

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
OPEN MINUTES
January 16, 2005**

Call to Order

The Meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Wednesday, January 16, 2004. Doreen Bobby, Board Chair, convened the meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 2:40 P.M. The following attendance was recorded for these minutes:

Roll Call

Henry Acosta, MSW, LSW Professional Member Present
Doreen J. Bobby, Chair, MSW, LCSW Professional Member Present
John G. Cosgrove, Ph.D., LSW Professional Member Present
Kathleen Ellis Public Member Absent
Louise A. Murray, Vice-Chair, DSW, LSW Professional Member Present
Jo Paine, CSW Professional Member Present
Dorothy Robinson Public Member Absent
Terri Wilson, MSW, LCSW Government Member Absent

Also present were Executive Director Kay K. McCormack, D.A.G. Susan Berger, and Board staff member, Cathalina Serrano.

Review of the Open Session Minutes of December 15, 2004. The Board unanimously approved the minutes as presented.

Public Comment

There was no member from the public sector in attendance at the meeting.

Executive Director's Report

Kay McCormack discussed the following matters with Board members:

Executive Director Kay K. McCormack introduced the members to Henry Acosta, MSW, LSW, who was appointed to the Board as a professional member in November 2004. Mr. Acosta was welcomed as he shared his background of professional experience with the Board.

Ms. McCormack distributed FYI copies of the professional biography prepared by Jeffrey Burnstein DAG and the newly appointed acting Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs. When the announcement of his position was made, Ms. McCormack e-mailed a welcome to Director Burnstein on the Board's behalf, with an open invitation to attend a future meeting at his convenience.

Review of Supervisors' Credentials

Dr. Murray reviewed the credentials of those seeking approval as clinical supervisors. The Committee found the following individuals to be acceptable clinical supervisors based on a review of their curricula vita.

SUPERVISOR

Mary Frances Merrin, LCSW-FL
Valerie Marek, LCSW, CADC-DE
Cheryl Nitz, LCSW-PA

Margot Weinshel, CSW(PR)-NY
Constance Scharf, CSW (PR)-NY
Fari Thompson, LSW-PA
Martha Gunzberg, CSW-NY

A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Paine to deny Lloyd Siegel, MD-NY, a licensed psychiatrist, as an appropriate supervisor since Dr. Siegel stated he is not Board-certified in psychiatry. The vote was unanimous.

Elizabeth Kramer, CSW-NY, is requested to submit a more complete resume for evaluation at a future meeting.

Review of Related BA Degree(s) in compliance with NJAC 13:44G-4.3(a)3.iii Based on the Board's review of her BA degree, which verifies a BA degree in Anthropology, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Cosgrove to deny Laura J. Penny for certification. The vote was unanimous.

Based on the Boards re-evaluation of their previous work experience in relation to social work, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Cosgrove to approve the following applicants for certification, having previously approved their related BA degrees at the December 15, 2004 meeting.

Rosemary Jehamey
Maged Kamel

XI. Vote on the Candidates Proposed for Licensure and Certification A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Cosgrove to approve all candidates recommended by review at each of the three levels. The vote was unanimous.

Continuing Education

A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Dr. Cosgrove to approve those CE programs recommended by Board members based upon their reviews. One submission is unanimously denied. This information will be reflected on the Board's updated reference list of approved CE offerings for January 2005.

The review of problematic CEs was conducted by members and those approved will be reflected in the Board's monthly update of CE listing. Those unanimously denied, based on the review and discussion, will be notified.

The Board discussed a proposed revision to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-6.4 to reflect limiting the required quota of biennial CE credits to those approved through State and National professional social work association, such as the ASWB-ACT, NASW, and CSWE approved schools of social work. Danielle Swenson regulatory analyst will draft a revision for the March 2005 meeting.

Kay K. McCormack has been directed to survey the other New Jersey regulatory boards in the Division of Consumer Affairs, whose acts include a CE requirement, to learn which boards review content in relation to which boards permit only credits which have been approved by professional organizations/associations/schools The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) FYI – The Association gave notice of three-scheduled new Board member training sessions planned for 2005. Priority is given to new state board members from jurisdictions, which haven't sent members to a recent training. Six of New Jersey's then new Board members attended training in 2004. Kathleen Ellis and Henry Acosta would be eligible, if interested.

In February the Board will continue its discussion on whether to grant the LSW license credential to candidates who verify a passing score on the national ASWB exam at either the clinical level or the advanced generalist level.

New Jersey Chapter – National Association of Social Work Boards (NASW)

A. The Board discussed the Association's concern over the current requirement in N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.1(a) to

obtain the “1,920 hours of face-to-face client contact within any three consecutive year period...” It appears that the Association has become aware of difficulties experienced by some New Jersey LSWs who are working to gain their clinical experience hours within the established timeframe. While the Board cannot collaborate this concern with first-hand complaints, the Board will continue its policy to review individual requests for an extension of time, based on need, as their are received.

Revisions to current regulations - Danielle Swenson, regulatory analyst Are postponed to the March 2005 meeting. Discussions to limit the inactive license status to under five years, NJAC 13:44G-7.1 and 7.2 and the review of the regulatory revisions proposed to date.

Proposed Legislation

The Board reviewed legislation which proposes to certify psychoanalysts while the Board supports this legislation effort, it would suggest for the consumer’s benefit, a more detailed definition for the scope of services provided by a certified psychoanalyst.

Review of curriculum vita submitted by twelve New Jersey licensed clinical social workers who are willing to provide specialized services to disciplined licensees, pursuant to the terms of a Consent Order.

Based on review of their vita, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Paine to approve eleven of the twelve clinicians listed as follows

- Barbara Andrews, MSW, LCSW
- Linda Ariel, MSW, LCSW
- Janet Bertelli, RN, MSW, LCSW
- Regina Benson, MSW, LCSW
- Mosse Burns, MSW, LCSW
- R. Hope Eliasof, MSW, LCSW
- Cathy Gilio, MSW, LCSW
- Jmaes J. Hussey, MSW, LCSW
- Eileen Masterson, MSW, LCSW
- Steven S. Nisenfeld, MSW, LCSW
- Sylvia Ridlen, MSW, LCSW

Based on a review of the information on her vita, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Paine denying Phyllis Segal, MSW, LCSW as a provider of service in this capacity. The vote was unanimous.

Correspondence

Judie Gerstein, MSW, LCSW coordinator of clinical services at Jewish Family Services of Metro West questioned whether she could purchase the approved 20-credit CE “Clinical supervision curriculum guide” from the ASWB and provide in-service training for the agency’s staff of six clinical supervisors. The agency will be encouraged to contact the Association of Social Work Boards directly to make this type of arrangement.

Barbara Nathanson, MSW, and a license applicant, requests that the Board waive the national exam requirement for her and grant her either an LSW level or the LCSW level licensed based on her previous ACSW passing exam score. The Board unanimously denied Ms. Nathanson’s requests. According to the Statute and Regulations, she may pursue either LSW or LCSW licensure, by passing the corresponding level national exam and based on her eligibility.

Annie Delaney, MSW, LSW – expressed her concerns for what she believes to be substandard personnel listings for the state social work positions. While the Board sympathized with Ms. Delaney’s wish to employ only the most qualified and credentialed professionals to provide social work services to these vulnerable populations, the board is not the vehicle to affect changes in these standards.

Juan Iglesias, MSW, LCSW – suggested that the Board develop a guide for clinicians who provide “expert testimony” at the court’s request or forensic “best interest” evaluations. Mr. Iglesias will be advised that the Board has begun the process to develop a regulation specifically in that area of practice.

Board Policies – for discussion

Board will discuss the factors to be considered in determining the civil penalties for civil actions.

In cases involving off-premise supervision, the ultimate responsibility for a clients course of treatment the agency of the off-premises supervisor, will be discussed by the February 2005 meeting

The Board postponed to February 2005 a discussion of the failure to locate a previous supervisor to document clinical experience.

Following a discussion on setting a time limitation for previous clinical experience, the Board agreed to continue examining each applicant’s situation on an individual basis.

The Board postponed to February 2005 discussion on “bad check” payments submitted by licensees/applicants for Board fees.

Adjournment

The Open session concluded at 4:15 P.M. whereupon the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay K. McCormack
Executive Director