



CHRIS CHRISTIE
Governor

KIM GUADAGNO
Lt. Governor

New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



PAULA T. DOW
Attorney General

SHARON M. JOYCE
Acting Director

BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES APRIL 8, 2010

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.

Mailing Address:
P.O. Box 45007
Newark, NJ 07101
(973) 504-6415

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Ben K. Beitin
Gina Kassel
J. Barry Mascari
Edward Reading
James Verser

Excused:

Judith Owens
Dana L. Redd
David J. Socolow

Staff Present:

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

Announcement of quorum

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 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 J. Barry Mascari, seconded by Gina Kassel, the minutes of the March 11, 2010 Public Agenda meeting were recommended for approval as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT - There were no members of the public in attendance.

V. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Elaine DeMars informed the Board that the 2010 - 2012 biennial renewal notifications have been mailed. All license holders in the "Active" status have been sent a hard copy notification of the requirements and procedures for the renewal of licensure. Unless requested by the licensee, the actual renewal application form is not mailed. All licensees are encouraged to follow the procedures to renew online. The online renewal provides for an expedited updating of the license record and receipt of the official license certificate.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Laura Depp, MFT

Ms. Depp is licensed in the State of California and submitted a letter requesting the Board's guidance regarding conjoint pre-marital relationship counseling via the telephone or computer-based communication. One of the parties resides in California, while the other is a resident of New Jersey.

Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-6(c), the writer will be advised that the statute allows for a maximum of 15 business days in any 90 day period. Therefore, the Board voted to grant permission pending verification of her California license. Ms. Depp will also be required to submit a copy of her curriculum vitae.

VII. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Senate Bill 1666

Senate Bill 1666 would require videotaped recordings of interviews conducted by Psychologists and other mental health experts in child custody cases. On a motion made by Edward Reading, seconded by Barry Mascari, the Board voted in favor of the proposed legislation based on the provision that the requirement applies to cases in which the Court has appointed the psychologist or other mental health expert to interview the child, the parents, or both.

Board member Ben Beitin abstained from the vote.

B. Assembly Bill 2456

Assembly Bill 2456 eliminates salary for part-time members of certain Boards, Commissions, and independent authorities in State Government. On a motion made by Edward Reading, seconded by Gina Kassel, the Board voted to oppose the Bill based on the need to make a distinction between boards and commissions with salaried positions and those appointed members that are compensated on a flat per-diem rate.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. N.J.A.C. 13:24-9.2(d)

Maria Seddio, LMFT and NJ AMFT Division President, forwarded an e-mail for consideration for continuing education course offerings that may cover professional ethics but are not specific to the practice of marriage and family therapy. On a motion by Ben Beitin, seconded by Gina Kassel, the Board voted not to accept general ethics courses. The Board will respond to inform Ms. Seddio that there have been a number of opportunities to complete course work that would satisfy the requirement of N.J.A.C. 13:34-9.2(b). In past years, AMFT-NJ offered a marriage and family ethical and legal standards course at the Fall conference, but the Board noted it did not do so this year. In addition, the Board noted that there are internet courses that would satisfy the requirement, with http://www.aamft.org/resources/Product_Events/OnlineCE.asp as an example.

The Board will work to provide a list of available courses on the Web-page as soon as possible.

B. Shivani Nath

Board members Gina Kassel and Ben Beiting recused from the discussion in this matter. Due to a lack of quorum, the Final Order of Denial of Licensure for Shivani Nath was tabled for the May 13, 2010 Board meeting.

IX. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be May 13, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by Ben Beitin, the Board moved to Executive Session at 9:50 a.m. to discuss pending complaints and confidential matters.

XI. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by J. Barry Mascari, seconded by Edward Reading, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:44 p.m.