

BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
April 14, 2005

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Board Chair Florence A. Schatten who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Excused:

Board Member, Edward Reading
Board Member, Roland A. Alum

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Margaret Pipchick, the minutes of March 10, 2005 were approved as amended.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kathy Torsney, Ph.D., Acting Director of the MA Program in Applied Clinical Psychology at William Paterson University was in attendance.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Senate Bill -2143(formerly A3317)
Assembly Bill 3317 and Senate Bill 2143
Public Law 2005, Chapter 49 (P.L. 2005, c.49)

Revises experience requirements for eligibility to be licensed as a marriage and family therapist. Assembly Bill 3317 was approved by the Senate Commerce Committee on March 7, 2005 and signed into law on March 21, 2005 P.L. 2005- c. 49. This law reduces the supervised experience requirement from five years to three years.

The Board addressed its responsibility to revise the regulations to conform with the new law. Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson and the Board discussed amending the following regulations: N.J.A.C. 13:34-3.4(b), N.J.A.C. 13:34-3.6 and N.J.A.C. 13:34-4.2. The Board also discussed deleting N.J.A.C. 13:34-3.5 and amending the regulations to define the terms "general counseling experience" as well as "marriage and family therapy experience." Until such time as the new regulations are enacted, the Board will review applications on a case-by-case basis in accordance with the new law.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Jose Perez

The Board reviewed Mr. Perez's letter inquiring about the new legislation, 2005 P.L. 2005- c. 49, and how it applies to individuals working part time. Mr. Perez also requested information regarding the application process to obtain a temporary permit. The Board agreed it needs additional information from Mr. Perez in order to respond to his inquiry. The Board will request that Mr. Perez provide information concerning his current employer, supervisors, and job duties. The Board will direct Mr. Perez to refrain from using "MFT" as part of his credential as it implies that he is licensed to practice Marriage and Family Therapy.

VII. CREDENTIAL REVIEWS

Elena Brash

The Board reviewed the application and curriculum vitae of Mary Beth Gallmore and approved her as supervisor for Elena Brash.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

The Board agreed to table its review of the licensure application and supervision forms until such time as amendments to the existing regulations are made in accordance with 2005 P.L. 2005- c. 49.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. MFT Exam Scores January 17 - February 12, 2005

On a motion by Barbara Andrews, seconded by Edward Stroh, the national marriage and family therapy exam scores were presented and accepted.

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

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be May 12, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Margaret Pipchick, seconded by James Verser, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:09 a.m. to review license applications and other confidential matters.

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Samira Haddad the meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. De Mars
Executive Director