

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
MARCH 11, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Board Chair Florence Schatten who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Chair Florence A. Schatten
Board Member Roland A. Alum
Board Member Barbara Andrews
Board Member Samira Haddad
Board Member Edward Reading
Board Member Margaret Pipchick
Board Member Edward W. Stroh
Board Member James Verser
Board Member Ronald Walthall

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Samira Haddad, the minutes of February 19, 2004 were approved with amendments.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Licensure Requirements
N.J.S.A. 45:8B-18(b)
N.J.A.C. 13:34-3.4

Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson addressed questions highlighted in the February 19th meeting regarding the experience and supervision requirements for licensure. Ms. Swenson advised the Board that since the requirements are based in the statute, changes cannot be made by the Board. James Verser noted that the professional association is pursuing steps to amend the law. He suggested that the insurance industry has unintentionally initiated a socio-cultural change. The industry seems to be holding mental health clinics to a higher standard by requiring all therapists on staff to be licensed. Those organizations are aware of the liability issues involved and accept only licensed individuals. There are very few individuals who qualify as supervisors and liability concerns are an issue. Facilities are not providing the positions for unlicensed people as in the past. Edward Stroh reported that the enrollment in university marriage and family programs has significantly decreased. While concern was expressed for the future availability of qualified therapists, it was noted that there have been no consumer complaints on the issue. Mr. Verser suggested that the Board examine the requirements of other states in order to begin to evaluate the impact of the current standards for licensure on the public.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Rose Marie Keola Rudy

Ms. Rudy submitted a letter to the Board stating her difficulty in obtaining an MFT license in New Mexico. The Executive Director will write to Ms. Rudy informing her that New Mexico has their own standards, over which the Board has no jurisdiction.

VII. EXAM SCORES

A. September 15, 2003 through October 11, 2003.

The exam scores submitted by the Professional Examination Service for the period of September 15, 2003 through October 11, 2003 were approved by the Board.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. E-Therapy

Executive Director Elaine DeMars reported that an E-Therapy Task force is being initiated to examine the consumer protection and practice issues. The intention is to draft a regulation for the mental health professional boards. Florence Schatten and Margaret Pipchick volunteered to represent the Board.

XIV. NEW BUSINESS

None

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Executive Director Elaine DeMars reported that the licensure applications for Committee members Edward Reading, Donald Weinbaum and Fred Reihl have been completed. The applications were reviewed by Deputy Director Anthony Miragliotta, Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson and Ms. DeMars and presented to the Board for approval. The application of Sylvia Lippe, also reviewed and was presented for approval pending receipt of a clear criminal history report. Edward Reading recused himself and left the room during the review and vote on the applications.

A motion was made by Edward Stroh, seconded by Margaret Pipchick to approve licensure as Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors for Edward Reading, Sylvia Lippe (upon a satisfactory CHBC report), Donald Weinbaum and Fred Reihl. All members voted unanimously.

XI. PUBLIC COMMENT

None

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held April 8, 2004 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by James Verser , seconded by Margaret Pipchick, the Board went into Executive Session to discuss pending disciplinary matters.

XIV. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 11:04 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director