

**State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners  
Open Session Minutes**

January 9, 2003

**A. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 a.m. by President Florence A. Schatten who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**B. ROLL CALL**

**Present:**

Board President Florence A. Schatten  
Board Member Roland A. Alum  
Board Member Barbra Andrews  
Board Member Samira Haddad  
Board Member Edward Reading  
Board Member Margaret Pipchick  
Board Member James Verser  
Board Member Ronald K. Walthall

**Absent:**

Board Member E. W. Stroh

**Staff Present:**

Executive Director Dennis Gonzalez  
Managing Executive Director Paul Brush  
Deputy Attorney General Marilyn Bair  
Deputy Attorney Susan Carbone  
Jane Cofone Administrative Staff

**C. INTRODUCTION OF PAUL BRUSH, MANAGING EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**

Paul Brush introduced himself. He explained to the Board that in an effort to improve communication between the various boards and the Division's Administration, all boards have been clustered into five groups, each group has a Managing Executive Director. As the Mental Health Managing Executive Director, Mr. Brush will serve as the liaison between Executive Director Dennis Gonzalez and Deputy Director Anthony Miragliotta.

**D. INTRODUCTION OF NEW BOARD MEMBER MARGARET PIPCHICK, Ph.D.**

Dr. Margaret Pipchick introduced herself. She has been a licensed marriage and family therapist for many years and has served on the Board of the New Jersey Association of Marriage & Family Therapy. She expressed that she was very pleased to be serving on the Board.

**E. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES**

On a motion by E. Reading, seconded by J. Verser, the minutes of November 14, 2002 were approved

with corrections.

## **F. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY**

The Board asked the Executive Director to inquire of Regulatory Analyst, Danielle Swenson when the marriage & family therapy regulations sunset.

## **G. CORRESPONDENCE**

**J. David Niemeyer, LMFT, Board Member** - Board members were given a copy of a letter written by former member David Niemeyer who is now living in Virginia. Mr. Niemeyer indicated in his letter that he will be transferring his license to Virginia and has sent his personal regards to all the board members.

## **H. OLD BUSINESS**

1. **Seton Hall University** - Board held a discussion as to the appearance of Seton Hall University in October before the Board regarding Seton Hall's MFT program. Board requested that the Executive Director contact Dr. Bob Massey from Seton Hall University and report back to the Board at the next meeting regarding the disposition on the discussion

2. **Booklets** - Board decided to have booklets mailed to all licensees and have additional copies made for office use. The exact number of booklets to be printed will be determined by the Executive Director.

## **I. NEW BUSINESS**

1. **Seton Hall University** - Board member J. Verser received an invitation from Seton Hall University to make an appearance before their MFT students regarding the licensing process. Mr. Verser has made this presentation at Seton Hall in previous years. On a motion by R. Walthall, seconded by B. Andrews, the Board authorized Mr. Verser to appear on the Board's behalf.

2. **STATE HEALTH BENEFITS PROGRAM** - Board members were informed that as of January 1, 2003 licensed marriage & family therapists are now approved providers under the SHBP.

## **J. CREDENTIAL REVIEW**

1. **Ana DuBois** - On a motion by E. Reading, seconded by J. Verser, Ms. DuBois was approved to take the exam.

2. **B'Nay James** - On a motion by R. Walthall, seconded by S. Haddad, Ms. James was approved to take the exam.

3. **Janice Nardi** - Ms. Nardi's application was held pending re-submission of her course descriptions.

4. **Cynthia Ordway** - Ms. Ordway's application was held pending submission of her supervisors resume.

5. **Joelleyn Ross** - On a motion by J. Verser, seconded by E. Reading, Ms. Ross' application was denied because she does not meet the educational requirements. She does not have the required MFT courses.

## **K. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Alcohol & Drug Counselors Committee** - ADC Committee Chairman, Ed Reading reported to the Board that the Alcohol & Drug regulations are being reviewed in Trenton and that a new DAG has been assigned to the Committee.

## **L. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

## **M. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

**Chairman**- On a motion by J. Verser, seconded by r. Alum, Florence Schatten was re-elected Chairman until December, 2003.

**Vice-Chairman** - On a motion by J. Verser, seconded by E. Reading, Margaret Pipchick was elected Vice-chairman until December 2003.

**Secretary** - On a motion by J. Verser, seconded by E. Reading, Samira Haddad was re-elected Secretary until December 2003.

## **N. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be February 13, 2003, at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

## **O. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by J. Verser, seconded by R. Alum, the Board voted to go into Executive session.

## **P. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION**

The Board returned to open session.

## **Q. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m. .

Respectfully Submitted,

Dennis Gonzalez  
Executive Director

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