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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 MAY 13, 2010

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:36 a.m. by Board Chair, James Verser, who read the notice of compliance with the open Public Meetings Act.

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II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Ben K. Beitin
Gina Kassel

Judith Owens
Edward Reading
James Verser

Excused:

J. Barry Mascari
Dana L. Redd

Resigned:

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. Board Chair James Verser announced the presence of a quorum, pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-13.

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by Gina Kassel, seconded by Edward Reading, the minutes of the April 8, 2010 Public Agenda meeting were recommended for approval as presented.

IV. APPROVAL OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR COMMITTEE PUBLIC SESSION

MINUTES

On a recommendation made by the Professional Counselors Examiners Committee and a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by Judith Owens, the Board approved the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee's April 1, 2010 Public Session Minutes as presented.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

Members of the public in attendance:

Peggy Farrelly - Seton Hall University

Peggy Brady - Seton Hall University

The above listed individuals appeared to observe the Public Session of the Marriage and Family Therapy Board meeting. Ms. Farrelly and Ms. Brady expressed their hope that the Board will consider their request to amend the October 5, 2009 adoption of N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(b) and N.J.A.C. 13:34-13.

VI. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Elaine DeMars informed the Board that the 2010 - 2012 biennial renewal period is forward moving with respect to the mailing of renewal notifications to all licensees. Ms. DeMars indicated that a hold has been placed on the electronic record of licensees who have not completed a Criminal History Background Check conducted the beginning of 2010 by the Health Care Reporting Unit. Due to the hold, licensees will not receive notification for the renewal of their Marriage and Family Therapy Licenses. The Division's Health Care Reporting Unit will mail notifications to all licensees to satisfy the criminal history background check requirement. Upon the licensees completion of the background check, the hold will be released and renewal notices will be mailed.

The Board was also advised of the May 3, 2010 resignation of public member, David Socolow.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Markely S. Roderick, Esq.

In a letter dated April 15, 2010, Markley S. Roderick, Esq. requested the Board's guidance to determine whether a counseling practice providing marriage and family therapy may be owned by unlicensed persons. In response, Mr. Roderick will be advised that the Board would require more specific information regarding the proposed structure of the practice in order to provide a definitive answer.

B. Andrew Mercurio, Ph.D., Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, Nyack College

In his e-mail dated May 7, 2010, asked whether an out-of-state licensee is allowed to provide supervision for a Marriage and Family Therapy graduate (student) intern, in a New Jersey practice setting. In response, the Board will refer Dr. Mercurio to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-6c and advise that more detailed information regarding the structure of the practice setting, the time period of the supervisory agreement and what the function the supervisor serves in the practice setting.

VIII. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. First Quarter Report January 1, 2010 - March 31, 2010

The Board reviewed the Division's First Quarter Legislative Report and accepted it as informational.

**B. Kenneth Connolly, Director,
Civil Service Commission, State of New Jersey**

The Board reviewed and accepted as informational a copy of a letter addressed to John Kohler, Senior Government Affairs Agent, Riker, Danzig, Scherer, Hyland, Perretti LLP regarding a Civil Service Commission survey of agencies and the resulting listing of the (20) effective job titles that require a graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) as a prerequisite or substitution for the experience requirement. Mr. Connolly also listed three titles for which the MFT graduate degree is also appropriate and indicated that there is no basis to add the degree requirement for other titles. Finally four titles were listed for which the MFT graduate degree may substitute for some or all of the required experience.

IX. AAMFTRB/NJAMFT MATTERS

Ray Blume, M.A., LMFT, President SNJAMFT

The Board reviewed the April 19, 2010 e-mail sent by Mr. Blume along with his letter dated April 21, 2010. Mr. Blume provided details of the workshop presented by Christine Heer, LCSW, in Voorhees on December 11, 2010. Based on the review of the PowerPoint presentation printout, the Board determined that the course appeared to include profession-specific ethics. Certificates of completion for the continuing education contact hours will be accepted toward the requirement for the 2010 -2012 license renewal.

X. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

1. Documentation of Experience Forms for Marriage and Family Therapy Experience

The Board discussed revisions to the form as recommended by the Regulations Committee and will provide a revised draft for the June agenda meeting.

2. MFT Specific Ethics Continuing Course Offerings

The Board reviewed a listing of continuing education course offerings specific to ethics and legal standards for licensed marriage and family therapists, compiled by members the Regulations Committee. The Board directed that the list of the providers be forwarded to Maria Seddio, President of the New Jersey Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

B. Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

There was no report provided.

C. Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Dr. Edward Reading reports that the Committee continues to receive and review proposed plans of supervision for counselor-interns and certified alcohol and drug counselors.

XII. OLD BUSINESS

A. **Laura Depp**, California licensed marriage and family therapist, forwarded information to the Board in support of her request to conduct conjoint pre-marital counseling sessions via telephone/computer based communication. One of the parties resides in California, while the other is a resident of New Jersey. On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Gina Kassel, the Board determined to approve the limited arrangement pursuant to **N.J.S.A.** 45:8B-6.

XIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be June 10, 2010 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

XIV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ben Beitin seconded by Edward Reading, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:52 a.m. to discuss pending complaints and confidential matters.

XV. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION/ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Edward Reading, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:37 p.m.