
**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

AUGUST 5, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to order at 9:45 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 Edward D. Stroh

Excused:

Committee Member Ronald Rossell

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 and unanimous vote, the Committee approved the July 1, 2004 public minutes as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There was a member of the public present, who did not have comments.

V. LEGISLATIVE /REGULATORY

A. Melanie Griffin, Esq., Department of Human Services - P.L. 2003, Ch 214 The Committee reviewed correspondence from Melanie Griffin, Esq., of the Department of Human Services, Division of Mental Health Services regarding the notice of a new statutory requirement to report certain data on suicide/attempted suicide for individuals under the age of 25. It was noted that regulations have not yet been promulgated. Executive Director Elaine DeMars informed the Board that the Director's Office has recommended that the information regarding the statute be provided to licensees by way of mailings, the Board's Web page and through newsletters. The Committee discussed concerns for and possible conflict of the statute and Federal confidentiality requirements and the potential for multiple reports of a single incident. It was noted that N.J.A.C. 13:34-18.5 provides for disclosure of information under specific conditions. Professional counselors are now required to report such incidences in order to provide for appropriate client care. The Committee approved the release of a draft announcement of the law for use in the upcoming newsletter and the Committee's Web page.

B. Senate Bill 1623

The Committee reviewed Senate Bill 1623, which was introduced on June 7, 2004. This Bill amends N.J.S.A. 2C:36-6 and Title 26 to allow municipalities to establish sterile syringe access programs. On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Edward Stroh, the Committee voted to support the proposed legislation.

C. Senate Bill 1763

The Committee reviewed Senate Bill 1763, which will be introduced this year. The Bill provides that a person with a criminal record of a crime or offense that occurred more than ten (10) years before the criminal check shall not be disqualified for employment or licensure if the person has not been convicted of another offense during that ten (10) year period. The Bill identifies fourteen (14) criminal convictions which do not qualify for a waiver. On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Edward Stroh, the Committee agreed to table its position until the Bill is formally introduced in the Senate.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Jonathan Alpert

Jonathan Alpert, a professional counselor licensed in Pennsylvania, is requesting that New Jersey accept the Practice Exam of Psychological Knowledge administered by the North American Association of Master's in Psychology in lieu of the National Counselors Exam administered by the National Board of Certified Counselors. The Committee will respond to Mr. Alpert in writing, informing him that since the successful passing of the National Counselors Examination is a statutory and regulatory requirement, the Committee does not have discretion to waive that requirement. Reference is made to N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.4.

B. Samantha Brennan

The Committee received an e-mail from Ms. Brennan asking the Committee whether she can qualify for licensure with a 36 credit Master's degree in Educational Psychology. Ms Brennan made reference to the grandfather licensure statute which would have allowed her to obtain licensure with a Master's degree of less than 60 credits. The Committee will respond to Ms. Brennan informing her that the period for licensure under the grandfather statute, N.J.S.A 45:8B-41.2, has expired and that the statute does not provide for licensure based on the year an applicant receives a degree.

C. Varda Gilad

The Committee received correspondence from Varda Gilad requesting permission to take the Counseling licensure exam prior to filing an application to become a Certified Clinical Psychology Counselor. The Committee will respond to Ms. Gilad informing her that the regulation does not include a specific point in the process for the completion of the NCE requirement. Ms. Gilad will be advised that she must complete the State application for licensure. She will also be referred to NBCC for information regarding the clinical psychology counselor examination.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter

Committee members discussed the information to be included in the next edition of the Committee's newsletter. Executive Director DeMars estimated that the newsletter will not be published until the end of the year.

VIII. NEXT MEETING

With all members in agreement the Committee agreed to cancel the September 2, 2004 meeting. The next schedule meeting of the Committee will be held on October 7, 2004.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 10:36 a.m.

X. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Edward Stroh and unanimous vote, the Committee approved the following applications:

Professional Counselors

Karla Black
Suzanne Gazzolo
Healthier DiDomenico
Debbie Passenti
Kristen Doherty
Jellylu Perez
Barbara DuBois Russell
Margaret Roe
Anthony V. Emering
Stephanie L. Rubain
Pamela Ferguson
Brigitta Einberger-Spiegel
Nadine Fodor
Martin Sullivan

Associate Counselors

Tara Ely
Hal Ketofsky
Alvin Williams

Out-of -State

Michele M. Cassel

XI. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Edward Stroh, the meeting adjourned at 12:46 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director