



CHRIS CHRISTIE
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New Jersey Office of the Attorney General

Division of Consumer Affairs
State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners
Professional Counselor Examiners Committee
124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



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PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE **PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES** **APRIL 7, 2011**

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I. CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to Order at 9:36 a.m., 124 Halsey Street, Hudson Conference Room, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Member, William Green
Committee Member, Dana Kaspereen
Committee Member, Barbara Maurer
Committee Member, Maria D'Amico Meehan
Committee Member, Ketrin Saud Maxwell

Also Present:

Deputy Attorney General Susan Berger
Administrative Staff: Elaine DeMars
Agnes Almeida
Celeste Paige

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 175, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided, by mail, to the Office of the Secretary of the State of New Jersey, The Newark Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Bergen Record and the Courier Post and also posted on the Committee's web page.

Announcement of Quorum

Announcement of quorum was made by Barbara Maurer.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion by William Green, seconded by Ketrin Saud Maxwell, the minutes of the March 3, 2011 public session minutes were approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following members of the public attended the meeting:

Monica Camarata, Dennis Quinn, Sr. Catherine Waters, Grog Iorid, April Lewis, Esperanza Marquez, Lynette Noel, Nina Bianchi, Aya Attia, Pegg Brady-Amoon, Erika Zucconi, Tara Kulbatski Tartaglia, Angie Oberhelman, Peggy Farrelly and Linda Nicholson.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. N.J.C.A. 13:45-G - Disposition of Complaints

The Committee reviewed N.J.A.C. 13:45-G which requires that a final disposition of a consumer complaint filed with a board, the Director through the Attorney General, or the Attorney General be rendered within 120 days of the filing of the complaint, subject to certain events that toll the 120 day period. The Committee accepted the adoption reminder as informational.

B. Assembly Bill 3203/S89

The Committee reviewed Assembly Bill A3203/S89 which requires licensed health care professionals and facilities to bill Medicare beneficiaries within 90 days of the date the insurance payment is finalized. On a motion made by Ketrin Maxwell, seconded by Maria Meehan, the Committee voted to support the proposed legislation with amendment to include licensed professional counselors.

C. Senate Bill 2793

The Committee reviewed Senate Bill 2793 which concerns eligibility requirements for licensed professional counselors and associate counselors. The proposed legislation would permit an educational specialist degree (Ed.S.) in counseling to be acceptable as well as the master's degree or doctorate, as currently provided by law. On a motion by William Green, seconded by Maria Meehan, the Committee voted to oppose the amendment. Ketrin Saud Maxwell abstained from the vote.

Presently, N.J.S.A. 45:8B-40 requires that applicants have earned a master's or doctorate degree in a planned educational program. The Committee currently accepts the Ed.S. for the 12 or 15 credits beyond the 45 or 48 graduate credit qualifying. The Committee voiced concerns for the lack of uniform standards and oversight for the Ed.S. requirements especially regarding the transfer of credits from other educational institutions. It appears that individual institutions may have varying policies.

D. Assembly Bill 412

This proposed legislation would limit actions against court-appointed psychologists and psychiatrists in certain Family Court matters.. On a motion by Ketrin Saud Maxwell, seconded by Maria Meehan the Committee voted general support of the proposal and determined to forward a recommendation that licensed professional counselors be included in the list of qualified mental health professionals.

E. Proposed Draft Regulations

The Committee reviewed the draft regulations concerning abandoned applications. There are a number applications that have remained in the "Pending" status for years despite the lack of response to notifications of deficiencies. On a motion by Dana Kaspereen, seconded by Ketrin Saud Maxwell the Committee approved regulatory language stating that applications will be held open for a 12- month period following the last activity. Applicants of abandoned applications would be permitted to reapply when they submit documentation for the satisfaction of the statutory and regulatory requirements. It was further determined that applicants approved to sit for the required National Counselor Examination (NCE), must complete the NCE within 12 months of notice of approval.

F. Discussion on nature of 4,500 hours of supervised experience

The Committee reviewed examples of licensure applications, documentation of supervised experience and supervision plans that highlighted concerns regarding the nature of the experience proposed and or documented. The statute and regulations include definitions of Counseling intervention & counseling services, Professional counseling services, Supervision and criteria for the supervision of associate counselors. The Committee will work to expand the current Proposed Plan of Supervision and Documentation of Supervised Experience to request information that will more clearly document that the applicant is receiving supervision in a broad scope of professional counseling. The Committee will also work to promulgate a regulation with language that is more specific.

G. Non-qualifying degrees

On a motion made by William Green and seconded by Maria Meehan, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session for legal advice regarding individual applicants who have presented official transcripts with degree titles that do not satisfy the requirement of N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3. Ketrin Maxwell and Dana Kaspereen recused from the discussion related to a Fairleigh Dickinson University Clinical Psychology transcript. After returning to public session, the Committee voted to continue to require that degree titles satisfy the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Monmouth University, George M. Kapalka, Ph.D.

The Committee accepted as informational the February 28, 2011 letter sent to advise that the University's CACREP accreditation for the MS in Mental Health Counseling will expire on March 31, 2017. The conditions placed on the accreditation have been removed. Dr. Kapalka attached the January 24, 2011 CACREP notice of accreditation status. The Committee accepted both letters as informational.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

Elaine DeMars reported that there continues to be additional assistance provided by the Division to address the processing of applications.

V. OLD BUSINESS

Karen Hicks, LPC

The Committee reviewed the March 9, 2009 filed Consent Order for Karen Hicks and the supervision report submitted by her supervisor, Kathy Collins. It was noted that the supervision report did not provide documentation consistent with the ordering paragraphs of the Consent Order. DAG Susan Berger reported that Ms. Collins was advised and will submit a revised supervision report pursuant to the Consent Order by April 15, 2011.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. 2011 Computer Based Test (CBT)

The Committee reviewed a copy of the NBCC CBT report and accepted it as informational.

B. FY 2011 Budget Report (1sr half)

The review of the 2011 Fiscal Year budget report is tabled for the May 5, 2011 agenda meeting.

VI. COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A. University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ)

(Committee member, William Green, recused from the discussion.)

On a motion by Dana Kaspereen, seconded by Ketrin Saud Maxwell the Committee moved into Executive Session to consult with the Deputy Attorney General for legal advice. Upon returning to public session and on a motion by Ketrin Saud Maxwell, seconded by Dana Kaspereen, the Committee determined that the programs accredited by CACREP will submit their approved program course distribution for reference in the review of applications.

B. Centenary College

The review of an individual application was moved to Executive Session and tabled for review on May 5.

C. Rider University

The review of an individual application was moved to Executive Session and tabled for review on May 5.

D. Rowan University

The Committee reviewed the undated letter received on April 6, 2011 and copies of course work recommendations and reviews. On a motion made by Ketrin Maxwell, seconded by Maria Meehan, the Committee determined to extend the period for graduates to complete the remedial course until August 30, 2012. The Committee also voted to accept the remedial course as part of the 60-credit program. Students completing the remedial course work as part of the 60 credit masters will not be required to complete the course post-degree.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for **May 5, 2011**.

2011 Meeting Schedule

May 5, 2011	September 1, 2011
June 2, 2011	October 6, 2011
July 7, 2011	November 3, 2011
August 4, 2011	December 1, 2011

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Dana Kaspereen and seconded by Ketrin Saud Maxwell, the Committee moved to executive session at 12:00 noon to conduct two investigative inquiries and to review pending confidential matters and complaints. On a motion made by Dana Kaspereen and seconded by Maria Meehan, the Committee adjourned Executive Session and returned to Public Session at 4:48 p.m for the adjournment of the meeting.

XIII. REVIEW OF CREDENTIALS

On a motion by Maria Meehan, seconded by William Green, the following applicants were approved as recommended:

Licensed Associate Counselor (LAC)

Calantone, Cara L.
Cardinal, Lisa
Dickens, Allison A.
Fox, Danielle G.
Hart, Kenneth A.
Lysinger, Mary C.
Minton, Ashley N.
Santos, Rosaline T.
Schott, Eva
Sciarra, Christine
Slaski, Aleksandra J.
Vallejo, Doris H.
Vaughn, Caitlin N.
White, Crystal A.

Licensed Professional Counselors

Briggs, Alice
Farrell, Linda C.
Fennell, Alison L.
Hourihan, Jennifer K.
Kiernan, Adam J.
LeFurge, Erica
Santangelo, Donna D.
White, LaTonya D.
Attanasio, Michael
Galvin, Cheryl L.
Bonny, Nicole C.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Maria Meehan and seconded by William Green, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:50 p.m.

