

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
MAY 11, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:25 a.m. by Board Chair James Verser who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Chair, James Verser
Board Member, Ben K. Beitin
Board Vice Chair, Samira Haddad
Board Member, Dawn M. Lacy
Board Member, Verice Mason
Board Member, Judith A. Owens
Board Member, Edward Reading
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall

Excused:

Board Member, Barbara Andrews
Board Member, Gina Kassel
Board Member, Barry Mascari
Board Member, Amy E. Meckeler

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES On a motion made by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Samira Haddad, and unanimous vote the Public Session Minutes of the April 13, 2006 meeting were approved as amended.

IV. CORRESPONDENCE

A. American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy - New Jersey The Board tabled its discussion of comments received regarding regulations to implement the provisions of Public Law 2005, Chapter 49 and asked that the Regulations Committee consider the comments and provide a recommendation to the full Board during the June 8, 2006 meeting. B. Robert Massey, Ph.D., LMFT

The Board reviewed correspondence from Dr. Massey requesting that the Board include the International Family Therapy Association as a qualifying provider of continuing education under N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.3. The Board agreed to take Dr. Massey's recommendation under advisement and referred the matter to the Regulations Committee for review and recommendation to the Board.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Discussion of revisions to the current regulations, pursuant to Public Law, 2005, Chapter 49 was tabled pending a June 8, 2006 report from the Regulations Committee.

B. Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) Bill - Adverse Licensure Action Reports:

Proposed regulations (to implement Section 921 of the Social Security Act) that will result in placing information currently reported to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). The Board voted to make no comment noting that while the profession is not recognized as a Medicaid/Medicare provider, MFT services are not reimbursed by Blue Cross/Blue Shield. It was noted that reporting of mental health licensing board disciplinary actions is "Optional" according to HIPDB rules, however the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy, Professional Counselors Examiners Committee and Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee do report final disciplinary actions. HIPDB is a good mechanism for sharing disciplinary action between jurisdictions and is utilized effectively by the medical-related boards. The Board acknowledged that because the data bank is optional for mental health licensing boards, it is not as effective in making available the disciplinary records of all licensing sister states when individuals seek licensure.

VI. LICENSE RENEWAL PROCESSING

A. Executive Director, Elaine DeMars informed the Board that fifty-three licensees have completed the on-line biennial license renewal. Fifty-two renewal notices were returned as undeliverable due to inaccurate addresses.

B. The Board reviewed the AAMFT response indicating that a reexamination would be available for those licensees who have remained in an "expired" or "suspended" status for five years or more as required in N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1(d).

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

The Committee is scheduled to meet following the adjournment of the Board meeting to continue discussion of the draft regulation intended to implement Public Law 2005, Chapter 49.

B. Professional Counselor Examiner Committee

No report was presented.

C. Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

The first biennial renewal process for license and certificate holders is scheduled to begin with a renewal notice to be mailed in mid-to-late May 2006.

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by Ronald Walthall, the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners authorized J. Barry Mascari, Professional Counselor examiners Committee liaison to the Board and licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor to participate in the Alcohol & Drug Counselor Committee when necessary to constitute a quorum for the purpose of reviewing the credentials of applicants.

VIII. UNLICENSED PRACTICE: Farber v. Page (Roberta Medi Spa)

An Order to Show Cause has been filed concerning the unlicensed practice of medicine and surgery, mental health therapy and cosmetology and hairstyling. The section of the Order that pertains to this Board seeks to temporarily enjoin and restrain defendant Judith Page from engaging in any mental health therapy. As a result of the Order Roberta Medi Spa is closed.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held June 8, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Verice Mason, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:58 a.m. to discuss pending confidential matters.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by Samira Haddad, the meeting adjourned at 11:23 a.m.