

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
MARCH 8, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m. by Board Chair James Verser who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Board Member, Ben Beitin  
Board Member, Samira Haddad  
Board Member, Dawn M. Lacy  
Board Member, J. Barry Mascari  
Board Member, Verice Mason  
Board Member, Amy Meckeler  
Board Member, Judith Owens  
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall  
Board Member, James Verser

Excused:

Board Member, Barbara Andrews  
Board Member, Gina Kassell  
Board Member, Edward Reading

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars  
Deputy Attorney General, Jodi C. Krugman  
Administrative Staff, Celeste Paige  
Administrative Staff, Aishah Figueroa

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On a motion made by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Amy Meckeler, and unanimous vote the Public Session Minutes of the January 11, 2007 meeting were approved as presented.

**IV. CORRESPONDENCE**

Robert Massey, Ph.D, LMFT, Seton Hall University

Dr. Massey wrote seeking clarification of the statutory requirements for licensure. Specific questions regarding course work and supervision were included in his e-mail. The Board will inform Dr. Massey that based on P.L. 2005, Chapter 49, the Board has proposed revised regulations which are scheduled to be published March 18, 2007. Dr. Massey will also be informed that the regulations revisions will clarify the requirements for supervision. The revision includes a definition and the responsibilities of a qualified supervisor and the requirements for supervised experience. Prior to the initiation of a supervision agreement, the Board will require the submission of a plan of supervision for Board approval.

**V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY**

## A. Proposed Regulations Publication

March 19, 2007 is the publication date set for the regulations N.J.S.A. 45:8B-1 through 45:8B-5.

## + B. Assembly Bill 4044 - New Jersey Health Information Technology Promotion Act

This Bill will establish the New Jersey Health Information Technology Commission, comprised of 21- members that will assume primary responsibility within State government for the development, implementation, and oversight of the Statewide health information technology plan. The Board was not clear about the overall feasibility of the bill and whether it would create another layer of issues (redundancy, cost, confusion and maintenance of confidentiality). On a motion by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Dawn Lacy and an unanimous vote, the Board agreed that the concept was good but opposed the Bill as written. All members agreed that it was not a good way to effectuate affordable health care.

## C. Senate Bill 2534

This Bill would require licensed health care professionals and facilities to bill Medicare beneficiaries within six (6) months of providing health care services unless there is a dispute. On a motion by J. Barry Mascari, seconded by Judith Owens and a unanimous vote the Board voted to support the Bill.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars informed the Board that a second random continuing education audit (2 %) of licensed active marriage and family therapists has begun. The letters will be mailed the week of March 12, 2007. Ms. DeMars also informed the Board that Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson has resigned her position and Maryann Sheehan will serve as the Regulatory Analyst for the Board and the Professional Counselor Examiners and Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committees.

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### Professional Counselors Committee

Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari reported that the Committee has received a significant number of applications with deficiencies in the educational requirements. The rehabilitation counselor Committee member position remains vacant. He also reported that the Professional Counselor Examiners Regulations Committee has scheduled a March 29, 2007 meeting to address education, supervision, practice and advertising issues.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held April 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

## **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by Samira Haddad, seconded by Ronald Walthall, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:14 a.m. to discuss pending confidential matters.

## **X. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Verice Mason, the meeting adjourned at 12:30 p.m.