

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

**Call to Order**

The Meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, Wednesday, February 16, 2005. Doreen Bobby, Board Chair, convened the meeting, in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act at 10:10 A.M.

The following attendance was recorded for these minutes:

**Roll Call**

Henry Acosta, MSW, LSW	Professional Member	Absent
Doreen J. Bobby, Chair, MSW, LCSW	Professional Member	Present
John G. Cosgrove, Ph.D., LSW	Professional Member	Present
Kathleen Ellis	Public Member	Present
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 members, Cathalina Serrano and Theresa Brundage.

Review of the Open Session Minutes of January 19, 2005. The Board unanimously agreed to approve the minutes as revised. The New Jersey Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) made a request to the Board to present its support for two bills pending in the Assembly, A#3756 and A#3757. Allison Blake, Ph.D., MSW, LSW – New Jersey Chapter President and Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., MSW, LSW – former Chapter President and current Association liaison to the Board developed the background of each legislation and the Association’s efforts to propel each forward to adoption. The bills are considered a joint initiative. A#3756 - the “Social Work Student Incentive Loan Redemption Program Act” provides for loan forgiveness for social workers, at the graduate and undergraduate levels, who obtain full time employment in state, county, municipal and non-profit agencies. The Act appropriates \$1.5 million. The purpose of this program is to provide an incentive for qualified social workers to work in settings “where their skills and knowledge are vitally needed to meet the needs of vulnerable children and families throughout this State”.

A#3757- strengthens the requirements for social work licensure and certification to ensure the highest quality services delivery to the State’s families and children. Specifically, the bill removes exemptions from the requirement for license and certification for Civil Service employees of the state, county or municipality, for social workers engaged in substance abuse treatment and for certain employees of non-profit organizations. This bill also requires applicants for certification to pass the “Basic” level exam administered by the Association of Social Work Boards. The bill includes a provision to “grandfather in” certain eligible civil services employees. All other provisions of the bill take effect four years after the date of enactment.

**Public Comment**

Attending the Open session were Dr. Phylis Peterman, DSW, LCSW Professor and Chair of the Rutgers-Newark undergraduate School of Social Work Department and former professional member of the New Jersey Board of Social Work Examiners. Dr Peterman was accompanied by two of her undergraduate social work students, Abimbola Lawal and Kendal Brown. Mr. John Zukauskas also attended to represent a non-profit healthcare agency. The attendees did not address the Board.

### **Executive Director's Report**

Kay McCormack discussed the following matters with Board members:

New Board members, Kathleen Ellis and Henry Acosta, are encouraged to consider attending one of this year's new Board member training seminars hosted annually by the Association of Social Work Boards. All costs are covered by the Association.

### **Review of Supervisors' Credentials**

Dr. Murray reviewed the credentials of individuals seeking approval as clinical supervisors. The Committee unanimously agreed to find the following individuals acceptable as clinical supervisors, based on a review of their curricula vita.

### **SUPERVISOR**

Karen Goldstein, LPC-NJ

Sabina Primack, CSW (R)-NY

Mary Jean Garcia, CSW-NY

Deborah Rivera, CSW(R)-NY

Berverly Betz, LCSW-C-PA, and MD

Jay F. Skonick, Psy.D, Licensed Psychologist –PA and CA

Stacey R. Berstein, LCSW-CA

Dennis Scimone, LCSW(R)-NY

### **Review of Related BA Degree(s) in compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.3(a)3.iii**

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

### **X. Vote on the Candidates Proposed for Licensure and Certification**

A motion was made by Ms. Paine and seconded by Ms. Bobby to approve the candidates at the bachelors degree and the two levels at the masters degree as recommended, based on their eligibility. The vote was unanimous.

The Board made the decision to review license requests, on an individual basis, from applicants who do not meet the exam level requirements.

### **Continuing Education**

A motion was made by Ms. Bobby and seconded by Ms. Paine to approve the CE programs as recommended by Board members. The approved courses will be reflected on the Board's monthly update of CE offerings for February 2005.

The review of problematic CEs was conducted by Board members and the courses approved will be reflected in the Board's monthly update of CE offerings.

Demetria DeLia, Ph.D., MSW, LCSW submitted documentation of 20 CE credits she completed in clinical coursework through the Center for Modern Psychoanalysis. Dr. DeLia requested that the Board review the credits and approve her to provide clinical supervision in compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1(a) 4. Dr. DeLia will be asked to submit the course contents for the Board's review and a certification of course completion from the Center.

### **The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)**

The Board reviewed national survey results on protocols for CE review as it contemplates revisions to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-subchapter 6 – Continuing Education.

The Board also viewed national survey results which identified 30 state social work boards which require the "Basic" level ASWB exam for certification at the BSW level.

N.J.A.C. 13:44G-7.2 Return from inactive status

The Board postponed to March 16, 2005 a discussion on whether to revise this regulation in order to limit the period of "inactive" license/certification status to under five years.

### **Correspondence**

Kathryn A. Murphy, MSW, LCSW described what appears to be a conflict between the Social Work Practice Act requirements for Confidentiality - N.J.A.C. 13:44G-12.3 and Board of Education policy. Employed as a certified school social worker, Ms. Murphy questions whether her license requirements regarding confidentiality and release of client records would prevail or that of her employer, the Board of Education, who instructs that student records are Board of Education property and are, therefore, accessible. The BOE also holds the position that no parental consent is required in order to initiate treatment nor to access records. The Board will delay its response to Ms. Murphy pending DAG Berger's research with the Division of Law.

Debra L. Wentz, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer of the New Jersey Association of Mental Health Agencies, Inc. (NJAMHA) presented the Association's concerns with the Board's interpretation of the social work regulations. Dr. Wentz requested a dialogue between the Board and representatives of NJAMHA in order to discuss these concerns, specifically scopes of practice, non-profit exemptions, the recently revised clinical supervision requirements and the intent of proposed legislation A#3757 with regard to non-profit settings. At the Board's invitation, NJAMHA is welcomed to attend the Open session Board meeting on March 16, 2005 to discuss its concerns and to present its position on A#3757.

Topics for Board Discussion - The Board postponed to March 16, 2005 its discussions on the following two topics. In cases where an LSW arranges off-premise clinical supervision pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1, who is ultimately responsible for the client's course of treatment – the LSW's employer or the off-premise supervisor? (Please reference N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1 sections 5, 6 (d),1 and (e) What are the options for Board action against a licensee/certificate holder who fails to respond to a Division of Revenue notice that the payment they submitted for their initial license/certification fee, a renewal/reinstatement or reactivation process was returned by their bank for "insufficient funds".

### **Adjournment**

The Open session concluded at 2:20 P.M. whereupon the Board unanimously agreed to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

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Kay K. McCormack  
Executive Director