

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES  
AUGUST 1, 2006**

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselors Committee was called to order at 10:00 a.m., by Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari  
Committee Vice-Chair, Abbey F. Bradway  
Committee Member, Mark O'Sullivan  
Committee Member, Ronald Rossell (participated by phone)

Excused:

Committee Member Barbara Maurer  
Committee Member Susan Devlin

Staff Present:

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

**III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES**

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Ronald Rossell the Committee approved the June 1, 2006 minutes as presented.

**IV. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- A. Azilde Sanchez addressed the Committee regarding the review of her application and options for licensure pending the completion of the course work requirements.
- B. Robin James addressed the Committee regarding her application and provided additional documents for consideration.

**V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY** A. Regulatory Committee Report  
No report was provided.

B. Assembly Bill # 3063

Assembly Bill No. 3063 proposes to amend the Open Public Meetings Act and amend P.L. 2002, c.91, P.L.2001, c.404, and P.L. 1975, c.231 to require that each public body do the following: keep "comprehensive" minutes of all its meetings; record (sound) all meetings including meetings in which the public is excluded; maintain minutes for a term of six years; and make all draft minutes and sound recordings available to public within five business days of the meeting. The bill also proposes that any public body that establishes an Internet site post notice of its meetings on the Internet site. The Committee is not in favor of the proposed amendments because it deems the

current requirements adequately protective of the integrity of the process and that the current laws provide appropriate notice to the public. The Committee believes that the proposed amendments would pose an added burden both administratively and financially.

## **VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Executive Director Elaine DeMars informed the Committee that Division Director Kimberly Ricketts has been appointed as the administrator for the Office of the Attorney General. The appointment becomes effective in September.

## **VII. BIENNIAL LICENSE RENEWAL**

Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars informed the Committee that the receipt of the draft renewal application is anticipated. The expiration date for licensed professional counselors, licensed rehabilitation counselors and licensed associate counselors is November 30, 2006. The review process precedes the printing and mailing of the "My License Letter" that includes instructions for on line licensure renewal. Paper license renewal forms will only be mailed to active licensees who so request by calling the assigned phone number. It was reported that the on-line renewal option has been well received and that it provides for an expedient license renewal process.

## **VIII. Filed Consent Orders**

Andrea Bianco-Rieti - A Consent Order was filed on July 13, 2006 in which Ms. Bianco-Rieti, who is not licensed, agreed to cease and desist from engaging in or advertising any mental health counseling, including but not limited to alcohol and drug counseling, marriage and family therapy and/or psychotherapy unless and until she is licensed or certified by the Committee or otherwise appropriately licensed in the State of New Jersey to provide mental health counseling services.

Robert DeYoung an applicant for licensure as a professional counselor, had held a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist and alcohol and drug counselor. DAG Perez informed the Committee that Mr. DeYoung has withdrawn his LPC application. Through separate Consent Orders, he has voluntarily surrendered his license to practice as a marriage and family therapist and alcohol and drug counselor.

## **XIV. CORRESPONDENCE**

The License Commission of the Americas

The Committee reviewed the July 14, 2006 memo regarding licensing for biofeedback and neurotherapy professionals. The organization's memo dated June 1, 2006 was previously reviewed. The memos have been referred to the Division Director's office since the intended license categories have relevance to a number of licensing boards. DAG Mileidy Perez suggested that the mental health boards may want to respond jointly.

## **XV. OLD BUSINESS**

Dr. John Sabatini, Walden University

Dr. John Sabatini, Vice President, Regulatory Affairs for Walden University's Online Master of Science in Mental Health Counseling had previously requested the Committee review of the degree program. Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari reported that while he did a general review of the syllabi, Dr. Sabitini must be advised that the Committee does not have jurisdiction to approve educational programs. The Committee's jurisdiction is to approve the educational credentials of the applicant to ensure that the statutory requirements are met. Applicants must document satisfactory completion of the requirements for licensure. It was further noted that the current requirements are based on the standards of the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) and that Walden University may seek CACREP accreditation for its degree program.

## **XVI. NEW BUSINESS**

### NBCC Statistical Score Report

The Committee reviewed the statistical score report provided by the National Board of Certified Counselors. The report was accepted as informational.

## **XVII. AASCB MATTERS**

A. Memorandum of Understanding: Council for Accreditation of Counseling Related Education Programs (CACREP) - and CORE the Council on Rehabilitation Education Programs Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari reported that the two groups have begun preliminary discussions to begin consideration of an accreditation entity that brings together the best practices of both organizations.

### B. CACREP Standards Revision

The Committee was provided a copy of the draft revision for the 2008 Standards that includes entry level standards and doctoral standards. It was noted that CACREP policy requires periodic review in order to evaluate and as appropriate, develop new standards or eliminate obsolete standards.

### C. National Credentials Registry and Portability

Committee Chair J. Barry Mascari briefly discussed the American Association of State Counseling Board's (AASCB) proposal submitted for Committee consideration. Janice F. Mc Millan, Ph.D., LPC, Chair of the National Credentials registry will attend the October 5, 2006 Committee meeting to present the proposed standards.

## **XVIII. APPLICATION PROCESSING ISSUES**

Note was made that the Ed.S. credential (Education specialist - professional counseling) may emerge for consideration of the educational requirements for licensure. N.J.C.A. 3:34-11.2 (a)3ii requires "that the applicant, as part of his or her educational preparation which includes a master's degree or doctorate degree in counseling from a regionally accredited institution of higher education, has completed 60 graduate semester hours." It is noted that Ed.S. is a post-master's specialty certificate that may not require a standard number of credits.

## **XIV. NEXT MEETING**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is September 7, 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

### 2006 Committee meeting Dates

October 5, 2006  
November 2, 2006  
December 7, 2006

## **XV. EXECUTIVE SESSION**

At 11:00 a.m., on a motion by Abbey F. Bradway, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan, the Committee voted to move to Executive Session to discuss pending disciplinary matters.

## **XVI. CREDENTIAL REVIEW**

On a motion by Abbey F. Bradway, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan, the Committee voted to approve the following applications as noted:

Licensed Professional Counselor:

Agnelli, Susan Kopack, Brian W.  
Anderson, Ruth Leidemer, Susan M.  
Balicki, Andria Leinwand, Laurie R.  
Blauth, Stacey McNamarra, Maureen  
Foley, Stephen P Pellack, David  
James, Robin Powers, Martha  
Kedes, Kristen J. Riczu, Erica

Licensed Associate Counselor:

Brazell, Judy A. Smith, Beverly  
Hartnack, Lois Steinberg, Amy  
Hicks, Aunjuli West, Lisa  
Lee, Deborah

## **XVII. ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Abbey F. Bradway, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan, the meeting adjourned at 4:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars  
Executive Director