

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 11, 2008**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:20 a.m. by Board Chair, James Verser who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Member, Ben Beitin
Board Member, Gina Kassel
Board Member, J. Barry Mascari
Board Member, Amy E. Meckeler
Board Member, Judith Owens
Board Member, Edward Reading
Board Member, James Verser
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall

Absent:

Board Member, Dawn M. Lacy

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ben Beitin, seconded by Gina Kassel, and unanimous vote, the Public Session Minutes of the July 17, 2008 meeting were approved as corrected.

IV. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Elaine DeMars reported that license expiration letters have been mailed to all licensees who did not renew their license for the July 1, 2008 - June 30, 2010 biennial license period. Continuing education audit letters will be mailed to a randomly selected group of licensees with a 2010 expiration date during the upcoming months.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

VII. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Final Draft of Regulations - Sunset Proposal N.J.A.C. 13:34-1 et seq.

Regulatory Analyst Maryann Sheehan presented the final draft of the marriage and family therapy proposed regulations. On a motion by Amy Meckeler, seconded by Gina Kassel and unanimous vote, the regulations were approved for publication as amended. The draft regulations will be processed for Division, Department and OLS approval.

B. First Quarter Proposed Legislation Report - April 1, 2008 through June 30, 2008 The First Quarter Report was presented for Board review and is considered informational.

VIII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

Ronald Walthall reported that the committee has completed work on draft language for revisions to N.J.A.C. 13:34-1 et seq.

B. Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Dr. Mascari reported that the Committee will review proposed revisions to N.J.A.C. 13:34-10 et seq. at the October 2, 2008 meeting. The Committee continues to review applications with the appointed members. Of the six members required by statute, four are appointed and two positions remain vacant. The lack of the two members, has had a significant impact on the review of applications and other Committee matters.

C. Alcohol and Drug Counselors Committee

Dr. Edward Reading reported that the Committee continues to work to complete the revision of the language to clarify N.J.A.C. 13:34C-1 et seq.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. OLD BUSINESS

Letter to David Szuchman

A letter dated August 14, 2008 to Director Szuchman was forwarded from Board Chairperson James Verser on behalf of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners. The correspondence explains the disadvantages position that New Jersey licensed marriage and family therapists and licensed marriage and family therapists in general experience. Elaine DeMars informed the Board that to date, a response has not been received.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held October 16, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Barry Mascari, seconded by Gina Kassell, the Board moved to Executive Session at 9:23 a.m. to discuss pending complaints and confidential matters.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Amy Meckeler, seconded by Gina Kassel, the meeting adjourned at 1:36 p.m.