

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
JUNE 7, 2007**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee was called to order at 9:33 a.m. by Chair J. Barry Mascari.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari  
Committee Vice-Chair, Abbey F. Bradway  
Committee Member, Barbara Maurer

Absent:

Committee Member, Susan Devlin

Staff Present:

Executive Director, Elaine L. DeMars  
Deputy Attorney General, Susan Berger  
Administrative Staff, Celeste Paige  
Administrative Staff, Agnes Almeida

**III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES**

Following his reading of the "Open Public Meetings Act" Committee Chair Mascari announced that due to the recent resignation of Committee member Mark O'Sullivan and the absence and anticipated resignation of Committee member Susan Devlin, there is no quorum. Pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-37, four members constitute a quorum. All agenda items, therefore, will be considered for recommendation to the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners.

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee will recommend the approval of the May 3, 2007 minutes as presented.

**IV. Public Comment**

A. Joseph Pantone, LPC applicant, appeared before the Committee to discuss the status of his application. Mr. Pantone claims there is a discrepancy on his transcript and presented additional information for the Committee to review. Mr. Pantone has been approved for the licensed associate counselor credential contingent upon completing a three credit graduate course in any one of the course work areas pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3ii.

B. Bianca Kazoun, LPC applicant, appeared before the Committee to discuss the denial letter she received and asked for clarification of the course work requirement. Ms. Kazoun was advised to submit the course syllabi in order with a request for the reconsideration of course work.

C. Tom Crawley, New Jersey Counseling Association

Mr. Crawley appeared on behalf of NJCA to thank Chair person J. Barry Mascari and Executive Director Elaine

L. DeMars for the informative presentation at the association's annual conference. Mr. Crawley also presented questions to the Committee regarding the supervision requirements for licensure .

#### D. Seton Hall University

Seton Hall students, Dana Passenti, Brian Quinones, Lauren Carmichael, Kevin Titze, and Jessica Weitsman attended the meeting as part of their course requirement.

### **V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY**

#### Cultural Competency - Proposed Regulation

The Committee was provided with a copy of the proposed revision to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.2(c) and N.J.A.C. 13:34-24.2(c), published in the New Jersey Register which would require the completion of at least three of the biennially required 40 contact hours of continuing education to be in the subject area of cultural diversity. The public comment period ends August 3, 2007.

### **VI. CORRESPONDENCE**

#### A. Linda Newton

In response to a written request for direction in listing credentials as certified registered nurse and a licensed professional counselor, Ms. Newton will be advised that the Committee has no jurisdiction on how to list her RN credential. DAG Susan Berger recommends Ms. Newton indicate both professional license designation since there is no ruling on the order in which multiple professional licensure credentials should be listed.

#### B. Mark Italiano

The Committee reviewed Mr. Italiano's May 2, 2007 request for advice on services that he is providing without a license. He alleges that he is providing individual instruction in sexology. The Committee recommended that he be sent a letter of advice, that in the event he is doing more than teaching, his work may be considered counseling and unlicensed practice. Mr. Italiano will be provided with a copy of N.J.A.C. 13:34-10.2, the definition of counseling.

#### C. Marie Claire Florentino, LPC, LCADC

The Committee reviewed a copy of letter sent by Ms. Florentino regarding insurance reimbursement and will advise Ms. Florentino in writing that insurance reimbursement is not within the Committee's jurisdiction. It was suggested that the licensed professional counselor credential did not exist when the rules for insurance companies were written, therefore, the difficulty may be that the insurance reimbursement guidelines have not been revised to this category of licensure.

#### D. William Skotnicki

Upon review of a lengthy "To Whom It May Concern" letter which seemed to address those who deal with relationships as part of their practice, the Committee determined to acknowledge the communication.

### **VII. NEW BUSINESS**

#### Filed Consent Orders

#### Rista Luna

A Consent Order was filed on May 11, 2007 in which Ms. Luna agreed to cease and desist the use of license credentials and the practice of professional counseling until such time that she is appropriately licensed.

## VIII. OLD BUSINESS

### COUNSELOR EDUCATION GRADUATE PROGRAMS

#### A. FAIRLEIGH DICKINSON UNIVERSITY (FDU)

##### 1. Melissa D'Alessio, LAC Applicant

The Committee accepted as informational a copy of a letter that was sent by Michael D'Alessio on behalf of his client, a graduate of the FDU Clinical Counseling program. Mr. D'Alessio included a copy of the FDU letter sent to graduates regarding the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3i.

##### 2. Dr. Lona Whitmarsh

The Committee considered an electronic copy of the FDU 9-hour powerpoint presentation intended to focus on the counseling profession for graduates of the Clinical Psychology program. Based on the information presented, the Committee determined to send Dr. Whitmarsh a letter with a copy of the forms she submitted and ask her if it is what she meant to send. She will be advised that failure to submit the correct presentation information may result in the delay of the applications of graduates.

#### B. ROWAN UNIVERSITY

##### Jennifer DelRusso, LPC applicant

The deficiency determined in the February 8, 2007 application review was overturned on a motion by by Committee member Abbey F. Bradway who recommended that Rowan University's course description for Professional Practice Issues in Psychology sufficiently covered the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3ii(9).

#### C. WILLIAM PATERSON UNIVERSITY

##### 1. Michael Martin, LAC Applicant

The Committee reviewed a copy of the revised transcript issued by the university which changed the program title from "Applied Clinical Psychology" to "Clinical Psychology and Counseling" and determined to send Dr. Torsney the CACREP matrix to document satisfaction of the course work requirements at N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3ii.

##### 2. Kathleen Torsney, Ph.D.

Dr. Torsney, Director, MA Program in Clinical Psychology and Counseling, appeared in response to the Committee's request to discuss the graduate program, course content and educational requirements for licensure. The Committee highlighted its concern with misinformation contained in the program's Web page and the repeated use of the terms "psychology/ psychological" throughout the advertisement and course information. Dr. Torsney was requested to inform students who are in supervision to obtain the LAC, if they work in a private practice. Dr. Torsney reported that there are 2 programs at WPU and that the courses titles led to using the term "psychological" in the program title. She also reported that efforts are under way to update the Web page. While the program title was changed from Clinical Psychology to Clinical Psychology and Counseling, the course work, including the course titles were not changed. The syllabi and course outlines, she reported, reflect counseling. Dr. Torsney reported that the APA and ACA codes of ethics are highlighted. The Committee advised Dr. Torsney, that if the program is designed to prepare students for professional counseling, only the ACA code of ethics should be used. The Committee also expressed great concern that unless the program was clearly identified with the counseling profession, graduates would face professional identity and scope of practice confusion.

##### 3. Paula Danzinger, Ph.D., LPC

As director of William Paterson University's Counseling Services Program, Dr. Danzinger appeared in response to the Committee's request to discuss the CACREP- accredited graduate program. Referring to the program details provided in booklet form. Dr. Danzinger addressed questions related to the focus of the 12 credits that are required in addition to the 48 (CACREP-required) counseling credits. Initially, the Committee emphasized the importance of requiring that the 12 credits concentrate on counseling theory and practice. Dr. Danzinger also asked to be included on the Committee's Consent Order distribution list.

#### **D. SETON HALL UNIVERSITY**

The Committee completed the review of course syllabi tabled from April 2007 agenda meeting. The syllabi for "Counselor Ethics in Practice" was determined to be acceptable during the Committee's April 2007 meeting.

The review of the syllabi for the three additional courses submitted with the following determinations:

1. Orientation to Professional Counseling: Deemed Acceptable It appears that the course contents cover the required topics for "Counseling theories and practice" with the exception of: advocacy processes needed to address institutional and social barriers that impede access, equity, and success for clients. The course contents also appear to cover the required topics for "The Counseling Profession" with the exception of: public and private policy processes, including the role of the professional counselor in advocating on behalf of the profession.

2. Appraisal and Assessment: Deemed Acceptable

It appears that the course contents cover the required topics for "Appraisal of individuals.

3. Counseling and Community Agencies: Deemed Acceptable

The Committee determined that the course topics appear to satisfy multiple content areas including: The Counseling profession, Social and cultural foundations, Human growth and development and maladaptive behavior, but the course lacks focus on and does not satisfy anyone one of the content areas completely.

In reference to the above course offerings reviewed, the Committee will ask for an explanation for the appropriate course content area specified at N.J.A.C 13:34-11.2(a)3ii. That is, how would students indicate the course work on the "Course distribution sheet" of the application for licensure. The Committee will also ask to be advised of the format (in-person or on-line) for each course. Finally, the Committee will acknowledge the work and depth of understanding that went into the course revisions and support the continued effort to develop the counseling program to be consistent with the CACREP standards.

#### **IX. AASCB MATTERS**

The Committee accepted the American Association of State Counseling Board's invitation for AASCB annual meeting as informational.

#### **X. NBCC MATTERS**

The Committee reviewed and accepted as information the National Board for Certified Counselor's April 21, 2007 examination statistical report.

#### **XI. COUNCIL ON THE ACCREDITATION OF COUNSELING AND RELATED EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS NEWSLETTERS - Spring 2007 Newsletter**

The Committee accepted the publication as informational noting the update on the revision initiative and the discussion of counselor involvement in disasters and a program in addictions.

#### **XII. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is scheduled for August 2, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at 124

Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

2007 Meeting Dates:

September 6, 2007 November 1, 2007

October 4, 2007 December 7, 2007

### **XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 10:45 a.m., on a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer the Committee voted to move to Executive Session to review individual applications and pending disciplinary matters.

### **XIV. CREDENTIAL REVIEW**

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee approved the following applicants for licensure:

#### Professional Counselors

Carroll-Ratcliff, Hattie E.

Denmead, Beth

Grosser, Gina

LaCouture, Michelle

Link, Kathryn

Martiny, Vanessa

Palaschak, Christina

Robinson, Jean

Rosencrance, Jennifer

Stanton, Linda

Wohlgemuth, Susan

#### Associate Counselors

DeKleine, Dana

Hudson, Vivian

Hurwitz, Allison D.

Margulis, Sharlene

Ryan, Jean

TenCate, Christa

### **XV. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by J. Barry Mascari, the meeting adjourned at 5:10 p.m..