

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR EXAMINERS COMMITTEE
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
DECEMBER 7, 2006**

I. CALL TO ORDER

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee was called to order with an announcement of quorum at 9:40 a.m., by Chair, J. Barry Mascari.

II. ROLL CALL

Present:

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

III. Excused:

Committee Member, Susan Devlin

Staff Present:

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

IV. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC MINUTES

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by Abbey Bradway the Committee approved the November 2, 2006 minutes as amended.

V. PUBLIC COMMENT

A. Christa TenCate, a graduate of Seton Hall University and an LPC applicant attended the meeting to inform the Committee that she has received another letter regarding additional counseling hours required. Ms. TenCate asked the Committee if there is a specific number of counseling hours that have to be completed. She was informed that the requirements for supervised experience are specified at N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.3 and the definition of one calendar year is defined at N.J.A.C. 13:34-11.1 as 1,500 hours per year (50 weeks).

Janis Waters, a graduate from Rutgers University and an LAC applicant, addressed the Committee regarding course work. Her application was submitted prior to the April 20, 2006 deadline. The Committee determined to review additional materials submitted in Executive Session.

Other Seton Hall University students attending the meeting were:

Eileen Diaz
Michael Gross
Luz E. Alvarez

Dr. Jane Webber, Assistant Professor at Seton Hall University attended the meeting and submitted a letter requesting an opportunity to address the committee during the January 4, 2007 meeting to discuss revisions to the

Mental Health Counseling Program.

VI. LEGISLATIVE REGULATORY

A. Assembly Bill # 3623

This proposal would establish a certificate of rehabilitation for convicted offenders to assist them in procuring employment which would be otherwise be barred because of their convictions. On a motion made by Barbara Maurer, and seconded by Abbey Bradway, the Committee voted that while it supports the intention of the bill, a graduated process of reintegration is required, including a period of direct supervision. A determination made at the time of sentencing is pre-mature.

B. Assembly Bill # 3514

This bill would require health care representatives to make decisions for incapacitated patients regarding patient's religious beliefs. On a motion made by Abbey Bradway, and seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee voted to support the legislation.

C. Assembly Bill # 2311

This bill would amend Public Law 1975, Chapter 231 (C.10:4-6 et. Seq.) to change various requirements concerning notices, agendas and public comments. The Committee noted that the requirement for posting all past minutes may be unrealistic and suggested that there be an effective date such as beginning January 2005. The 30-day requirement for posting of minutes would not allow sufficient time for ratification of the minutes since many Boards meet once per month and often amend the minutes. Instead it was suggested that the minutes be available for posting 30 days after ratification. Finally, the requirement to list each motion with a list of members and their vote is not supported, especially for a licensing board. On a motion made by Barbara Maurer, and seconded by Abbey Bradway the Committee voted to transmit the concerns noted to the legislative liaison.

VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars reported that as of November 30, 2006, 2,540 licensees have completed the renewal process. Two thousand three hundred and thirty three renewed online and there are currently 322 licensees who have yet to renew. A total of 81.52 percent of the licensees renewed online and 7.23 percent have completed the paper renewal process.

The Committee was informed that as of January 1, 2007 licensees must apply request an application for reinstatement and all reinstatement applications will be presented to the Committee for consideration. A random continuing education audit will be initiated during the month of February.

VIII. CORRESPONDENCE

A. David Gibson, Ed.D., Dean, School of Health Related Professions University of Medicine and Dentistry

The Committee reviewed correspondence from David Gibson, Ed.D., Dean of the School of Health Related Professions at the University of Medicine and Dentistry. Dr. Gibson wrote requesting an appointment to discuss the university's Master of Science curriculum as it relates to the course work requirements for the professional counselor licensure. Ms. DeMars informed the Committee that in a phone conversation with Dr. Gibson, he reported that his group was not looking to meet with the Committee but rather just wanted to pose questions to her as the Committee's executive director. Ms. DeMars informed Dr. Gibson that the Committee's educational and clinical expertise would be critical to address the issues raised. Dr. Gibson reported that attending the January meeting is not feasible but would confirm for either the February or March 2007 agenda meetings.

B. Robert Hilton, LPC

The Committee reviewed Mr. Hilton's request for a waiver of the required continuing education and the medical reports from his physician for the two biennial periods in support of his waiver request. The Committee determined to grant Mr. Hilton a six-month extension to complete the required continuing education. Mr. Hilton's must complete the continuing education between November 3, 2006 and May 3, 2007 and submit the appropriate documentation. Mr. Hilton will be informed that he may not submit the continuing education that he submits for the 2006-2008 period to satisfy the continuing education requirements for the November 30, 2008 renewal.

C. Rosaline Diamant, LPC

Ms. Diamant wrote to the Committee requesting approval for the continuing education course, "Doing It By the Book" (Transference Focused Therapy) sponsored by the New Jersey Psychoanalytic Society. The Committee reviewed the correspondence submitted by Ms. Diamant and determined that the course is not acceptable for credit since it was not approved by any of the approved providers listed in N.J.A.C. 13:34-15.5.

IX. OLD BUSINESS

CACREP Standards Revision

The Committee members will continue to review the draft and communicate any comments to the executive director .

X. NEW BUSINESS

A. The Committee reviewed and accepted as informational the first quarter Fiscal Year 2007 Division of Law Billing.

B. The Committee reviewed an e-mail requesting advice as to whether a counselor could provide a letter of recommendation for a "counselee". The Committee found that an objective opinion is unlikely, could result in a dual relationship (N.J.A.C. 13:34-30.4(b) and a breach of confidentiality (N.J.A.C. 13:34-27.5). Further, it may inhibit the client/therapist relationship. The Committee determined to refer the writer to ACA Code of Ethics.

XI. AASCB MATTERS AMERICAN ASSOCIATION OF STATE COUNSELING BOARDS

The AASCB annual conference will be held on January 11-13, 2007. Abbey Bradway informed the Committee that she intends to attend the meeting at her own expense. On a motion made by Barbara Maurer, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan, the Committee voted to appoint both J. Barry Mascari and Abbey F. Bradway to serve as delegates for the Committee.

XII. NEXT MEETING

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is January 4, 2007 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Newark, New Jersey.

2007 Meeting Dates:

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

July 12, 2007

XIII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 11:33 a.m., on a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Barbara Maurer, the Committee voted to move to

Executive Session to discuss pending disciplinary matters.

XIV. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

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

Committee members, J. Barry Mascari and Barbarba Maurer will be coming in December 28, 2006 to review applications for licensure.

XV. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Barbara Maurer, seconded by Mark O'Sullivan, the meeting adjourned at 3:45 p.m.