

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2005**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 9:40 am. by Board Chair Florence Schatten who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. Due to the lack of quorum, the Board members in attendance proceeded as a committee (the Committee) of the Board.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Board President, Florence Schatten  
Board Member, Edward Reading  
Board Member, Edward W. Stroh  
Board Member, John J. Verser, III  
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall

Excused:

Board Member, Roland A. Alum  
Board Member, Barbara Andrews  
Board Member, Samira Haddad

Staff Present:

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

**III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES**

On a motion by John J. Verser, seconded by Ronald Walthall, the minutes of July 14, 2005 will be proposed for approval as amended.

**IV. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY**

A. Discussion on regulatory amendments to incorporate Public Law 2005, Chapter 49 continued with Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson. Work on the revisions will continue at the October agenda meeting.

B. Readoption of N.J.A.C. 13:45C - Duty to Cooperate

Deputy Attorney General Perez provided background information on the proposal and suggested that the proposal appears to provide more authority to the Board in disciplinary matters. The Committee accepted the proposal as informational without comment and tabled and final comment determination until the full Board meets.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

A. Aarti Mathur

The Committee discussed Ms. Mathur's inquiry regarding the acceptance of Capella University's on-line

master's degree program for New Jersey licensure as a marriage and family therapist. The Committee suggested that based on the materials provided, Capella University is regionally accredited and the program description appears to be designed to satisfy educational requirements. However, in order to qualify for licensure applicants must satisfy all requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-1.1 et seq.

B. Margaret V. Moro, Ph.D.

The Committee reviewed a copy of Dr. Morro's letter sent to the New Jersey Department of Human Services' (DHS) Commissioner James M. Davy and her report that she was informed that DHS does not recognize marriage and family therapists. The Committee directed that the letter be acknowledged.

C. Anthony J. Palo, LMFT

In his letter, the writer provided information regarding training programs provided by the New Jersey Division of Mental Health Services and asks if a course presented by a specific instructor would satisfy the licensing requirements. Upon review, the Committee determined to inform the Mr. Palo that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-8.3, continuing education courses must be presented by an approved provider.

## **VI. CREDENTIAL REVIEWS**

On a motion made by Edward Stroh, seconded by Edward Reading, the Committee voted to approve the following applicants:

Sueli Petry - Approved to sit for the Marriage and Family Therapy Examination

William Noble - Approved for the issuance of the Three- Year Temporary Permit

## **VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS**

A. Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee liaison, Edward Reading, reported that the Committee continues in its effort to inform the addictions counseling community of the requirements for licensure. N.J.S.A. 45:2D, the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Licensing Act, does not provide certification/licensure exemptions for government agencies or non-profit institutions, therefore, the Committee continues in the effort to communicate with all affected groups. Dr. Reading also reported that the pursuant to the N.J.A.C. 13:34C-5.2(d), all license and certificate holders are required to complete six contact hours of continuing education in New Jersey legal standards during the initial biennial renewal period. The Committee will conduct its first training of qualified licensees to present the course on September 23, 2005.

The delegation of the authority of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners to render final decisions, based on the recommendations of the Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee was discussed. Upon motion made by James Verser and seconded by Ronald Walthall, the Committee of the Board voted to authorize the Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners Board Chair to sign consent orders for cases in which the Committee Chair recuses from discussion in the matter.

B. Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Dr. Stroh reported that the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3i will become effective on April 20, 2006. As of that date, the acceptable degree is required to include the word "counseling" or "counselor" in the title of the graduate degree awarded and that the purpose of the degree is stated as being to prepare students for the professional practice of counseling, in the institution's materials.

## **VIII. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be November 17, 2005, at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

#### **IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

On a motion by John J. Verser, seconded by Edward Stroh, the Board moved to Executive Session at 11:58 a.m. to discuss confidential matters.

#### **X. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Edward Reading, the meeting adjourned at 12:51 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L.DeMars  
Executive Director