Psychological Examiners. Upon review, the Committee acknowledged the broad scope of the law and similarities to N.J.A.C. 13:34C-3.4. The Committee also expressed the need to be informed of the

progress of the regulations in order to communicate pertinent information to the licensees.

IV. APPLICATION PROCESSING ISSUES

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

The Committee once again noted that pursuant to the above noted regulation, March 15, 2006 is the date for the expiration of licensure/certification pursuant to the "grandfathering" provision. Applications must be postmarked March 15, 2006 to be considered for licensure or certification.

B. The Committee was informed that the review of all complete applications is current. The Committee staff has begun an audit of the application files for whom criminal history background results have not been received. Staff will also identify files for those applicants who have not responded to deficiency letters to report on those that have not responded within a 12-month period.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Peter A. Gallione, Substance Abuse Administrator - Juvenile Justice Commission The Committee reviewed Mr. Gallione's letter dated November 28, 2005 regarding the agency's efforts to revise job specifications to address the requirements of N.J.S.A. 45:2D and N.J.A.C. 13:34C et seq. In response, the Committee acknowledged the efforts that have been made and noted that all job specifications must reference the regulatory requirements for practice as certified or licensed alcohol and drug counselors.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2006-2008 Biennial Renewal

The Committee reviewed a draft copy of the application for renewal of licensure and certification. Ms. DeMars noted that all current licensees and certificate holders that have been approved through July 31, 2006 are required to complete the renewal process, pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34C-1.5. Approximately 8 weeks prior to the July 31, 2006 expiration date, licensees and certificate holders will receive a letter informing of the option and process to renew online or by responding to the pressure-sealed form mailed to all active licensees at the address maintained in the Committee file. Ms. DeMars also explained that the process requires response to each of the questions contained on the renewal application form, certification (signature) and submission of the appropriate fees. She noted that a question related to the completion of the required continuing education requirement will be included. It is only upon an audit that submission of course certificates will be required. All licensees are advised, therefore, not to attempt to send certificates in unless directed to do so by a separate Committee letter.

2006 Meeting Dates:

January 27, 2006 July 28, 2006
February 24, 2006 August 25, 2006
March 24, 2006 September 22, 2006
April 28, 2006 October 27, 2006
May 26, 2006 November 17, 2006
June 16, 2006 December 15, 2006

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is January 27, 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 Donald F. Weinbaum, the following applications were approved:

CADC Regular

1. Akers, Noel J.
2. Arthur, Albert A.
3. Ballard, Diane P.
4. Bolden, Anne Calyton
5. Busfield, Susan E.
6. Campbell, Tonette
7. DeSantis-Comito, Sandra
8. Dowling, Denise L.
9. Ferringo, Sunny Madlyn A.
10. Foose, Susan R.*
11. Fonseca, Patricia
12. Gamache, Judith E.
13. Hinrichs, William
14. Jackson, Susan B.
15. Kane, Dennis
16. Kaplan, Miriam E.
17. Karpiel, Roman
18. Kelly-Vassallo, Maureen
19. Levine, Victoria
20. Lombardi, Vincent J.
21. Penney, Laura J.
22. Riccobono, Anthony B.
23. Sapp, Richard*
24. Thomas, Jacqueline
25. Thomas, Kenneth N.

* Committee Vice Chair Donald F. Weinbaum recused from the vote on the application of Ms. Susan R. Foose. Committee Member Georgene Brazer recused from the vote on the application of Mr. Richard Sapp. Recusals were based on either personal or professional knowledge of the individual noted.

CADC Grandfather

1. McDonnell, Robert A.

Upgrade from CADC to LCADC

1. Alfano, Christine C.

LCADC Regular

1. Hilliard, Robert O.
2. Jarusiewicz, Betty
3. Keller, Mary Anne
4. Hamilton, Henry
5. Wells, Gregory Jr.

LCADC Grandfather

1. Speelman, Nancy

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Sylvia W. Lippe and seconded by Donald F. Weinbaum, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session at 9:05 a.m. to discuss pending applications, confidential and disciplinary matters.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Donald F. Weinbaum, seconded by Georgene Brazer, the Committee adjourned the meeting at 4:55 p.m.