

**NEW JERSEY BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGICAL EXAMINERS**  
**JULY 2, 2007**  
**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

The general meeting of the New Jersey State Board of Psychological Examiners was held at the Board office, 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 A.M. by Dr. Friedman, Chair.

**PRESENT:**

Nancy E. Friedman, Ph.D., Chair  
Loretto A. Brickfield, Ph.D., Vice Chair  
Evelyn A. Orozco, Ph.D., Secretary  
Victoria W. Jeffers, Ph.D.

**ABSENT:**

Kenneth G. Roy, Ed.D.  
T. Stephen Patterson, Ph.D., Government Member

**ALSO ATTENDING:**

J. Michael Walker, Executive Director  
Carmen A. Rodriguez, Deputy Attorney General, Counsel to the Board  
Carmella Volz, Assistant to the Executive Director  
Lucy Chalet, Secretary

**REVEIW OF MINUTES:**

Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board approved the public session minutes of June 4, 2007, with corrections, Voting in favor of the motion: all.

**CREDENTIAL COMMITTEE REPORT:**

**TEMPORARY PERMIT-NOT TO EXCEED THREE-YEARS**

The following candidates were unanimously approved for a three-year temporary permit for the supervised practice of psychology:

Chhaya Maisuria, Psy.D Maria Xiques, Psy.D.  
Mary Merla-Ramos, Ph.D. LucieneTakagi, Psy.D.  
Sonja Ramierz-Nahaas, Ph.D. Melissa Scherzer, Psy.D.

**TEMPORARY PERMIT-NOT TO EXCEED ONE YEAR**

The following candidates were unanimously approved for a one-year temporary permit for the unsupervised practice of psychology:

Sudha Wadhvani, Psy.D. Maria Marchese-Mazzeo, Psy.D.  
Glendessa Insabella, Ph.D. Janet Cahill, Ph.D.

**LICENSED BY EXAMINATION**

Elizabeth Cardoso Ph.D. Kelly L. Gilrain, Ph.D.  
Michael Zarabi, Psy.D. Jocelyn Fierstein, Psy.D.

Thomas Schattner, Psy.D. Matthew Helfant, Psy.D.  
Andrew Greenberg, Psy.D.

## **CORRESPONDENCE**

Kathleen Torsney, Ph.D.

Information was forwarded to the Board by the Licensed Professional Counselor Committee regarding the use of the protected term "psychology" that appears in the 2006-2007 William Patterson University graduate catalog for the M.A. in Clinical and Counseling Psychology Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to send a letter to Dr. Kathleen Torsney, Graduate Program Director, stating that the use of the word "psychologist" or any of its derivatives is a violation of N.J.S.A. 45:14B-5 of the "Practicing Psychology Licensing Act." In addition, the Board feels that the program description, as it appears in the catalogue, is misleading to students who could be lead to believe that the program prepares them to practice psychology in the State of New Jersey. The Board requested that the word "psychology" and "psychological" be removed from the program description. The Board requested that the description of the program be rewritten and submitted for Board approval. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Eugene J. Gadson, Psy.D.

Dr. Gadson wrote requesting the Board change his license to reflect a Doctor of Psychology instead of a Master of Arts. Dr. Gadson was originally licensed with a Master's degree when he was grandfathered when the licensing law took effect. He earned his doctorate subsequent to being licensed. Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to inform Dr. Gadson that the change could not be made since it would be misleading to the public. At the time of licensure, Dr. Gadson was grandfathered in with a Masters degree and the license reflects the degree at the time of licensure . Dr. Gadson would have to reapply and go through the licensure process again in order to make the change. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Christina Kiel-Johnston, Psy.D.

Dr. Kiel-Johnston wrote requesting an extension of her three-year temporary permit that expires on July 8, 2007. Dr. Kiel-Johnston stated that she is employed in a State facility and has not accrued enough licensure hours to take the E.P.P.P. written examination. Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to extend Dr. Kiel-Johnston permit for one year. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Erika January, Ph.D.

Dr. January wrote requesting an extension of her three-year temporary permit that expires on June 21, 2007. Dr. January stated that she has been working part-time and has taken a maternity leave. Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to extend Dr. January's permit for one year. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Darin Schiffman, Psy.D.

Dr. Schiffman wrote requesting an extension of his three-year temporary permit which expires on September 8, 2007. Dr. Schiffman stated that he making this request because he had limited opportunity to do therapy and therefore it took two years to complete his supervision hours. He has recently taken and passed the E.P.P.P. Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to extend Dr. Schiffman's permit for one year. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Thomas Merlo, Ph.D.

Kathleen Gialanella, Esquire, attorney for Dr. Merlo, wrote the Board requesting review and approval of the course taken by Dr. Merlo. Ms. Gialanella is requesting approval of the course in fulfillment of the terms of the Consent Order requiring that he attend and successfully complete a full academic year independent study course

focusing on transference and boundary issues. Upon motion made by Dr. Friedman and seconded by Dr. Brickfield the Board voted to approve the course "Issues in Transference and Countertransference" to satisfy the terms of the Consent Order. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Janet N. Sotomayor, Ph.D.

Dr. Sotomayor wrote requesting an extension of the 90 day limit to submit a work sample for the oral examination. Dr. Sotomayor stated that she has been on maternity leave for the past 13 months and therefore unable to submit a current work sample. Upon motion made by Dr. Brickfield and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to grant Dr. Sotomayor a one year extension. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Jean Wilkinson, Ph.D.

Dr. Wilkinson wrote requesting a one year temporary permit, unsupervised. Upon motion made by Dr. Friedman and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to grant Dr. Wilkinson a one year unsupervised permit. A permit conference is being scheduled for the September 10, 2007 Board meeting. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Deana Stevens, Psy.D.

Dr. Stevens wrote requesting an extension of her three-year temporary permit which expires on August 16, 2007. Dr. Stevens stated that she is in the process of completing her work sample in preparation for the oral examination. Upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Orozco, the Board voted to grant Dr. Stevens a one year extension; Voting in favor of the motion: all.

New Jersey Psychological Association

Representatives of the New Jersey Psychological Association (NJPA) were present to voice several regulatory concerns. N.J.A.C. 13:42-8.6 (a) allows authorizations to be signed (or not) by clients aged 14-18 in addition to parents or guardians. According to NJPA this has proven to be a problem to families with adolescents in treatment as the minor may block the release of important information to appropriate authorities. N.J.A.C. 13:42:4.6 (a) 1 - gives an example of how supervisors may reimburse a permittee as an independent contractor "if permitted by tax authorities." The definition of an independent contractor in the tax code and according to the New Jersey Department of Labor is someone who does not require supervision. Therefore, a permittee, who requires supervision would be ineligible to be an independent contractor. NJPA would like the Board to clarify the language in the regulations to make clear that permittees may not be paid as an independent contractors.

NJPA would like guidelines that are more specific than N.J.A.C. 13:42:8.1 (h) to address situations where psychological services are interrupted due to illness, accident, incapacitation and family emergency or death. Upon motion made by Dr. Friedman and seconded by Dr. Brickfield the Board voted to refer these matters to the regulations committee. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

## **REVIEW OF EXEMPTION NOTICE FORMS**

Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute - Michael Horowitz, Ph.D.

The Board reviewed an exemption notice form submitted by Michael Horowitz, Ph.D.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:14B-6(3), after review of the information provided in the exemption notice form and upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and second by Dr. Friedman the Board determined that Atlantic Rehabilitation Institute qualified as an exempt facility. Dr. Horowitz is to be advised that in order to continue the exempt status the agency is required to provide documentation to the Board annually, each January, that it continues to meet the requirements for the exempt status. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

Straight & Narrow, Inc.

The Board reviewed an exemption notice form submitted by Judith Herschlag, Ph.D.

Pursuant to the provisions of N.J.S.A. 45:14B-6(3), after review of the information provided in the exemption notice form and upon motion made by Dr. Jeffers and seconded by Dr. Friedman the Board determined that Straight and Narrow, Inc. qualified as an exempt facility. Dr. Herschlag is to be advised that in order to continue the exempt status the agency is required to provide documentation to the Board annually, each January, that it continues to meet the requirements for the exempts status. Voting in favor of the motion: all.

## **DISCIPLINARY MATTERS**

I/M/O Irit Felsen,, Ph.D., #3756

A Consent Order was signed by Dr. Felsen. Dr. Felsen engaged in unprofessional and unethical activity by engaging in a personal relationship with a patient's husband.

The Consent Order calls for one year suspension, stayed as long as Dr. Felsen continues in psychotherapy for a minimum of one year and agrees to supervision in her practice for at least a minimum of one year. Dr. Felsen must also make restitution to complainant and pay for Board costs of \$765.00.

Respectfully submitted,

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Evelyn A. Orozco, Ph.D.  
Secretary

APPROVED BY:

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Date: Nancy E. Friedman, Ph.D.  
Chair