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State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
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BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 8, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:24 a.m. by Board Chair, James Verser, who read the notice of compliance with the open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Excused:

Amy E. Meckeler

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 MINUTES

On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Edward Reading, the public session minutes of the August 13, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

Due to lack of quorum, the Public Session Minutes of the July 9, 2009 and September 16, 2009 Professional Counselor Examiners Committee meeting was presented for approval.

On a motion by Ben Beitin, seconded by J. Barry Mascari, the Public Session Minutes of the July 9, 2009 meeting was approved as amended.

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by J. Barry Mascari, the Public Session Minutes of the September 16, 2009 meeting was approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

New Jersey City University students, Jessica Connelly, Katelyn Rabbit, Hassan Sandhu and Ermiom Tzakis attended the Public Session of the Marriage and Family Therapy meeting. The students attended in an effort to convey useful information regarding the marriage and family therapy licensure process, which may be helpful to current and prospective Marriage and Family Therapy faculty and students alike.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine DeMars reports that the Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, Professional Counselor Committee and Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee regulations have been

adopted. The Professional Counselor Examiners Committee is in the process of changing the procedures of the application process. Applicants will be required to submit an application for approval to take the National Counselor Examination (NCE Exam). The National Board for Certified Counselors (NBCC) will forward the applicants official score report to the Board. Upon notification of a passing score, the applicant will then be approved for licensure.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Gabrielle Gatto, LPC, requested the Board's guidance with regard to the clarification of the "Client Contact Hours" section of the Board's Three Year Temporary Permit supervision form. The Board will instruct Ms. Gatto to discuss her hours placement with her supervisor, as each section for placement is specific.

VII. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Rule Adoption

B. Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee Rule Adoption

C. Regulations Proposal - Board of Psychological Examiners

The Board of Psychological Examiners regulations proposal will be presented for review at the November 12, 2009 Agenda meeting. Elaine DeMars will forward a copy of the Psychological Examiners regulations proposal and the Board of Social Work Examiners rules for Board comments.

VIII. NJAAMFT/AMFTRB MATTERS

The Board reviewed the email notification of the upcoming 2009 AMFTRB Annual Meeting of State Delegates held in Denver, Colorado, and has accepted the notification as informational.

Board Chair, James Verser, discussed plans for the Board to contact AMFTRB for a follow-up of the initial meeting with the Board on May 14, 2009. The basis of the meeting is to implement a marketing strategy for the development of training positions for Marriage and Family Therapy graduates. The Board will invite the AMFTRB members for an update of their progress.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

No report given.

B. Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

J. Barry Mascari, LPC, discussed the abundance of "Proposed Plan of Supervised Experience" forms that the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee receives for the Associate Counselor Licensure Designation. The supervision plan is a requirement for all applicants who apply for the Associate Counselor license, and has been implemented to secure a supervisor/trainee relationship to ensure that the applicant gains the proper experience for future licensure as a Professional Counselor.

C. Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

Edward Reading, LCADC, informs the Board of the INCASE conference on addiction studies and education.

X. NEW BUSINESS

Uniform Penalty Letters

A. Dawson J. Ambosta

The Board reviewed the certification letter from Mr. Ambosta in which he agreed to the payment of the \$500.00 penalty for the violation of the Boards enabling act and/or Board regulations. The Board reviewed the certification, and has accepted as informational. The Board currently awaits the submission of the required forty (40) continuing education credits as part of his certification and acceptance of the alleged violation.

B. Paul Rockwood

Mr. Rockwood responded to the penalty letter in which he agreed to the payment of the \$500.00 penalty for the violation of the Boards enabling act and/or Board regulations. The Board determined that Mr. Rockwood was in violation of the continuing education requirement for the 2006 through 2008 biennial renewal period, and will be required to submit 40 continuing education credits by February 5, 2010. Mr. Rockwood's letter to the Board requests a six month extension for the 40 continuing education credits required for the upcoming 2008 through 2010 biennial renewal period and consideration regarding the \$500.00 settlement in which he believes is excessive.

On a motion by Edward Reading, seconded by, Gina Kassel, the Board will inform Mr. Rockwood that the decision of the Board stands as is and is considered final.

XI. OLD BUSINESS

Beth Probola, from the State of New Jersey, Civil Service Commission, submitted correspondence to the Board regarding job requirements for Mental Health Professionals. The Board reviewed the correspondence and has accepted as informational.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be November 12, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Edward Reading, the Board moved to Executive Session at 10:32 a.m. to discuss pending complaints and confidential matters.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Dawn Lacy, the Board meeting adjourned at 1:00 p.m.