



JON S. CORZINE
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



ANNE MILGRAM
Attorney General

DAVID SZUCHMAN
Director

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

BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY EXAMINERS **PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES** **NOVEMBER 12, 2009**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 9:18 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
J. Barry Mascari
Amy Meckeler
Judith Owens
James Verser

Excused:

Gina Kassel
Dawn M. Lacy
Edward Reading

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.

On a motion by J. Barry Mascari, seconded by Ben Beitin, the public session minutes of the October 8, 2009 meeting were approved as presented.

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE

Due to the lack of a quorum, of appointed Committee members, the public agenda minutes were presented for Board approval.

On motion by Amy Meckeler, seconded by Judith Owens, the Public Session Minutes of the October 1, 2009 Professional Counselor Examiners Committee were approved as recommended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Attending the meeting:

Maria Seddio, President, NJAMFT

Tarcilia Sutterly, LMFT, NJAMFT

Dr. Charleen Alderfer, LMFT, The College of New Jersey

Dr. Muriel Singer, LMFT, Kean University; NJAMFT Chair

John Koehler, Senior Governmental Affairs Agent, Riker Danzig

Phyllis Danschinko, NJAMFT

V. NJAMFT/AMFTRB MATTERS

The above listed individuals, representing the professional association, New Jersey Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (NJAMFT), and the respective educational institutions attended to provide an update to the May 14, 2009 agenda meeting on issues relating to the number of New Jersey licensed marriage and family therapists, the requirements for licensure and the difficulty in obtaining qualified supervisors.

John Kohler reported that research conducted by the NJAMFT indicated the absence of specific reference to marriage and family therapy educational or experiential backgrounds in any of the 14 Civil Service job classifications for mental health counselors. The Professional Counselor (LPC) and the License Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) license designations are included in the job classifications. On behalf of NJAMFT, he petitioned the Board to request the Civil Service Commission to include the marriage and family therapy education and experience (N.J.A.C. 13:34-4). Mr. Kohler informed the Board that the matter has been discussed with the Department of Human Services' Chief of Staff who expressed support for inclusion of marriage and family therapy qualifications in three of the titles. Mr. Kohler emphasized that although there are 11 titles with job descriptions that are unique to the qualifications and services provided by marriage and family therapists, none of the 11 titles refer to the marriage and family therapy qualification criteria. Finally, Mr. Kohler reported that the states of Connecticut and Tennessee each have a specific job title for marriage and family therapists, while New Jersey does not.

On a motion made by Ben Beitin, seconded by Amy Meckeler, the Board voted unanimously to send a letter to the New Jersey Civil Service Commission requesting inclusion of marriage

and family therapy education and experience in the job titles identified and to consider a specific job title for the marriage and family therapist.

Maria Seddio provided an update of NJAMFT's efforts in the "Call for Change," "Campaign Lifeline" and the status of the NJAMFT Chapters.

Phyllis Danschinko was introduced as the Co-Chair of the Campaign Lifeline. She described her outreach role with graduated students in marriage and family therapy programs. Ms. Danschinko related her commitment to the profession and her difficulty with the licensure process. She will use her experience to mentor and assist students who plan to apply for licensure.

Board Chair, James Verser suggested that the marriage and family therapy graduate programs; Seton Hall University, Kean University and The College of New Jersey work together to create a job fair as a way to foster the involvement of service agencies and institutions.

VI. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

Ms. DeMars has reported that the Board's Frequently Asked Questions are currently being reviewed for posting on the Board's Web page.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTORS REPORT

Elaine DeMars reported that the October 5, 2009 adopted regulations are now available and have been posted on the Board's Web page.

Ms. DeMars also reported that the Board currently has 565 active licensees, 155 licensees in the "retired" status, 12 licensees are in the reinstatement process, 4 licensees have voluntarily surrendered their licence, 2 licensees are in the "Suspended" status and 1 license in the "Revoked" status..

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

Board Member, Judith Owens, submitted a letter of resignation to the Board. Ms. Owens indicated that she will continue to serve as member of the Board until a replacement has been appointed by the Governor. The Board thanked Ms. Owens for her service and commitment to the work of the Board.

IX. COMMITTEE REPORTS

A. Regulations Committee

No report

B. Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Due to a lack of quorum, the minutes for the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee were presented by Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari for approval. On a motion by Amy Meckeler, seconded by Judith Owens, the Public Minutes of the October 1, 2009

Professional Counselor Examiners Committee meeting were approved.

C. Alcohol and Drug Counselor Committee

No report

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board will be December 10, 2009 at 9:00 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by J. Barry Mascari, seconded by Amy Meckeler, the Board moved to Executive Session at 11:16 a.m. to discuss pending complaints and confidential matters.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Judith Owens, seconded by Amy Meckeler, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:28 p.m.