

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

June 3, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the 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 D 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 Abbey Bradway, seconded by Edward Stroh, the minutes of May 6, 2004 were approved with corrections.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Assembly Bill 2319

The Committee reviewed Assembly Bill 2319 which requires certain persons to report suspected abuse, neglect or exploitation against vulnerable adults.

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee agreed to support the Bill with amendments. Professional Counselors were not listed as mental health professionals who are required to report such abuse. The Committee will comment to determine why professional counselors are excluded from the list and to ensure that they are listed among mental health counselors required to report abuse.

B. New York State Proposed Amendment to Regulations for Licensure

CORRESPONDENCE

A. Linda DeSantis

The Committee reviewed a letter from Ms. Linda DeSantis, who wrote in reference to the Committee's May 10, 2004 letter of denial of licensure. The Committee will write to Ms. DeSantis informing her that the requirements for licensure specify that graduate credits must be from an accredited school. The Committee does not have discretion to change the legislative statutory requirements set forth in N.J.S.A. 45:8B-40.

B. Barbara Hailes

The Committee reviewed a letter from Barbara Hailes, who wrote in reference to the Committee's letter of denial of licensure. Ms. Hailes' application was deficient in that the supervisors that she listed were unacceptable pursuant to the regulations. Supervision hours are only counted when performed under the supervision of a qualified supervisor. The Committee has asked that Ms. Hailes submit resumes of supervisors that meet the requirements as defined in N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.1-11.3.

C. Dorothy Hrynyk

The Committee reviewed a letter and an e-mail from Dorothy Hrynyk, who wrote petitioning the Committee to purchase the rights to the National Counselors Examination to reduce the expense currently incurred by applicants. Ms. Hrynyk will be informed that the Committee must conform to the consistent method in which the examination is administered. The ever-changing content of the examination makes it impractical for the Committee to purchase and maintain the examination in a manner that is consistent with the national examination standard.

D. Mark Littman

Mr. Littman had previously presented e-mail questions regarding his practice as a hypnotist and fulfilling the course work for licensure as a professional counselor. In response, Mr. Littman was provided with the scope of practice as detailed in the regulations and was advised to refer clients to appropriate professionals for counseling. In response to the Committee's request for an explanation of his scope of practice, Mr. Littman provided his response in an e-mail dated 5-12-04. The Committee will refer the correspondence to the Board of Psychological Examiners to address the issue of the practice/regulation of hypnosis. Based on the information provided by Mr. Littman, the Committee advises him that to insure public protection, he should not be providing counseling services.

E. Leo McDermott

The Committee reviewed an e-mail from Mr. McDermott questioning the accreditation status of the International University for Graduate Studies. Mr. McDermott will be advised that foreign university credentials must be reviewed by an international credential review service such as the World Education Services or any other recognized foreign evaluation service to determine the equivalency of the degree obtained by the applicant.

F. Juan Carlos Rivera

Mr. Rivera e-mailed several questions relating to licensure requirements and his foreign degree program. The Committee will inform Mr. Rivera that the program must be evaluated by World Education Services or any other recognized foreign evaluation service to determine the equivalency of the degree obtained. The doctoral degree and title must be equivalent to the requirements of U.S. colleges and universities. While it is unclear if Mr. Rivera intends to practice in this State he will be provided with information concerning the application process.

G. Marion Hecht

Ms. Hecht presented practice-related questions in several e-mails. She will be referred to the regulations that govern the practice of professional counseling in the State of New Jersey. Ms. Hecht shall submit evidence to the Committee that she is no longer listed as a "psychologist" on the "Locate a Doc.com" web site directory. Ms. Hecht will be advised that she may be listed in a professional magazine provided she is listed as a licensed professional counselor.

H. Lauren P. Sullivan

Ms. Sullivan wrote to the Committee concerning her denial of licensure. Following a review of the letter, transcript and the application submitted by Ms. Sullivan the Committee found that she has met the requirements for licensure.

I. Monica O'Grady

The Committee reviewed Ms. O'Grady's application form and correspondence dated May 27, 2004. The Committee will provide Ms. O'Grady with information concerning the educational deficiencies noted by the Committee.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. License Application

The Committee reviewed draft revisions to the application and approved the changes to include dates of counseling experience and a check box next to Option A and Option B on page 2 of the application.

B. Committee Newsletter

The Committee reviewed a draft list of newsletter topics for the second edition. Committee members agreed on assignments and will work to submit the newsletter for Division approval in the fall.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

Pre-Renewal Post Card Mailing

The Committee was provided with the copy of a notice that will be sent to all licensees advising them of the November 30th expiration date for renewal and of the requirement to report any change of address.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is July 1, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by A. Bradway, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 11:50 a.m.

XI. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

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

Professional Counselors

Lynn A. Boyko

Mark H. Chae

Nadezhda V. Denisenko

Alan Goldberg

Dorothy R. Hrynyk

Michael D. James

Michele Kaplan

Leslie K. Lobell
Tina Montagna-Tate
Brian D. Norton
Lisha Sakhrani
Megan Stackelberg

Associate Counselor

Stafford Barton
Lori S. Rumley

Out-of-State Applicants

Christine H. Andrews
Janet Barkowsky

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Ronald Rossell, the meeting adjourned at 1:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director
