

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
JUNE 2, 2005**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselors Examiners Committee was called to order at 9:50 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 W. Stroh

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 Jerry Cohen, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the minutes of April 21, 2005 were approved as amended.

IV PUBLIC COMMENT

No members of the public were present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Senate Bill 2369

New Jersey Advance Directives for Mental Health Care Act Upon review, the Committee found that there are aspects of the proposal that require clarification: (1) How will the provisions of the bill be implemented and enforced? (2) How does the proposed legislation protect the patient? (3) Is this an attempt to override the judicial responsibility to establish competency? The role of the courts is considered to be the universal approach. (If a client is not competent how can he or she make a care-related decision?) (4) The definitions of Attending mental health care professional and Mental health professional are confusing. What is the intent of two distinct definitions? It is not clear if the definition includes social workers and professional counselors , neither category being mentioned. The Committee does not favor the proposal as written.

B. Assembly Bill 4138

Provides immunity for certain volunteer health care professionals and nonprofit clinics.

The Committee voted to oppose the proposal as it sends the wrong message: the consumer of services in a not-

for-profit/volunteer setting is entitled to less protection. In most cases, the client of such volunteer services are some of the most vulnerable and needy and should be entitled to the same standard of care as paying/insured clients. This bill erodes the protection of the client in greatest need.

C. Senate Bill 2526

Caps economic damages in medical malpractice actions arising from emergency care at \$250,000. Based on the premise of the Bill and the inclusion of "physical impairment and disfigurement" in the definition of non economic damages, the Committee voted to oppose the proposal.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Kimberly S. Ricketts, Acting Director, Division of Consumer Affairs

The Committee reviewed Ms. Ricketts' letter of introduction and acknowledgment of the public protection efforts of the professional boards.

B. Jahan Jacobson

The Committee considered the questions presented regarding the requirement for licensure in order to advertise as counselor and accept payment for services New Jersey. The Committee will refer Ms. Jacobson to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39 and N.J.S.A. 45:8B-48 pertaining to the unlicensed practice of professional counseling. Issues regarding specific individuals or practices should be directed to the Committee as a consumer complaint.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB)

Jan McMillan, Ph.D., LPC, AASCB Past President and current Chair of the National Credentials Registry will address the Committee on the subject of Licensing Portability for Counselors during the September 1, 2005 Committee meeting..

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Division of Law Billing

The Committee reviewed and accepted the Fiscal Year third quarter report as informational.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is July 7, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

IX EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Edward Stroh, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session at 10:30 a.m. to review applications for licensure, consumer complaints and disciplinary matters.

X. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

On a motion by Ronald and seconded by Jerry Cohen the Committee voted to approve the following applications as noted:

Professional Counselors

Coffey, Rachel

Martinez Fam, Deicy
Minniti, Vincent A.
Donohue, Devon M.
O'Neill-Abbate, Kristen
Famularo, Melissa A.
Rajs, Robin
Garfinkel, Lori
Schaffer, Patricia
Germer, Omar
Smith, Vickie
Hawkins-Rodgers, Yolanda
Stewart, Lisa
Hernando, Helena
Truland, Joe B.
Kelly, Maureen
Tuohy, MaryAnn
Little, Karen

Associate Counselors

Arpaia, Rosa-Anna
Lassen, Sonia N.
Biryukov, Vera
Rivkin, Michelle
Doyle, Shelley
Roche, Nancy H.
Drummond, Emelyn Y.
Stender-Mooney, Kimberly
Gorman, Susan D.
Supernaw, Sarah E.
Henchy, Clare A.
Trimble, Michaela
Heritage, Hannah RB
Udovic, Susan

Out of State

Decker, Ellen
Thomas, Sharon D.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the meeting was adjourned at 4:43 p.m.

Respectfully,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director