

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
FEBRUARY 1, 2007**

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee was called to order without a quorum at 9:52 a.m. by Chair J. Barry Mascari until 10:01 a.m. when Committee member Barbara Maurer arrived.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

Excused:

Committee Member, Susan Devlin

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars
Deputy Attorney General, Susan Berger
Administrative Staff, Celeste Paige
Administrative Staff, Agnes Almeida

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by Abbey Bradway the Committee approved the January 4, 2007 minutes as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Lona Whitmarsh, Ph.D., Director of the graduate counseling program at Fairleigh Dickinson appeared with LPC applicant Michelle DelMonte to support her application and briefly discuss the program.

B. Michelle DelMonte - Fairleigh Dickinson University graduate commented on her application and qualifications.

C. Godfried Banning, LPC applicant, appeared before the Committee to request reconsideration of courses following the review of new information he has submitted.

D. Cassantra Wallace, LAC applicant, Alliance Graduate School of Counseling appeared before the Committee addressing her concerns.

E. F. Thomas Crawley, Ed.D., LPC and New Jersey Counseling Association, Executive Committee member, advised Committee that NJCA has expanded their website and newsletter and stated that an association representative will be attending the meetings on a regular basis.

F. Thomas Magnus, LPC applicant and Seton Hall University graduate addressed the Committee regarding his

application and graduate transcript.

G. Sheila Ryan, LAC applicant and graduate of Alliance Graduate School of Counseling commented on her application and additional information requested by the Committee.

H. Bernice Taylor-Jones, LCADC and LPC applicant, introduced herself and noted that she attended to observe the meeting.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. 4TH Quarter Legislation Report- Legislative Liaison, Burt Liebman The Committee accepted as informational a report listing proposed legislation reviewed by the Committee between October 1 and December 31, 2006.

B. Senate Bill # 2473

Senate Bill 2473 would authorize the courts to waive the license revocation process for applicants and licensees whose child support arrearages equals 6 months provided that the obligor make a satisfactory showing that he is employed and is currently making child support payments. On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee determined to support the proposed legislation as it represents an appropriate use of a judge's discretion upon review of evidence. The Committee further expressed concern that a tracking system should be implemented to track the required child support payments.

C. Board Appointment Notifications-

The Committee was advised that the Board/Committee/Commission appointment information and applications are now available through the State Web-page at: <http://www.state.nj.us/governor/boards/> The Committee commented that through this availability, the process will be more open to the public.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars informed the Committee that as of December 1, 2006, the post license renewal period began and anyone who has not yet completed the application renewal process is required to complete the reinstatement requirements. To date there are 4,067 licensed counselors in our database. There are 2,274 "active" professional counselors, 176 "active" rehabilitation counselors and 147 "active" associate counselors. 148 professional counselors and 10 associate counselors have requested the "inactive". There are 547 professional counselors, 125 rehabilitation counselors and 160 associate counselors in the "expired" status. A total of 14 individuals have begun the reinstatement process pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1. The Committee discussed the number of licenses that are currently expired and was reminded that information regarding the status of individual licenses is available at: <http://www.state.nj.us/cgi-bin/consumeraffairs/search/searchentry.pl> by entering the required licensee information. On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee decided to table discussion of the publication of a list of expired license holders until June 2007.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. Portability -

Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari and Committee Vice Chair Abbey Bradway briefly reported that the progress of the AASCB Portability Proposal and National Credential Registry were highlighted at the AASCB annual meeting. In order to further consider provisions of the proposal, the Committee determined to refer the matter to the Regulations Committee to draft regulatory language defining and allowing the Committee to accept "substantially equivalent" requirements for applicants licensed in another state

B. CACREP Standard Revisions

The Committee was informed that comments to the 2008 draft revision were submitted following the January 4,

2007 Committee meeting. Ms. DeMars was informed by e-mail that while those comments were received after the deadline, Draft #3 will be available (at www.cacrep.org) for comment sometime in the Summer of 2007.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is March 1, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

2007 Meeting Dates:

April 5, 2007 August 2, 2007 December 7, 2007

May 3, 2007 September 6, 2007

June 7, 2007 October 4, 2007

July 12, 2007 November 1, 2007

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:30 a.m., on a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer the Committee voted to move to Executive Session to discuss pending disciplinary matters.

X. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

Professional Counselors

Maria Sikoutris-DiIorio

Susan Wildermann

Associate Counselors

Thomas Magnus

Katherine Halpern

Sheila Ryan

Erin Manahan

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan, the meeting adjourned at 4:50 p.m.