

**BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 14, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m. by Board Member James Verser who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Board Member, Ben K. Beitin
Board Member, Gina Kassel
Board Member, Verice Mason
Board Member, Amy Meckeler
Board Member, Judith A. Owens
Board Member, Edward Reading
Board Member, Ronald K. Walthall
Board Member, James Verser

Absent:

Board Member, Barbara Andrews

Excused:

Board Member, Samira Haddad
Board Member, Dawn M. Lacy
Board Member, J. Barry Mascari

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Amy Meckeler and unanimous vote the Public Session Minutes of the November 16, 2006 meeting were approved as corrected.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Assembly Bill 3063 (Formerly 2311)

This bill would amend the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 to change various requirements concerning notices, agendas, and public comments. On a motion by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Gina Kassel, the Board voted to communicate its concerns with the provisions of the bill. Specifically, it appears that the language of the bill would defeat the purpose of the executive session and may result in the breach of confidentiality. It is unclear how confidential matters such as consumer complaints, matters in the investigative process and pending disciplinary matters would be treated.

B. Assembly Bill 3623

This bill would establish a certificate of rehabilitation for convicted offenders to assist them in procuring public or private employment from which they would otherwise be barred because of their conviction. The Board determined to stand by the previous comments as reflected in the minutes of the November 16, 2006 public session meeting.

C. Assembly Bill 3514

This bill amends the "New Jersey Advance Directives for Health Care Act," N.J.S.A. 26:2H-53 et seq., to provide that a designated health care representative shall make health care decisions in accordance with the patient's religious beliefs, as well as in the best interests of the patient, as the law currently provides.

Upon review, the Board determined that language is needed to clarify and/or define "religious beliefs." How are the religious beliefs of the patient to be documented? It is also not clear how incapacitation is to be documented. The Board also opined that the proposed legislation will not affect the greatest number of people and would only apply to the exception.

VI. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Committee Chair and Liaison Edward Reading, LCADC, reported that the Committee intends to hold a meeting with educators of alcohol and drug counseling training. A similar meeting was held on June 24, 2004 and addressed the education requirements for licensure and certification.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

2007 Meeting Dates

The Board reviewed and accepted the following 2007 Board meeting schedule:

January 11, 2007 July 19, 2007
February 8, 2007 August 9, 2007
March 8, 2007 September 20, 2007
April 12, 2007 October 11, 2007
May 10, 2007 November 15, 2007
June 14, 2007 December 13, 2007

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be held January 11, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Walthall, seconded by Edward Reading, the Board moved to Executive Session at 9:57 a.m. to discuss pending confidential matters.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Ronald Walthall, the meeting adjourned at 11:55 a.m.