

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 5, 2007**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The Committee reconvened and this scheduled meeting was called to Order at 1:00 p.m. at 124 Halsey Street, Morris Conference Room, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

Committee Chairman, J. Barry Mascari
Committee Member, Abbey Bradway (available via telephone)
Committee Member, William Green
Committee Member, Barbara Maurer

Staff Present

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

III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by William Green, the November 1, 2007 public session minutes were approved as amended.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Michael Hessler

Mr. Hessler, a graduate of the College of Saint Elizabeth College and an applicant for professional counselor licensure attended the public session of the meeting to support his application for licensure.

The Committee advised Mr. Hessler that the review of applications is limited to the documentation submitted during the application process

V. LEGISLATIVE /REGULATORY

A. Assembly Bill 4452

The Committee reviewed Senate Bill 4452 which will allow licensed professional counselors to use certain professional specialty designations as part of credentials. The bill would permit individuals with Masters programs other than counseling to be eligible for a professional counselors license. The Committee is strongly opposed to the Bill as it would diminish rather than enhance protections of the health, safety and welfare of the public.

B. N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.2, 15.4, 24.3 - Cultural Competence

Regulatory Analyst MaryAnn Sheehan informed the Committee that there was only one comment received regarding N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.2, 15.4 and 24.3 (the Cultural Competence regulation). The Committee will write to

Dr. Richard Ponton, Ph.D., LPC to acknowledge receipt of his comment.

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by William Green, the Committee voted to recommend to the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners the adoption of N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.2, 15.4 and 24.3.

C. Ethics Liaison - Robert Campanelli

Mr. Campanelli attended the meeting to discuss the Division's Ethics Standards and requested that each Committee member complete the Ethics survey.

VI. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Counselor Educator Graduate Program Meeting

The Committee's scheduled meeting of graduate counselor education program directors took place at 9:00 a.m., before the regular public meeting. The purpose of the meeting was to clarify the requirements for the degree title, purpose and requisite course work for professional and rehabilitation counselor licensure. This clarification was also intended review the Committee's regulations and stress the importance of teaching students about the requirements for licensure. The following graduate programs were represented: Alliance Graduate School of Counseling, Caldwell College, Centenary College, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Georgian Court, Kean University, Monmouth University, Philadelphia Biblical University, Rider University, Rowan University, Seton Hall University, The College of New Jersey, The University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey and William Paterson University.

V. CORRESPONDENCE

A. Robert Crawford

The Committee reviewed a letter submitted by Robert Crawford who wrote to inquire about prohibitions, restrictions, etc. on the practice of faith-based professional counseling. The Committee will write to Mr. Crawford informing him that holders of the AACC (American Association of Christian Counselors) credential are prohibited from advertising themselves as professional counselors unless they have the credential mandated by statute and may not advertise as such unless they possess the license. On a motion by William Green, seconded by Abbey Bradway the Committee will write to Mr. Crawford to request that he explain in detail the services he provides. Mr. Crawford will also be informed that if he engages in the practice of professional counseling he must adhere to state regulations. If he engages in Christian counseling without the state license he must work under the auspices of the church.

B. Gianna Novelli

The Committee reviewed a letter submitted by Ms. Novelli, questioning her liability as the only employee with a clinical license at a partial care facility that has a two locations. The Committee will inform Ms. Novelli that as the supervisor she is responsible. Failure to take action against an individual who does not comply with the regulations would be a violation of her duties as a licensee.

C. Lisa Hipscher

The Committee reviewed a letter submitted by Ms. Hipscher who requested an extension for completing the required experience hours for the licensed professional counselor credential because of a medical condition. On a motion by William Green, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee will request that Ms. Hipscher provide a copy of documentation from her physician to verify her medical condition. Upon receipt the Committee may grant the extension for the completion of the required 4,500 experience until November 1, 2008.

VI. COUNSELOR EDUCATION GRADUATE PROGRAMS

William Paterson University - Dr. Bruce Diamond, M.Ed., Ph.D.

The Committee reviewed a letter from Dr. Diamond regarding William Paterson University's Masters in Clinical and Counseling Psychology program course work. The Committee will write to Dr. Diamond acknowledging his letter. Dr. Diamond's attendance at the December 5, 2007 Counselor Education Graduate Programs meeting was noted and he presented this questions to the Committee.

VII. OLD BUSINESS

A. NBCC- Computer Based Test

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee voted to accept the contract for the National Board of Certified Counselors' Computer Based National Counselor Examination (NCE) after another review by Executive Director DeMars and DAG Berger.

B. CRCC - Computer Based Test

The Committee reviewed information that indicated that the implementation of the Council on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification's Computer Based Test will begin April 2008. The Committee accepted the notice as informational.

C. AASCB

The Committee reviewed the American Association of State Counseling Boards newsletter and accepted it as informational.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

A. NBCC Exam Score Report

The Committee reviewed the October 20, 2007 NBCC- National Counselor Examination score report for New Jersey and accepted it as informational.

B. Fiscal Budget Report 2007

The Committee reviewed the Board's Final Fiscal Budget Report for 2007 and accepted it as informational. The budget analysis suggests that the license fees will remain at the current levels.

IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by William Green the Committee moved to Executive Session at 1:50 p.m. to discuss confidential matters.

X. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the meeting adjourned at 5:52 p.m.