

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 9, 2004**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by Board Chair Florence A. Schatten who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board President, Florence A. Schatten
Board Member, Roland A. Alum
Board Member, Barbra Andrews
Board Member, Samira Haddad
Board Member, Margaret Pipchick
Board Member, Edward Reading
Board Member, Edward Stroh
Board Member, James Verser
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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by Edward Reading seconded by Samira Haddad , the minutes of November 18, 2004 were approved as amended.

IV. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

License Renewal Statistics

As of December 8, 2004, 678 licensees have completed the renewal application process, 259 licenses had expired, 25 applications were pending and 81 licensees chose to place their licenses on "inactive" status. Executive Director Elaine DeMars informed the Committee of Acting Governor Codey's prohibition of all out-of-state travel as a cost- saving measure. Requests for travel to other states for conventions, conferences, annual meetings, etc. have been suspended until further notice.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Assembly Bill 3317

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Samira Haddad, the Board directed Executive Director Elaine DeMars to correspond with the Director's Office to inform that the Board has reviewed and recognizes the changes to this legislation.

B. New York State Education Department

Proposed Amendment to Regulations of the Commissioner of Education (Section 52.32 and Subpart 79-9 relating to the requirements for licensure as a mental health counselor)

The Board reviewed the proposed amendments to the New York State Regulations and discussed the provision to incorporate alternate routes. Alternate route #2 will deem applicants with a Bachelors degree, three years of supervised marriage and family therapy experience, who have completed an acceptable post-baccalaureate program in marriage and family therapy or a related field qualified for a marriage and family therapy license. On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Samira Haddad, the Board will send its comments to New York State informing them that given that the New York State Education Department has full discretion, the New Jersey Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners recommends that in the interest of portability, licensure candidates be required to possess a minimum of a master's degree. The Board finds that under the current proposal, individuals licensed by the State of New York may find that license is not accepted in other states.

VI. CREDENTIAL REVIEWS

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Barbara Andrews, the following determinations were made:

A. Akira Kido

The Board reviewed Ms. Kido's application for licensure.

Ms. Kido was approved to take the next marriage and family therapy licensing examination.

B. Joel M. Levine

The Board reviewed Mr. Levine's application for licensure.

Mr. Levine was approved to take the next marriage and family therapy licensing exam.

VII. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Committee liaison Edward Stroh reported that the licensure renewal is in process with an expiration of current licenses scheduled for November 30, 2004. As of December 8, 2004, 2,464 renewals have been processed, 195 are pending, 290 have expired and 86 licensees have chose to place their licenses on "inactive" status.

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Committee liaison Edward Reading reported that more than 1,300 applications have been received. As of December 8, 2004 there a total 708 active licenses/certifications, 644 pending applications and there have been more than 200 applications that have been reviewed that had positive criminal histories

VIII NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be January 13, 2004, at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Margaret Pipchick, seconded Barbara Andrews, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:22 a.m.

X. RETURN TO PUBLIC SESSION

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by James Verser , the meeting returned to Public Session at 12:42 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by James Verser, seconded by Edward Stroh, the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. De Mars
Executive Director