

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
JULY 8, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 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 Edward Reading
Board Member Margaret Pipchick
Board Member Edward W. Stroh
Board Member James Verser
Board Member Samira Haddad
Board Member Ronald K. Walthall

Staff Present:

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

Announcement of Quorum

In accordance with Chapter 231 of Public Law 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mailing to the Office of the Secretary of State, the Newark Star Ledger, the Trenton Times, the Bergen Record and the Courier Post.

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Samira Haddad, the minutes of May 13, 2004 were approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public members present.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Elaine DeMars informed the Board that 647 renewal applications have been processed and 92 licensees have yet to return the application for the 2004-2006 biennial licensure period.

VI. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

P.L. 2003, ch. 214 The Board was provided with a copy of the new law approved by the Governor on January 9, 2004, which requires marriage and family therapists among other professionals to report demographic information to the Division of Mental Health Services about persons under the age of 25 who commit or attempt suicide.

VII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS

In accordance with N.J.S.A. 45:8B the Board held its annual election of officers. On a motion by Roland Alum, seconded by James Verser , Florence Schatten was nominated for Board Chair. On a motion by Florence Schatten, seconded by Samira Haddad, Barbara Andrews was nominated for the position of Board Vice Chair. On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Edward Stroh, Roland Alum was nominated for the position Board Secretary.

A unanimous vote was made to elect the following slate of officers for the period of July, 2004 through June 2005:

Florence Schatten, Board Chair (re-elected)
Barbara Andrews, Board Vice Chair
Roland Alum, Board Secretary

Board Member Resignation

Board member Margaret Pipchick informed the Board that she will resign her position as board member due to personal reasons. The Board will be provided with her official letter of resignation.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

Carmen Buono, Ph.D.

The Board received a letter from Mr. Buono requesting a waiver of the continuing education requirement. Mr. Buono reports that he will enter the seminary shortly and related his concern that it will be difficult to meet the requirement of forty (40) hours of continuing education in the next two years. While the Board cannot immediately grant Mr. Buono a waiver, the Board will request that he submit course work descriptions for the Board's review in determining if the course work satisfies the continuing education requirement.

Daiana Gonzalez

The Board received an e-mail from Daiana Gonzalez who wanted information on the requirements to become an MFT approved supervisor in the State of New Jersey. The Board will ask Ms. Gonzalez for her address and will forward a copy of N.J.S.A. 45:8B-18(b) and N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.3(c), the regulation and statute addressing supervision .

Patricia Monaghan, Ed.S.

The Board reviewed a letter from Patricia J. Monaghan. Ms. Monaghan had two (2) questions about the new continuing education requirements. The Board will inform Ms. Monaghan that credits earned prior to July 1, 2004 cannot be applied to the 40 credit requirement. Attendance certificates for approved courses must be obtained and maintained by the licensee. Ms. Monaghan will be referred to N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.3(c) ,the continuing education regulation.

Tarcila Sutterley, Ed.S.

The Board received correspondence from licensee Tarcila Sutterly, 2004 Annual AAMFT Conference Chairperson. Ms. Sutterley wrote seeking continuing education approval for the October 1, 2004 Conference. The Board will inform Ms. Sutterley that AAMFT is an approved her provider pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.3(c) which sets forth the acceptable content areas for continuing education credits.

VIII. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

Wynante Sewell

Ms. Wynante Sewell submitted an application for licensure. On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Edward Reading, Ms. Sewell was approved to take the next marriage and family therapy licensing examination.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

AAMFT Educator's Summit July 2004

The American Association of Marriage and Family Therapists is conducting "practice domain study" and will introduce its implementation at the Educator's Summit. Licensing board representatives have been invited to participate. Board Member James Verser will represent the Board at the Summit.

CLEAR -AAMFTRB Annual Meeting

The Board collectively completed the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards survey to be used in a report at the September Annual Meeting. On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Edward Stroh, the Board voted to have Board Chair Florence Schatten and Executive Director Elaine DeMars represent the Board at the Annual Meeting.

X. NEW BUSINESS

The Board received information that confirmed that New Jersey marriage and family therapists are now covered (through the State Health Commission) under the State Health Benefits Plan.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Committee Chair Edward Reading informed the Board that the Committee has received over 1,000 applications for Alcohol and Drug Counselor licensure/certification. Out of the more than 1,000, the Committee has addressed 79 applicants who have had positive criminal histories.

XII. NEXT MEETING

On a motion by Florence Schatten, seconded by Margaret Pipchick and a unanimous vote, the Board agreed to cancel its August and September meetings. The next meeting is scheduled for October 14, 2004 at 9:00 a.m.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by James Verser the Board moved to Executive Session to discussion pending disciplinary matters t 10:30 a.m..

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Barbara Andrews, seconded by Roland Alum, the meeting adjourned at 11:06 a.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine E. DeMars
Executive Director