

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 12, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:52 a.m. by Board member Ben Beitin who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Member, Ben Beitin
Board Member, J. Barry Mascari
Board Member, Edward Reading

Excused:

Board Member, Gina Kassel
Board Member, Dawn M. Lacy
Board Member, Amy E. Meckeler
Board Member, Judith Owens
Board Member, James Verser
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall

Resigned:

Board Member, Samira Haddad

Staff Present:

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

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars announced that due to the fact that Board member attendance did not constitute a quorum pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8-13, business was conducted as a committee with recommendations to be presented to the full Board at the July 17, 2008 meeting.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The Public Session Minutes of the June 12, 2008 meeting could not be approved due to lack of quorum. The minutes will be presented for approval at the July 17, 2008 meeting.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Elaine DeMars, discussed the appointment of David Szuchman who will fill the role as the new Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. Executive Director DeMars also discussed the year end guidelines/cut-off date for processing travel reimbursement requests and payment vouchers. All travel reimbursement requests, employee reimbursements and board meeting payments for Fiscal Year 2008 (July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008) must be received no later than Monday, June 30, 2008. The Election of Officers scheduled for the June 12, 2008 Board meeting will be conducted during the July 17, 2008 Board meeting.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Kathleen Bishop

Ms. Bishop submitted correspondence requesting the Board's confirmation that she has met the experience requirement towards licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Ms. Bishop's application was previously reviewed by the Board and the Board determined that she had not met the educational experience component of the application process. Upon the review of her correspondence, the Board will inform Ms. Bishop that if she opts to complete a masters program, she will be required to complete two years of post-masters supervised marriage and family therapy experience. If Ms. Bishop completes an Ed.S. program, she will be required to obtain one year of post-degree supervised marriage and family therapy experience. Ms. Bishop may apply for a temporary permit upon completion of her degree in order to obtain the experience required.

B. Lynelle Yingling

Ms. Yingling submitted correspondence to the Board as the trainer for Parenting Coordination training programs in which she requested the Boards completion of a survey involving parenting coordination in the marriage and family therapy profession. Ms. Yingling will be informed that the Board can not disclose any detailed information with regard to her request. Ms. Yingling will be advised to refer to the New Jersey Supreme Court's website for further information.

C. Magdalena Gesiarz-Occhicone

The Board received correspondence from the Office of the State Board for Mental Health Practitioners in New York State in regards to the status of Ms. Gesiarz-Occhicone's limited permit application. The Board reviewed the correspondence and accepted it as informational.

D. Sandra Matter

Ms. Sandra Matter, Administrator of the State Board of Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Professional Counselors of Pennsylvania, submits correspondence to advise the Board of their new Certification of Licensure procedure in order to minimize the ability of applicants in receipt of fraudulent documents. The Board reviewed the correspondence and accepted it as informational.

VI. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Regulatory Analyst - Maryann Sheehan

Maryann Sheehan was in attendance to discuss the revisions made to the regulations draft. Due to the Boards lack of quorum, the Board will continue to work on revisions and thoroughly review the draft for discussion at the July 17, 2008 Board meeting. Ms. Sheehan will provide a revised draft including the revisions that have been made to date.

B. Bill Comment Request for S-1815

The Board indicated upon review of the Bill, that there is no statute of limitation that defines mental health counselors in the Bill. The Board feels that this Bill does not further a consumer protection purpose where rehabilitation measures may be evaluated and demonstrated. The Board does not have comments to present at this.

C. Assembly Bill 2735

Upon the Boards review of Bill 2735 the Board is opposed to the Bill as written.

D. "Future Trends in MFT Regulations"

Article has been tabled for the July 17, 2008 Board meeting.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

B. Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

C. Alcohol and Drug Counselors Committee

VIII. AMFTRB MATTERS

The next AMFTRB meeting is scheduled to be held in Anchorage Alaska in October of 2008.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held July 17, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ben Beitin, seconded by J. Barry Mascari, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:40 a.m. to discuss pending complaints and confidential matters.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ronald Walthall, Edward Reading, seconded by J. Barry Mascari, the meeting adjourned at 12:05 p.m.