

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
APRIL 21, 2005**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselors Examiners Committee was called to order at 9:40 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, Edward W. Stroh

Excused:

Committee Member Ronald A. Rossell

Staff Present:

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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Jerry Cohen, the minutes of March 3, 2005 were approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Joyce Graham, a licensed associate counselor, addressed the Committee about her application for licensure as a Professional Counselor. Ms. Graham reported that she completed courses in Art Therapy because she was told that the core courses would qualify for licensure. Ms. Graham appraised the Committee of her plan to register for courses this semester in order to meet the requirements for licensure and requested the Committee's assurance that the coursework will be accepted. Ms. Graham was informed that the Committee would review her file and would notify her in writing of its decision. Ms. Graham was referred by the Committee to the regulations pertaining to required coursework.

B. Laura Sutton, addressed the Committee and petitioned the Committee to reconsider her application for licensure as an associate counselor. Ms. Sutton provided additional documentation for the Committee to review. The Committee advised Ms. Sutton that it would review her application again, along with the additional information and inform her in writing of its determination.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

There were no legislative/regulatory items to report.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Jan Bickford-Morrow

The Committee received an e-mail from Mrs. Bickford-Morrow asking the Committee for clarification on whether an individual with the appropriate education and degree can perform counseling services in a mental health setting under the supervision of a licensed mental health counselor. The Committee will inform Mrs. Bickford-Morrow that New Jersey does not have a license for Clinical Mental Health Counselors, but rather a specialty designation pursuant to the requirements set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-14.2(a) and (b). The Committee will also refer Mrs. Bickford-Morrow to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 and N.J.S.A. 45:8B-48 pertaining to unlicensed practice of professional counseling.

B. Esther Chong

The Committee received a letter from Ms. Chong requesting information on how she should represent her credentials based on the fact that she is not currently licensed as a rehabilitation counselor or as an associate counselor in the State. The Committee will refer Ms. Chong to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 and N.J.S.A. 45:8B-48 which set forth the requirement for licensure in this State. The Committee will write to Ms. Chong informing her that she cannot practice without supervision during the period between graduation and the granting of the professional counselor license.

C. Flora Cifelli

The Committee received a letter from Ms. Cifelli requesting a waiver of the required coursework for licensure in lieu of her ten years of experience in the mental health field. The Committee will write to Ms. Cifelli informing her it cannot waive the educational requirements as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2.

D. Thomas Flaherty

The Committee received a letter from Mr. Flaherty requesting the Committee allow him to receive credit for continuing education courses he completed prior to December 2004 for the 2006-2008 license renewal period. The Committee will inform Mr. Flaherty that he will be allowed to use the first course for the 2006-2008 renewal. The second course was completed after the notice was posted on the Web page and in a special mailing to all licensees pertaining to the continuing education time frames.

E. Barbara Francavilla

The Committee received a letter from Ms. Francavilla requesting a waiver of the National Board of Certified Counselor's (NBCC) National Counselors Examination (NCE) based on her academic qualifications and credentials as an alcohol and drug counselor. The Committee will write to Ms. Francavilla informing her that the National Counselors Examination cannot be waived, nor can she substitute her academic or work experience for the examination.

F. Karen O'Rourke

The Committee received a letter from Ms. O'Rourke inquiring about the Monmouth University Master's degree in "Psychological Counseling" and whether it conforms N.J.A.C. 13:11.2(a)3i, which requires that the word "Counseling" or "Counselor" appear in the degree title. The Committee will write to Ms. O'Rourke informing her that as of April 20, 2006 applicants for professional counselor licensure must have a Masters degree that has word "Counseling" or "Counselor" in the degree title.

G. Greg Rearick

The Committee reviewed correspondence from Mr. Rearick inquiring about whether there are any restrictions prohibiting a licensed professional counselor from having a private practice in the same town, borough or city as his/her employer. The Committee will inform Mr. Rearick that while the existing regulations do not address "geographical restrictions" N.J.A.C. 13:34-30.6 does prohibit solicitation, unethical referrals and kickbacks.

H. Barbara Stavron

The Committee received a letter from Ms. Stavron requesting approval of the continuing education seminars she has completed through the State Department of Human Services. The Committee will refer Ms. Stavron to the N.J.A.C. 13:34-24.3 which list the acceptable sources of continuing education courses.

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

Monmouth University

J. Barry Mascari, Committee Chair and Executive Director Elaine DeMars went to Monmouth University and gave a presentation on the regulations and procedure involved in pursuing professional counselor licensure. It was estimated that more than seventy-five (75) graduate students were in attendance. The new regulation on degree title requirements, supervision and coursework distribution were some of the topics discussed.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Jerry Cohen and unanimous vote, the Committee agreed to authorize J. Barry Mascari, Committee Chair, and Abbey Bradway to speak at the New Jersey Counseling Association Annual conference on May 2, 2005.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is June 2, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Edward Stroh, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session at 2:05 p.m. to review applications for licensure, consumer complaints and disciplinary matters.

X. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

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

Professional Counselors

Agens, Maureen
MacGregor, Nancy
Baker, Natalie
Malloy, Pamela
Barton, Stafford
McIssac, Marybeth
Beck, Jeffrey
O'Mahony, Kathleen
Carrad, Christine
Parodi, Emily
Centeno, Ranier
Pino, Melissa
Giordano, Tricia
Reyes, Lisa
Gonzalez, Benjamin-John
Rybinski, Marlene
Graham, Joyce

Schaffer, Patricia
Graham, Ronda
Scheurich, Patricia
Hallberg, Julie
Schladebeck, Cheryl
Karavides, Maria
Sluberski, Christina
Kowalek-Kinney, Janeen
Troia, Eleonora
LaMorte III, Gerard
Vaca-Bullaro, Ingrid
Lawson, Peter
Veneziano, Kelly
Logan, Jennifer
Zambrano, Pilar
Lucas, Thomas

Associate Counselors

Leibowitz, Michele
Ostrom-Knickerbocker, Lisa
Leitner, Doreen
Smith, Beverly

Out-of-State

Daily, Amy

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the meeting was adjourned at 4:40 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director