

PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
June 4, 2009

I. CALL TO ORDER

The scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to Order at 9:47 a.m. by Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari, at the State Office Building, located at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Hudson Conference Room, Newark, New Jersey.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chairman, J. Barry Mascari
Committee Member, Abbey Bradway
Committee Member, William Green
Committee Member, Barbara Maurer

Also Present:

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

In accordance with Chapter 231 of P.L. 1975, more commonly referred to as the Sunshine Law, adequate notice of this meeting was provided by mail to the Office of the Secretary of State of New Jersey, The Newark Star Ledger, The Trenton Times, The Bergen Record and the Courier Post.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

On a motion made by William Green, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the minutes of the May 7, 2009 public session meeting were approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Attending the Public Session meeting:

Linda Feichter, LAC, LPC Applicant

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

Proposed Regulations Readoption with Amendment: N.J.A.C. 13:34-10 - 30.
New Jersey Register Publication date: May 4, 2009
The comment period for the proposal ends on July 3, 2009

VI. GRADUATE COUNSELOR EDUCATION PROGRAMS

A. Fairleigh Dickinson University - 2:00 p.m.

Geoffrey Weinman, Dean, Becton College of Arts and Sciences
Ketrin Saud-Maxwell, Program Director, M.A. in Counseling
Wayne Richardson, Esq., University Counsel
Paula Danzinger, Ph.D., LPC - Consultant

Zulima V. Farber, Esq. Lowenstein Sandler
Danielle C. Carmona, Esq. Lowenstein Sandler

The above listed representatives of FDU's Master's in Counseling (Madison Campus) program addressed the Committee as a continuation of the April 2nd meeting discussion. Ms. Farber advised that the University has approved and will issue revised transcripts with the counseling degree title to graduates of the predecessor program, " M.A. in Psychology: Concentration in Clinical Counseling" to read "M.A. in Counseling."

Ms. Farber emphasized that the core curriculum has not changed (through 2008) and that the University believes that the program's curriculum meets the educational requirements for licensure. Ms. Farber summarized the University's efforts to assist graduates of the program and information presented to the Committee including a nine-hour supplemental course approved by the Committee initially offered to 9 to 11 graduates, then extended to 110 graduates. In the Spring of 2008, the ethics course was revised and retitled to "The Professional Counselor: Ethical Issues." The University, in March 2008, contracted with an independent consultant, pre-approved by the Committee, to conduct a review of the proposed program. The program implemented the changes recommended by Dr. Danzinger in her report. The course code prefixes have been changed to refer to the counseling content.

Ms. Farber went on to address the agreement recorded in the April 2, 2009 minutes and the Committee's requirement that graduates pass the ECCP. The difficulties in meeting the prerequisites for the ECCP were detailed.

The Committee determined that in order to be considered for licensure, graduates of 2004-2008 FDU counseling programs are required to document satisfaction of all current requirements and:

1. Complete a pre-approved three-credit graduate course focusing on the counseling profession, professional counselor ethics, professional identity and scope of practice by September 30, 2010. The course description will be submitted for Committee approval no later than June 19, 2009.
2. The University will provide a finite list of graduates (name, date of graduation, degree title, number of credits, revised transcript and proof of the required 60 credits) of the 2004 - 2008 predecessor programs as eligible for consideration.
3. Each applicant must document passing scores for the ECCP, or submit an additional 1500 hours of supervised experience (with plan and supervisor pre-approved by Committee) or request that the 4500 hour documentation submitted with the application be considered if the supervisor meets the regulatory requirements for a "qualified supervisor" and the practice setting and scope of practice meet the requirements. Applicants who are required to complete the additional 1500 hours, are required to have the proposed supervisor submit a "Plan of Supervision" before January 1, 2011.

The Committee agreed to amend the April 2, 2009 minutes to correct the statement that the University would offer students a preparatory course for the ECCP. Ms. Farber stated that the University did not agree to offer such course.

1. Wendie L. Elovich, Esq. on behalf of Stefanie Schwartz Cavender

The Committee reviewed a letter regarding Ms. Schwartz Cavender's FDU graduate degree and application for licensure. The Committee will write to ask if a transcript reflecting a qualifying degree has been submitted. Reference will be made to the minutes regarding the discussion of the required degree (See VI (A) above).

B. College of Saint Elizabeth-

Elaine DeMars reported that Dr. Valerie Scott, program director acknowledged, by e-mail, the one year approval of the program.

C. Rowan University

Janet Cahill, Professor, Program Director
Barbara Kleva, General Counsel
D. J. Angelone, Professor
Tom Dinzeo, Professor
Jim Haugh, Associate Professor

Dr. Cahill appeared with principals of Rowan University's proposed MA in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program. Drs. Angelone, Haugh and Cahill previously addressed the Committee regarding the program. The September 12, 2008 minutes summarized the discussion:

"The Committee reviewed Dr. Cahill's e-mail dated September 3, 2008 regarding the Rowan University programs and course work. The Committee will write to Dr. Cahill to inform her that although the program may have been discussed five years ago with the Executive Director, the Committee did not review or approve the Rowan program. Although the statute at N.J.S.A. 45:8B-38 allows the Committee to approve programs, there have not been any program approvals to date. The Committee will continue to review applications on an individual basis.

The Committee noted that there has been no update following the lengthy meeting with Drs. Cahill, Haugh and Angelone. The meeting summary was recorded in the March 6, 2008 Public Minutes when the Committee expressed concern with the current and proposed program presented.

Dr. D.J. Angelone, Dr. Jim Haugh and Program Director, Dr. Janet Cahill appeared in response to the Committee request, to discuss the University's current and proposed graduate program. Following a detailed review and discussion of the course work, the Committee emphasized their concern with the integration of the term and principles of "psychology" throughout the programs. Course work is required to meet the requirements and prepare students for practice as professional counselors, a mixture of disciplines is not acceptable. The program representatives stated that they will seek the perspective of a counselor educator to evaluate/revise the language, references and interpretations in both programs. CACREP accreditation will be pursued.'

Dr. Cahill advised that the program description was revised to meet standards established by CACREP and resubmitted for Committee review in December, 2008. Following an in-depth review of the courses included in the program proposal, the Committee determined to hold further discussion based on Dr. Cahill's suggestion that Rowan submit revised documentation to demonstrate a strong foundation in counseling theory and practice; the inclusion of counseling ethics, counselor identity, assessment theory and tools anchored in counseling and current resource references in the respective course offerings.

VII. ADMINISTRATIVE REPORT

A. A random audit to determine continuing education requirement compliance will be conducted through a mailing later this month. Summer interns assigned to the Board and Committees will assist in the process.
B. The Health Care Reporting Unit provided a list of current licensees who have failed to comply with the statutory requirement (N.J.S.A. 45:1-30 et seq.) that all license holders complete the criminal history background check requirement. Second notices will be mailed. Failure to comply may prevent the renewal of a license, or the licence may be suspended.

VIII. NBCC MATTERS

The Committee was advised that the contract for the computer-based National Counselor Examination remains under legal review.

IX. AASCB MATTERS

A. 2010 Annual Conference Announcement
B. "The Liaison" - AASCB Newsletter Issue 24 Spring 2009

Upon review of the 2010 Annual Conference announcement and the newsletter article regarding the AASCB Testing Commission, the Committee directed that a letter be sent to AASCB to advise that due to State-imposed budget restrictions on travel and attendance, the Committee is unable to authorize Committee member participation at the annual meeting. The Committee however, will request another mode of representation for its input especially as it relates to the composition of the NCE.

X. FILED ORDERS

A. Angela G. Boyette, LPC Applicant, June 4, 2009 Filed Consent Order

Cease and desist from offering professional and/or associate counseling services until licensed and assessed a civil penalty of \$250.00.

B. Thomas Johnson, Sr. M.A., LPC,LCADC

Reprimand for aiding and abetting the unlicensed practice of professional counseling, order to cease and desist from aiding and abetting unlicensed practice and assessed a civil penalty of \$500.00.

XI. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting of the Committee is scheduled for July 9, 2009 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey.

August 6, 2009 October 1, 2009

July 9, 2009 September 3, 2009 November 5, 2009

December 3, 2009

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion made by Barbara Maurer, seconded by William Green, the Committee adjourned public session and moved to Executive Session to conduct three investigative inquiries, discuss consumer complaints and pending disciplinary matters.

XIII. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

On a motion made by Abbey Bradway, seconded by William Green, the Committee approved the following applications for licensure:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Abbey Bradway, seconded by William Green, the Committee voted to adjourn the meeting at 4:40 p.m.