

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
January 25, 2006**

Call to Order

The Meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, on Wednesday, January 25, 2006. Doreen Bobby, Board Chair, convened the meeting at 10:25 A.M. with a quorum in accordance with the Open Public Meetings. The following attendance was recorded for these minutes:

Roll Call

Henry Acosta, MSW, LSW Professional Member Present
Leonard Altamura, DSW, LCSW Professional Member Present
Doreen J. Bobby, MSW, LCSW, Board Chair Professional Member Present
Kathleen Ellis Public Member Absent
Maxine Lisboa, MSW, LSW Professional Member Present
Louise A. Murray, DSW, LSW, Board Vice-Chair Professional Member Present
Paul J. St. Onge, Esq. Public Member Present
Wanetta V. Williams, BSW, CSW Professional Member Absent
Terri Wilson, MSW, LCSW Government Member Absent

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

A welcome was extended to Maxine Lisboa, MSW, LSW as the newest professional member of the Board, appointed in January 2006. With nine members, the Board is at its full compliment. Following a review of the Public Session minutes of December 21, 2005, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and Dr. Altamura to approved the minutes as revised. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

The New Jersey chapter of the NASW, was represented by its liason, Dr. Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW. Dr. Apgar distributed a summary of the Association's expanded concerns with the efficacy of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1(a)4 in its revised form. Since July 2004 the Regulation requires all LSWs who provide clinical services to be supervised only by LCSWs who have obtained two added criteria, 3 years at the clinical license level and 20 CE credits of supervision coursework. The Association urges the Board to reconsider this revision as the additional requirements appear not only to have impacted the profession but, ultimately, will affect the social work services provided to New Jersey consumers.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. McCormack distributed the monthly meeting schedule for the 2006 calendar year with the reminder that meetings will now be held the fourth Wednesday of each month, the exceptions being in November 29th and December 20th to accommodate the holidays.

Statistics as of December 22, 2005 for the current numbers of regulated New Jersey social work professionals are as follows:

LCSWs = 7,548
LSWs = 4,231
CSWs = 4,568
For a total of = 16, 347

Notice of Board member training seminars sponsored and funded by the Association of Social Work Boards for newly appointed members of member Boards was discussed for three dates in the summer of 2006. Arrangements will be made for new members who are interested.

Review of Supervisors' Credentials

Dr. Murray reviewed the credentials of individuals seeking approval as clinical supervisors. A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Acosta to approve the following individuals as clinical supervisors based on a review of their curricula vita. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVED SUPERVISORS

Felice J. Scolis, LSW-PA
David Schwartz, LCSW-NY
Nicole Champagne, LICSW, LCSW-C- DC
Khalid M. Khan, M.D., - NY Licensed Psychiatrist
Bette L. Perry, LCSW-IL
Philip A. Bailer, M.D. – NY Licensed Psychiatrist
Erin B. Lichtenwalter, LCSW-CA
Joanne Pinotti, LCSW-CA
Brandi J. Freeman, , LMFT-CA
Eli B. Hoch, Ph.D., LCSW-NY
Adrienne Lawler, LCSW-NY
Harriet W. Meek, LISW., NM
Veronica Salico, LPC, NJ

Review of Degree(s) in compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.3(a)3.ii

There were no related BA degrees presented for Board review in this category.

IX. Vote on the Candidates Proposed for Licensure and Certification The Board unanimously agreed to approve those candidates who have been evaluated as eligible for licensure or certification based on a review of their applications and supporting documentation in accordance with the requirements in the Statute and Regulations.

X. Continuing Education

Vote on Recommendations

A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Bobby to approve CE programs according to Board members' recommendations and based on a review of the program content, the presenters' credentials and the credit hours in compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-Subchapter 6. The approved courses will be reflected on the Board's monthly update of CE offerings for January 2006.

Discussion of Problematic CEs

A discussion of the problematic CE programs is postponed to the February 2006 agenda.

CE Correspondence

The Board considered the request from Jean Jacques Dobrot, MSW, LCSW to waive the regulatory requirement that he obtain 20 CE credits in clinical supervision in lieu of his extensive background in social work academia, his training in psychoanalysis and his years in social work employment. Following a review of the relevant information provided by Mr. Dobrot, the Board denied his request for a waiver. The vote was unanimous.

Legislation

A discussion is postponed to February 2006 I/M/O a which would obligate mental health professionals to obtain CE coursework in cultural competence as a portion of their CE requirement. Ancillary to this proposal is whether these credits would be a one-time obligation or a biennial requirement.

The Board reviewed for comment A2016 which permits care professionals to refuse to perform or assist in (mental) health care services that violate their religious, moral or ethical convictions (relating primarily to abortion or sterilization). Following a discussion, the Board agreed not to support this bill as it appears to expand the provisions of the current law too broadly. The concern was that a practitioner could refuse to provide counseling services in these situations and not have to justify their failure in not serving the client's priorities. The Board reviewed FYI the fourth quarter Legislative Affairs report which synopsised the status of pending legislation relevant to the mental health field, including A1325/S213, A1379 and A1599.

Regulations

The Board reviewed the Notice of Adoption of the practice regulations for Massage, Bodywork and Somatic Therapy regulated under the Board of Nursing. Following a thorough review and discussion of this scope, in relation to that of the social work, the Board is firm in its interpretation that the practice of social work does not include ancillary therapy which promotes hands-on services to clients. Citing the social work regulations N.J.A.C. 13:44G-10.4 and 10.9 as the basis to maintain strict boundaries, the Board is concerned where social workers may hold dual credentials. The Board is considering expanding the definitions of scope in the future to prohibit the provision of any tactile therapy as a protective measure for vulnerable clients who may misinterpret the intent of these combined therapies. Practitioners holding dual credentials are advised to keep separate their clients, advertisements and practice locations for each speciality. A motion was made by Dr. Altumura and seconded by Dr. Murray to enter Executive Session at 10:45 A.M. to hear testimony I/M/O three scheduled investigative inquiries. The Board re-entered Public Session at 3:20 P.M. to complete the remaining matters on the agenda.

The Board unanimously agreed to conclude Public Session at 4:00 P.M. and adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay K. McCormack
Executive Director