

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee was called to order at 9:55 a.m. by Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari
Committee Vice-Chair, Abbey F. Bradway
Committee Member, Ronald Rossell
Committee Member, Susan Devlin
Committee Member, Mark O'Sullivan
Committee Member, Barbara Maurer

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars
Deputy Attorney General, Mileidy Perez
Administrative Staff, Celeste Sweeper
Administrative Staff, Agnes Almeida

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion made by Abbey F. Bradway, seconded by Ronald Rossell the Committee approved the December 1, 2005 minutes as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. New Jersey Professional Responsibility and Reporting Enhancement Act, P.L. 2005, c.83. Deputy Attorney General Mileidy Perez explained the background and provisions of the statute which went into effect on October 31, 2005. The law applies to licensees of the State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners and other professionals licensed by the professional boards of New Jersey. Specifically, the statute requires health care entities to promptly report to the Division negative action taken against a health care professional by the entities base on professional impairment, incompetency or professional misconduct relating adversely to patient care and safety. Such negative action includes the reduction, revocation or suspension of privileges, removal of the professional from the list of eligible employees, or the discharge or termination of the professional services. The health care entities must also report to the Division if a health care professional resigns or gives up privileges in order to avoid an investigation or action, fails to comply with a request to seek assistance in matters of impairment, or is a party to a medical malpractice liability suit in which there is a settlement, judgement or award. Under the new law, health care professionals now have a responsibility to file reports with respect to other health care professionals, not just licensees of their own board, if they are in possession of information which reasonably indicates that another has demonstrated an impairment, gross incompetence or unprofessional conduct which would present imminent danger to a patient or the public.

B. N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 Refusal, revocation or suspension of license. DAG Mileidy Perez summarized the provisions under N.J.S.A. 45:1-21 that apply to all professional and occupational licensing boards. The statute sets forth the grounds for the denial, suspension or revocation of a license, certification or registration. DAG Perez also discussed N.J.S.A. 45:1-22 which provides alternative penalties to revocation, suspension or denial of a license.

C. Assembly Bill - 4434

This bill requires licensed health care professionals providing prenatal and postnatal care to educate women and their families about postpartum depression and to screen new mothers for the disorder. Upon review, the Committee found that the bill does not include specific remedies for violations of the provisions.

D. Public Law 2005, Chapter 53

Executive Director DeMars presented a copy of the recently enacted statute, N.J.S.A. 45:9-7.3, that requires medical students to complete cultural competency instruction. The new law is based, in part, on a federally funded study that suggested that the difference in referral rates by physicians stem from racial and sexual biases. While the Committee acknowledged that N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3(ii)(7) and N.J.A.C. 15.4(c)7 currently include "Social and cultural foundation" course work, it will look to mandate that course as part of its continuing education requirement during the 2008 biennial renewal period.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

New Committee member Barbara Maurer introduced herself to the Committee and was congratulated on her appointment to the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Susan Gold

In a faxed letter Ms. Gold requested pre approval of a continuing education course, approved by NBCC entitled "Ethical and Professional Issues in the Practice of Marriage and Family Therapy." On a motion by Ronald Rossell and seconded by Abbey F. Bradway, the Committee determined that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4(a) 1, the course is acceptable. The Committee also directed that Ms. Gold be informed that as a licensed professional counselor she is to complete at least 5 of the 40 continuing education contact hours in ethical and legal standards in the counseling profession pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.2(b).

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. AASCB 2006 Annual Conference

Committee member Abbey F. Bradway was authorized by the Committee to serve as the official delegate for the annual meeting of the American Association of State Counseling Boards however, the request for travel was denied since all State travel has been restricted. On a motion by Ronald Rossell and seconded by Abbey F. Bradway, the Committee voted unanimously that Chairman J. Barry Mascari serve as the official delegate for the Committee. Dr. Mascari will attend the AASCB meeting on January 13, 2006 in his role as AASCB President-elect.

B. N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)1

The Committee reviewed the revised regulation which states that beginning April 20, 2006, an acceptable graduate degree means that the word "Counseling" or the word "Counselor" appears in the title of the graduate degree awarded and that the institution offering the degree states in the catalog or in another format acceptable by the Committee that the purpose of the graduate degree is to prepare students for the professional practice of counseling.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Education Program Standards (CACREP) The CACREP Standards are minimal criteria for the preparation of professional counselors and counselor educators. Committee members accepted the copy of the current standards as informational. Committee Chair Barry Mascari noted that the standards are undergoing revision.

B. The American Counseling Association (ACA) 2005 CODE OF ETHICS The Committee accepted the ACA 2005 Code of Ethics as informational and noted the relevance to all counselors.

C. Legislative Liaison

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Susan Devlin and unanimous vote, the Committee agreed to appoint Abbey F. Bradway its legislative liaison.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is February 2, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. At 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

2006 Committee Meeting Dates

March 2, 2006 August 3, 2006
April 6, 2006 September 7, 2006
May 4, 2006 October 5, 2006
June 1, 2006 November 2, 2006
July 6, 2006 December 7, 2006

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:40 a.m., on a motion by Abbey F. Bradway and seconded by Ronald Rossell, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session to discuss pending disciplinary matters.

XII. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee voted to approve the following applications as noted:

Professional Counselors:

Ackerman, Fredda Litecky, Karen
Balch, Erica K. Marques, Silvia
Beckett, Sarah Noonan, Patricia
Beutler, Robert Smith, Jamielee
Bryan, Susan Tracey, Janet
Crawley, Francis Velinova, Kristina
Damrau, Robert Westermann, Karin M.
Kozak, Laura Ziptko, Alicia

Associate Counselors

Crofoot, Ramona Ritter, Ruxandra I.
Finnerty, Sharon Urban, Amelia B.
Heller, Randy I. Vail, Nancy
Ostrom, Janet

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Susan Devlin, seconded by Ronald Rossell, the meeting adjourned at 4:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director