

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
NOVEMBER 2, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee was called to order at 9:50 a.m., by Chair, J. Barry Mascari.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari
Committee Vice-Chair, Abbey F. Bradway
Committee Member, Ronald Rossell
Committee Member, Barbara Maurer
Committee Member Mark O'Sullivan

Excused:

Committee Member, Susan Devlin

Staff Present:

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

A. Ronald A. Rossell, LRC and charter Committee member was presented with a certificate of recognition upon the announcement of his retirement.

B. Deputy Attorney General Mileidy Perez, announced that she is resigning her position as a Deputy Attorney General for the Division of Law.

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUES

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Ronald Rossell the Committee approved the October 5, 2006 minutes as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Dawn Norman

Dawn Norman, a graduated of Montclair State University and an LPC applicant attended the meeting to inform the Committee that she has been unable to obtain the course syllabi. She asked that the Committee accept the course descriptions to supplement her transcript.

2. Mark Littman

Mark Littman, an applicant for licensure attended the meeting to present information on his education and experience. He informs the Committee that he is currently enrolled at Seton Hall University, which has recently changed the graduate program title. Mr. Littman asks that the Committee accept his current coursework.

3. Nancy Benz, LPC

Nancy Benz, LPC and past president of New Jersey Counseling Association (NJCA) reported that a workshop focusing on ethical practice and designed to satisfy the requirement of N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.1 was presented on October 29, 2006. Ms. Benz also provided a copy of the October 2006 NJCA newsletter.

V. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars reported that to date 1,543 licensed professional counselors have completed the 2006-2008 renewal process. One thousand four hundred and twenty-one renewed online and there are currently 920 applicants who have yet to renew. Fifty-seven percent (57%) of the licensees renewed online and 5% have completed the paper renewal. One hundred and twenty three (123) licensed rehabilitation counselors have renewed their license for the 2006-2008 licensing period. One hundred and thirteen (113) were completed online and 91 have yet to renew. Fifty-two percent (52%) of the rehabilitation counselors have renewed online and 5% have completed paper renewals. Seventy-five (75) associate counselors have completed the renewal 2006-2008 renewal and 120 have yet to complete the renewal process. Forty percent (40%) renewed their licenses online and 2% have completed the paper renewal. To date there are 4,017 licensed counselors in our database. There are 2,468 active professional counselors, 210 active rehabilitation counselors and 203 active associate counselors. There are 92 inactive professional counselors, 22 inactive rehabilitation counselors and 8 inactive associate counselors. There are 414 professional counselors, 97 rehabilitation counselors and 85 associate counselors who are on "expired" status. Nine professional counselors have withdrawn their application for licensure. A total of 11 reinstatement applications have been received pursuant to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1. There are 8 LPCs and 3 LRCs seeking reinstatement.

The Committee was informed that there are 394 applications currently pending; 303 LPCs, 6 LRCs and 85 LACs. The pending applications are comprised of applicants approve for the examinations who are awaiting results, applications who have not responded to requests for further information concerning their criminal history.

VI. CORRESPONDENCE

Joseph DePierro, Ed.D, Dean, Seton Hall University

In his letter, Dr. DePierro addressed the current initiative of the College of Education and Human Services to meet the current professional standards. The Committee determined to write to Dr. DePierro to inform him that the requirements for licensure are established through statutes and regulations and as such, the Committee does not have the authority to waive or change the statutory requirement for the sixty (60) graduate credits and the core curriculum requirement. Dr. DePierro will also be informed that references to the Ed.S Mental Health Counseling program maybe misleading as the academic credential is not acceptable for the professional counselor licensure requirement.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

The Committee discussed a revision of the course distribution list currently included in the application packet. The intention is to provide a clear guideline and reflect the coursework requirements specified in the statutes and regulations. Regulatory Analyst Danielle Swenson suggested that the Committee begin moving toward a revision of the regulations with the CACREP course work sheet as a guide.

VIII. AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE COUNSELING BOARDS(AASCB) MATTERS

Portability- The Committee continues to consider the AASCB Portability Proposal to determine equivalency with the requirements established in the statutes at N.J.S.A. 45:8-b et. seq and regulations N.J.A.C. 13:34 et seq. In order to accept the portability agreement the provisions of the proposal must be "substantially equivalent" to N.J.S.A. 45:8B-46. The Committee will work to define what is "substantially equivalent." A sub-Committee has been formed whereas: Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari will evaluate the educational requirement and Committee Vice-Chair Abbey F. Bradway will evaluate the supervision requirements for the purpose of

responding to the portability proposal. Federal law has passed a mandate that says: that licensure portability be obtainable. With the new regulation which requires that the degree have the word "counseling" or "counselor" in the degree title, those denied may be able to become licensed if New Jersey accepts the portability agreement.

NATIONAL BOARD OF CERTIFIED COUNSELORS (NBCC) MATTERS

Computer-based Testing - Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars has received the Power Point presentation to be reviewed at a later date. The option to incorporate New Jersey regulations into a jurisprudence examination component was also discussed.

IX. NEXT MEETING

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

2007 Meeting Dates:

January 4, 2007 July 12, 2007,
February 1, 2007 August 2, 2007
March 1, 2007 September 6, 2007
April 5, 2007 October 4, 2007
May 3, 2007 November 1, 2007
June 7, 2007 December 6, 2007

X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 10:40 a.m., on a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan the Committee voted to move to Executive Session to discuss pending disciplinary matters.

XI. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted to approve the following applications as noted:

Licensed Professional Counselors:

Linda Cmur Michelle Leibowitz
Stephanie Eckert Anne C. Mandel
Jeffery Ellenstein Kathryn McAteer
Debra G. Farber Amy Moore
Nancy Kowalski Dawn Norman
Julie Lyzinski Glenn M. Siegel

Licensed Associate Counselors:

Asha B. Bernard Michelle Jurgens
Christine D'Avirro Christina Palaschak
Elaine Davis Elizabeth Robles

XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the meeting adjourned at 3:05 p.m.