

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

DECEMBER 2, 2004

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselors Examiners 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 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

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Edward Stroh, the minutes of November 4, 2004 were approved as presented.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Lisa Thieke, LPC attended the meeting and informed the Committee of her intention to include Voice Movement Therapy in her practice. Following a review of the information provided and a discussion on specific aspects of the modality, the Committee found that it appears that according to the information provided she is in the process of receiving the proper training. Once she receives her Voice Movement Therapy certification, with her professional counselor license, she should be eligible to incorporate the system in private practice.

V. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY

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 it appears that the requirements for the Mental Health Counselor dilutes the national trend for standard 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 the recognition of New York licensees in states that require the CACREP standards.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

A. License Renewal

It was reported that to date, 2224 professional counselors have completed the renewal application process and 321

have not renewed as yet. Three hundred eleven professional counselors have expired licenses and 64 have chosen to place their licenses on inactive status. Seventeen rehabilitation counselors have chosen to place their licenses on inactive status, while 79 have expired licenses. The expiration date for the current biennial cycle was November 30, 2004. The Committee was also informed that on-line license renewal is now available.

B. Executive Order #1

The Committee was given a copy of Acting Governor Richard Cody's Executive Order #1, which establishes an 11-member Mental Health Task Force. The Committee will await notice of the role the Division will have in the Task Force.

C. Out-of-State Travel

Executive Director Elaine DeMars received a memorandum from the Director's office informing the Boards and Committees that all out-of state travel for conventions, annual meetings, workshops and trainings have been suspended until further notice.

VII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Lisa Thieke

The Committee reviewed correspondence and materials provided by Lisa Thieke, who requested clarification on the private practice of Voice Movement Therapy. According to the Committee, if the technique follows within what is considered counseling and the individual is licensed as a professional counselor and has additional training she is within the scope of practice.

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee agreed to send Ms. Thieke a letter informing her that since she is not yet certified as a Voice Movement Therapist she should refrain from advertising while the Committee reviews additional information. The Committee will be looking to make certain that the practice of Voice Movement Therapy does include functions of other professional licenses.

B. Debbie Ennis The Committee reviewed Ms. Ennis' request for approval of courses offered by "Balance and Beyond." for continuing education credits.

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Ronald Rossell, a copy of the continuing education regulation N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4 will be sent to Ms. Ennis. The Committee will ask Ms. Ennis to furnish proof of her attempts to gain approval through the organizations listed in N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.4 before they will consider the request.

C. Rhoda Feigenbaum

The Committee reviewed an e-mail submitted by Rhoda Feigenbaum. Ms. Feigenbaum coordinates a program at Kean University entitled, " Master's in Behavioral Sciences,"which she indicates meets the requirements stipulated by the National Board of Certified Counselors and the State of New Jersey(for licensure).

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Abbey Bradway the Committee directed that a response be forwarded to Ms. Feigenbaum stating that Masters degrees must be geared toward counseling and are required to have CACREP (Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs) accreditation as per the New Jersey Department of Education 13:34-11.2(a)3i.

D. Lisa Villano

The Committee reviewed an e-mail from Ms. Villano. Ms. Villano questions whether she must apply for the alcohol and drug counselor licensure. The Committee agreed to send Ms. Villano a letter informing her that obtaining a license as a Licensed Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselor is not necessary, however she cannot

advertise as a licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor if she does not possess that license. Reference will be made to the exceptions to licensure under the regulations for alcohol and drug counselors (N.J.A.C. 13:34C-2.6)

VIII. OLD BUSINESS

A. AASCB Annual Meeting

While the suspension for out-of state travel exists, Committee members will not be traveling to the American Association of State Counseling Boards Annual Conference to be held January 13-15, 2005 in Savannah, Georgia. On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Committee Member J. Barry Mascari as the Committee delegate. Dr. Mascari serves as the treasurer for AASCB.

B. 2006 Counseling Degree Requirement

The Committee discussed N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.2(a)3i, which states that "beginning of April 20, 2006 an acceptable graduate degree means that the word "Counseling" or the word "Counselor" appears in the title of the graduate degree awarded and that the institution offering the degree states in the catalog or in another format acceptable to the Committee that the purpose of the graduate degree is to prepare students for the professional practice of counseling." Acknowledging that most programs award degrees during the months of May and June, the Committee will seek to either amend the regulation or establish a policy to accept degrees until July 2006.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

A AASCB Annual Meeting

While the suspension for out-of state travel exists, Committee members will not attend the American Association of State Counseling Boards Annual Conference to be held January 13-15, 2005 in Savannah, Georgia. On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted unanimously to appoint Committee Member J. Barry Mascari as the Committee delegate. Dr. Mascari serves as AASCB treasurer.

IX. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business to report.

X. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is January 6, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Jerry Cohen, the Committee voted to move into Executive Session at 10:57 a.m. to review applications for licensure, consumer complaints and disciplinary matters.

XII. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

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

Professional Counselors

Bhat, Dhanya B.

Burgard, Barbara

Burr, Kristen

Clark, Elizabeth

Clark, Penny L.

Gill, Margaret
Plahovinsak, Patricia M.
Pompey-Plummer, Danielle
Rintzler, Cynthia M.

Associate Counselor
Fruscione, Alicia C.

Rehabilitation Counselor
Dompier, Rhoda E.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Edward Stroh, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the meeting adjourned at 1:23 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars
Executive Director
