

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 10, 2005**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:18 a.m. by Vice Chair Barbara Andrews who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Member, Barbara Andrews
Board Member, Samira Haddad
Board Member, Margaret Pipchick
Board Member, Edward Reading
Board Member, Edward Stroh
Board Member, James Verser
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall

Excused:

Board President, Florence A. Schatten
Board Member, Roland A. Alum

Staff Present:

Deputy Attorney General, Mileidy Perez
Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars
Administrative Staff, Celeste Sweeper
Administrative Staff, Aishah Figueora

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Margaret Pipchick, the minutes of December 9, 2004 were approved as presented.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

License Renewal Statistics

Effective November 12, 2004, 670 (91 %) licensees have completed the renewal application process.

The Board was informed that a notice of suspension of license has been mailed to sixty-seven licensees who did not complete the renewal application process before the June 30, 2004 expiration date. The notice is routinely mailed to all Division of Consumer Affairs licensees once the late renewal date has passed. In order to change the status from expired to active, licensees are now required to complete the reinstatement process, including a criminal history background check.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public members present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Senate Bill -2321

Requires conditionally discharged drug dependent person to undergo assessment and drug treatment.

The Board voted unanimously to support the concept of the proposal with the following recommendations for revisions/clarifications:

- a. It is not clear who is required to pay for the evaluations.
- b. Language clarifying who will perform the evaluations is recommended; it was noted that the evaluator should have specific alcohol and drug evaluation/counseling training.
- c. Do the provisions require the court to verify that the facility is able to schedule the drug- dependent person. Consideration may also be given to referring individuals to private facilities to deal with delays and/or backlogs.

B. Assembly Bill - 3757

Revises licensure and certification requirements for certain persons who engage in practice of social work.

The Board voted unanimously to support the concept of the proposed legislation with the following recommendations for revisions/clarifications:

- a. The 20 year experience required for grandfathering is too long. Five years is more reasonable and should extend to all work settings in addition to the levels of government and non-profit noted in the bill.
- b. Section 5(a) should be corrected to "marriage and family therapy"
- c. Section 5(e) should not be deleted but the term prevention should be deleted from the reference.
- d. Section 5(g) is unclear. If deleted, does that allow for individuals with a master's degree other than an MSW?

C. Senate Bill - 3756

Social Work Student Incentive Loan Redemption Act

While the Board did not have a copy of the proposal to review, reference was made to the fact that NASW-NJ has made reference to it as a companion bill to 3757. A summary of the bill was read from the NASW-NJ Action Alert. The Board requested additional information on the funding source and amount and who would administrate the loans.

D. Senate Bill - 2143 (formerly A3317)

Revises experience requirements for eligibility to be licensed as a marriage and family therapist. It was reported that both versions are moving forward. A-3317 passed with a vote of 74-0-0 on 2/24/05, referred to the Senate Commerce Committee on 2/28/05 and reported from the Senate Committee on the 2nd Reading on 3/7/05.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Karen Ziminski- Achievement Counseling

The Board reviewed Ms. Ziminski's letter requesting information on whether she can practice in New Jersey based on her work experience in Massachusetts and her licensure in Massachusetts. The Board will send Ms. Ziminski an application packet and a letter advising her that in order to practice Marriage and Family Therapy in New Jersey she must be licensed. Ms. Ziminski will be referred to the statutes and regulations pertaining to licensure.

B. Charlene Alderefer - The College of New Jersey

Jean Banti - Contextual Services both wrote to the Board requesting clarification of the application process to obtain the licensure by the Board. The Board will inform Ms. Banti and Ms. Alderefer that the

application process is on a case by case basis and applications are handled promptly by the Board. Often what appears to be an arduous process is the result of incomplete applications (forms not completed, signed, unofficial transcripts, lack of documented experience, etc.) and require information that has not been provided by the applicant. The Board noted that awaiting clearance of the criminal history background report can also cause a delay before an applicant is approved for examination. The national marriage and family therapy examination is offered three times a year.

VII. CREDENTIAL REVIEWS

Kathleen Agosto

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Edward Stroh the Board approved Kathleen Agosto's application to take the examination.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

The board members received copies of the current application for review of credentials (application for licensure), which includes the coursework distribution form, and the applications for a three year and a 1 year temporary permit. The Board agreed to revisit the application and take steps to modify and finalize the changes that would be mandated by the passage of A3317 and the adoption of related revised regulations.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. Seton Hall Presentation

Board member James Verser has been invited to conduct a presentation at Seton Hall University on the New Jersey requirements for marriage and family therapy licensure. On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by Ronald Walthall, the Board unanimously voted to approve his representation of the Board.

B. The Division of Law Billing report for the first quarter of fiscal year 2005 was distributed to the board members and received as informational.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Committee liaison Edward Stroh reported that as of March 9, 2005, there were 2,155 active professional, 101 active rehabilitation and 98 active associate counselors. There were 429 inactive/expired professional counselors, 19 inactive/expired rehabilitation and 36 inactive/expired associate counselors. To date there are 193 pending applications for professional licensure and 30 pending applications for associate counselor licensure.

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Committee liaison Edward Reading reported that there are 891 active alcohol and drug counselors (licensed and certified) with 639 pending applications being processed. Since April 2004 the Committee has reviewed approximately 250 applications that included positive criminal histories.

XI NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be April 14, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded Margaret Pipchick the Board moved to Executive Session at

11:08 a.m. to review license applications and discuss consumer complaints and other confidential matters.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Edward Reading the meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. De Mars
Executive Director