

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE MEETING
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

OCTOBER 7, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselors Examiners 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

A. On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Edward Stroh, the minutes of August 5, 2004 were approved with corrections.

B. On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Jerry Cohen the minutes of September 9, 2004 teleconference meeting were approved with corrections.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public present.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

A. Amendments to Assembly Bill 2319

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

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted unanimously to support the Bill with an amendment to add both professional counselors and rehabilitation counselors to the list of mental health professionals who are required to report such abuse.

B. New York State Proposed Amendment to Regulations for Licensure

The Committee reviewed proposed amendments to the licensure requirements for mental health counselors. Upon a motion made by Edward Stroh, seconded by Abby Bradway, the Committee agreed that the requirements for the Mental Health Counselor dilutes the national trend to standardize minimum competency levels. The Commission on the Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP) requires a 60-credit masters degree. The Committee expressed concern that a requirement less than that established by CACREP will affect portability between states.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

It was reported that to date, 361 (14%) of the currently licensed professional counselors have completed the renewal application process. The expiration date for the current biennial cycle is November 30, 2004.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Ron Bishop

In his position at Drexel University, Associate Professor Ron Bishop requested information for use in an article regarding life coaches. The Committee will respond to Mr. Bishop informing him that the definition of a "life coach" and their services are unclear. Those providing counseling and/or coaching services should refer to the regulations (N.J.A.C. 13:34-10 through 30). The Committee emphasized that anyone who practices, performing licensed functions included in the scope of practice would be considered to be counseling and therefore require licensure. The Committee will refer Mr. Bishop to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-39, the statute pertaining to unlicensed practice.

B. Carol Davis

In her letter, Ms. Davis communicated her concerns regarding the requirement for continuing education contact hours and the distinction between professional counselors and other professionals as it relates to reimbursement by insurance companies. The Committee directed that Ms. Davis be informed that the continuing education requirements are set by regulation (N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.1 through 15.7) and are a requirement for those who seek to apply for renewal of licensure by December 1, 2006. She will also be advised that insurance matters are not within the Committee's jurisdiction. All insurance-related concerns should be directed to the American Counseling Association and/or the New Jersey Counseling Association.

C. Tracy Hans

The Committee reviewed the e-mail and the various questions posed by Ms. Hans concerning supervision. Ms. Hans will be directed to N.J.A.C. 13: 34 -11.1 for definitions, subchapter 13.1(e) for the requisite skills for supervisors, and subchapter 15.4 for the approval of courses or programs for continuing education credits. It was noted that Social Work supervisory courses with the content area consistent with those listed in subchapter 15.4 are acceptable for licensed professional counselors.

D. Elizabeth Harmon

Ms. Harmon wrote to the Committee regarding the time frame in which continuing education credits are required to be accrued. The Committee will respond to Ms. Harmon, referring to the regulations for continuing education set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.1 through 15.7. Pursuant to the regulations, waivers can only be considered for reasons of hardship such as illness, disability, etc.

E. Kris Hintz

The Committee reviewed an e-mail and follow-up letter which included aspects of the writer's education and experience. In response to the related questions, the Committee asked that Ms. Hintz be referred to the

regulations which contain the requirements for education (N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2) and supervision (N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.3). It was noted that pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.3(a) supervision must take place in a "professional counseling setting."

F. Barry Keefe

Mr. Keefe presented continuing education-related questions in an e-mail forwarded to the Committee. Upon review, the Committee will refer Mr. Keefe to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4 for the requirements for the approval of courses or programs and content area. It was specifically noted that any courses provided or approved by the organizations listed in N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4(a)1 would be acceptable for the professional counselor continuing education requirements. Workshops, however, do not qualify as "graduate coursework" pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4(a)2. The Committee emphasized the importance of familiarity with the provisions of the regulations for all licensees and educators.

G. Claude Minter

Ms. Minter forwarded an e-mail to the Committee in which she requested advice on the approval requirements for a graduate degree from the International University of Graduate Studies. The Committee suggested that more information is necessary, however, it was noted that if the institution listed is regionally accredited, it would meet the requirements of N.J.A.C. 13:34:11.2.

H. Janice Oursler, Ph.D., NCC

University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey A copy of the letter of the Committee's response to Dr. Oursler's letter which described a master's level program at UMDNJ, dated August 16, 2004 was provided. It was noted that there have been no further communications from Dr. Oursler.

I. Patricia Taranto

In her letter, Ms. Taranto petitioned the Committee to accept continuing education credits earned prior to December 1, 2004. The Committee directed that Ms. Taranto be advised that the continuing education requirements are set by regulation (N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.1 through 15.7) and are a requirement for those who seek to apply for renewal of licensure by December 1, 2006. Waivers can only be considered for reasons of hardship such as illness, disability, etc., as set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:34-24.6.

VI. OLD BUSINESS

A. Committee Newsletter

The Committee reviewed draft of articles and agreed on additional topics for the second edition of the newsletter.

VII. NEW BUSINESS

A. NBCC Statistical Report for New Jersey

The Committee reviewed NBCC's New Jersey examination report. The Committee directed that NBCC be requested to supply the educational institution information for each candidate in subsequent reports.

B. U.S. Department of Health and Human Services

The Committee reviewed the notification clarifying the requirements for the reporting of multiple actions included in one Board order to the Health Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB).

VIII. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is November 4, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street,

6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Jerry Cohen, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session at 10:58 a.m. to review applications for licensure, consumer complaints and disciplinary matters.

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

Professional Counselors

Tracy N. Adams
Mariette Bernier
Diane M. Bond
Michael S. D'Angelo
Monique L. Gabriele
Tara C. Gutgesell
Neil Harrington
Jeffrey R. Hawkins
Janice C. Jolin
Kimberly Jung
Ann Mancuso
Angel E. McLaughlin
DeeAnna P. Merz
Karen Monaco
Steven W. Reavis
Bernard T. Rivas
Lori A. Roland
Robin Semel
Angela M. Toto
Valerie A. Travis
Dolly Varkay
Jeanette Vella
Mary E. Winzinger

Associate Counselor

Jooneui Lee
Lisa A. Melilo
Judith A. Quinn-Bliss
Venita Rawal
Alicia J. Ziptko

Specialty Designations:

Clinical Mental Health Counselor

Steven W. Reavis

Master Addictions Counselor

Steven W. Reavis

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Jerry Cohen, the meeting adjourned at 1:33 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director
