

**Professional Counselor Committee Meeting
Open Session Minutes**

March 4, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

This regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to order at 9:55 a.m. by Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chairman J. Barry Mascari
Committee Member Abbey F. Bradway
Committee Member Jerry Cohen
Committee Member Ronald A. Rossell
Committee Member Edward Stroh

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Ronald Rossell , the minutes of February 5, 2004 were approved as presented.

IV. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Senate Bill S-1245

Committee members reviewed the proposed legislation that provides for a second period of licensure based on credentials (grandfathering). Senate Bill 1254 was introduced on February 24, 2004 and is sponsored by Senators Joseph Vitale and Nia Gill.

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted unanimously to inform the Division's Legislative Liaison of their very strong opposition to S-1254 (as S-895 in the previous session). Enactment of this legislation would be detrimental to consumers in that there would be no assurance that licensed professional counselor candidates met the minimum competency standards.

B. Assembly Bill A-1913

During the Committee's discussion of the proposed legislation, DAG Perez raised several questions regarding the intent and purpose of the bill, the effect on this Committee, the affect on consumer protection, and the cost for the transfer. She also noted that the proposal would exclude professional and experienced Board members from the

study commission process. Committee members expressed concern for the responsibility of regulatory boards and the review of consumer complaints by anyone but experienced professionals, who have an in-depth understanding of the scope of practice and professional standards that have been established for the protection of clients. On a motion by Abby Bradway and seconded by Jerry Cohen, the Committee voted unanimously to oppose A-1913.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Regina E. DeMarco, LPC

The Committee reviewed e-mail correspondence that referenced the American Counseling Association's (ACA) support and promotion of the technological advances that have made e-therapy possible. Ms. DeMarco questioned the limitations of licensees in this area of practice. Ed Stroh stated that the Professional Counselors Examiners Committee statute and regulations that govern New Jersey law govern professional practice are in effect for counselors for all categories of distance counseling as well. It is also recommended that licensees follow the ACA recommendations. It was suggested that the e-therapy task force that is being formed will work to create a regulation to govern the various types of distance counseling. DAG, Perez reported that the State of Colorado requires an initial face-to-face meeting before e-counseling begins.

B. Mark Green, MA, LPC

In his letter, Mr. Green presented the Committee with several questions regarding psychological education and spiritual awareness programs based on Judeo-Christian traditions. He also requested written permission to provide such services. Committee member Edward Stroh noted that the Committee does not have jurisdiction over counseling within spiritual or educational settings. Mr. Green is to be provided with a copy of the regulations for reference in his practice.

C. Thomas Kersting

Mr. Kersting reported that insurance companies do not accept the LPC practitioner as an "eligible" provider. He asks the Committee for information on what action is being taken to remedy the problem. Edward Stroh recommended that Mr. Kersting be referred to the professional associations and informed the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee does not have jurisdiction or influence the insurance industry.

D. Dennis Shipman

The Committee reviewed an e-mail which requested additional information on the proposed new rules for grandfathering.

Mr. Shipman will be informed that there are no new rules in effect for licensure by a grandfather provision for Licensed Professional Counselors.

E. Marybeth McDonald

Ms. McDonald, in her letter of March 3, 2004, requests approval of training to be conducted for continuing education credits. In response, she will be advised that according to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4, courses must be approved by one of the groups listed and course content must meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4(c).

F. Martin Mersereau, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA)

A letter was reviewed by the Committee in which Mr. Mersereau questions the requirement of counselors to report animal cruelty revealed in counseling sessions. Deputy Attorney General , Mileidy Perez will research the issue and report back to the Committee.

VI. NJCA MATTERS

A. 2004 N.J.C.A. Annual Conference

The Committee reviewed the conference announcement. The schedule includes a discussion led by representatives of the Committee that will focus on the regulations that govern the practice of professional counselors, including licensure qualifications. Abby Bradway and Edward Stroh will represent the Committee.

VII. AASCB MATTERS

A. AASCB Portability

The Committee reviewed the eligibility requirements for registrants of the proposed Credential Registry. The Committee reviewed a chart of requirements for 52 jurisdictions noting the states determined to have requirements substantially equivalent to those of New Jersey. Committee Chair Barry Mascari provided information on the concept and proposal of the registry.

On a motion by Bradway and seconded by Rossell the Committee voted to send AASCB a letter to encourage the establishment of the credentials registry for the purposes of portability.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. E-Therapy

Executive Director Elaine DeMars reported that approval has been requested to add the Committee to the header of the guide that has been created for consumers. The document was the result of work during the 2003 AASCB conference. Once AASCB approval has been granted, the guide will be posted to the Committee's web page. Ms. DeMars also noted that work has begun to form a task force representing all the mental health boards that will undertake the drafting of a uniform regulation for the licensees of the mental health boards. Edward Stroh and Barry Mascari volunteered to participate in the task force.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

X. PUBLIC COMMENT

Paula Danzinger, Past-President, and current Chair of the Policy and Liaison Committee of the New Jersey Counseling Association Ms. Danzinger addressed questions to the Committee regarding the status of the regulations sunset. She asked for the scheduled publication. DAG, Perez, commented they are not available until approved and finalized. Ms. Danzinger was advised that upon final adoption, the regulation will be posted on the web page. Questions were also raised regarding the supervision of a former or current student. It was noted that counselor educators are trained in supervision. Ms. Danzinger noted that NJCA is vigorously opposed to S-1254.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is April 1, 2004, 9:30 a.m. 124 Halsey Street, Hudson Conference Room, 6th floor, Newark, Jersey.

XII. REVIEW OF CREDENTIALS

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Ronald Rossell, the Committee voted to approve the following applications:

Professional Counselor

Nancy Abramson
Angela Del Russo
Ryan A. Fields
Marli Gelfand
Caroline Genevese
Ellen J. Goodfellow
Tracy A. Hans
Juli Harpell-Elam
Lisa Marie Hickson
Cynthia A. Huck
Nicholas C. Kolodiy
Arlene K. Leenman
Jennifer L. Robertson
Leisha A. Thompson
Claudia Werner
Alan A. White

Associate Counselor

Jean M. Brendel
Stephen P. Foley
Claire R. Hamm
Natalie Radan
Laurie M. Silverstein
Christina Sluberski

Out-of-State

Joseph Dubak (PA)

Specialty Designation

George R. Lucey (Master Addictions Counselor)

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Jerry Cohen, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 11:12 a.m.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Jerry Cohen the meeting adjourned at 12:24 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director
