

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
April 26, 2006**

Call to Order

The Meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, on Wednesday, April 26, 2006. Doreen Bobby, Board Chair, convened the meeting at 10:00 A.M. in accordance with the Open Public Meetings Act. 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 Present
Maxine Lisboa, MSW, LSW Professional Member Absent
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 Present
Terri Wilson, MSW, LCSW Government Member Absent

Also present were Executive Director Kay K. McCormack, DAG Jodi C. Krugman, and Board staff members, Cathalina Serrano and Celeste Sweeper of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners.

As there were no members of the public in attendance at this session, a motion was made by Ms. Ellis and seconded by Mr. Acosta to enter Executive Session at 10:05 A.M. to proceed with agenda matters. The vote was unanimous.

By unanimous consent the Board re-entered Public Session at 2:30 P.M. to resume discussion on agenda matters.

The Public session minutes of March 22, 2006 were reviewed and unanimously approved as presented, pending review by DAG Jodi Krugman. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

There were no members of the public in attendance at this session.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. McCormack shared the following news with Board members:

The announcement by the Division of Consumer Affairs of the establishment of the Consumer Fraud Detection Unit (CFDU) within the Office of Consumer Protection. The mission of this unit is to identify consumer fraud trends before consumers are negatively impacted. Grateful acknowledgement is given by the Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) to particular State boards for their agreement to pre-qualify exam candidates at all levels. This process appears to be a deterrent to examination fraud and prevents a breach of the system's security, which would impact the entire exam process and render exam statistics inaccurate.

Board members' availability for summer meeting dates was discussed.

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 Dr. Altamura to approve the following individuals as clinical supervisors based on a review of their curricula vita. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVED SUPERVISORS

Janet Dee Spoltore, Ph.D, Licensed Psychologist – CT
Joan E. Dauhajre, LCSW – NY
Nicolas D. Roush, LCSW – PA
Charles Bershatsky, Ph.D, LCSW-NY
Leslie Rosenthal, Ph.D, LCSW-NY
Dadrene Hine-St. Hilaire, LCSW-NY

Review of BA Degree(s) in compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.3(a)3.ii Based on the review of her BA from New Jersey City University, in Special Education with a minor in Sociology a motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Acosta approving Sandra Samol for certification. The vote was unanimous.

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 Mr. Acosta 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 updated reference of CE offerings for April 2006.

Discussion of Problematic CEs

Problematic applications were discussed and those programs approved will be reflected on the referenced listing of approved CE coursework.

CE Correspondence

The Board considered the response of CE sponsor Stephen Winter, President of American Healthcare Institute regarding the Institute's continued use of the "waiver of liability" clause which the Institute includes with its program paperwork. The Board views this disclaimer as objectionable. The Board was troubled by Mr. Winter's omission of any mention of the waiver in his response. After thoughtful consideration, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Ms. Ellis to deny American Healthcare Institute as a future provider of New Jersey social work CE. With five members voting in favor and one opposed, the motion to deny carried.

The Board considered a request by Dr. Lucille Carr-Kaffashan, Psychology Internship and Training Director at Trinitas Hospital, in Elizabeth, New Jersey, that the Social Work Department staff be granted an exception to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-6.4(b)6 – maximum credit for in-service training. Based on the CE program content provided by Dr. Kaffashan and the presenter's credentials, the Board agreed unanimously to approve Trinitas Hospital's in-service staff training for 1 hour of clinical CE credit for each hour session accrued, specifically in didactic instruction only. The Board excludes any credit for the one-hour weekly group supervision sessions according to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-6.3(c)2. Dr. Carr-Kaffashan is advised to refer the staff to N.J.A.C.13:44G-6.2(a) for surplus credits obtained. The Board considered a request from Denise Ellis, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Social Work at Kean University, in Union, NJ, to grant 3 CE credit hours for a University - planned multi-cultural, interdisciplinary film symposium during which attendees will view the film "Crash" and engage in a

structured panel discussion afterward. The Board considered the film's focus on human behavior, specifically the impact of cultural diversity, prejudice and stereotypical behavior on diverse socio-economic classes, as well as the stated objectives and directed focus of the ensuing panel discussion. A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. Altamura approving 3 non-clinical CE credits for Kean University's film symposium. With one recusal, the motion passed. The Board considered a request from Mary J. Alburtus, MSW, LCSW to credit the Fordham University graduate social work course she took in 1981 – Supervision and Staff Development, in compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1(a)4. Based on Fordham's course description, a motion was made by Ms. Ellis and seconded by Dr. Altamura denying Ms. Alburtus's request. She will be referred to the listing of Board approved providers in this category.

Legislation – The Board reviewed as informational a Periodic Report of Legislation updating the status of bills relevant to Social Work.

Association of Social Work Board (ASWB)

A. The Board considered the New Jersey license application of Dominic Morollo whose Pennsylvania clinical supervision information, verified by the ASWB Registry, does not comply with the requirements in N.J.A.C. 13:44 G-8.1(a)1v – for a minimum of an hour of face-to-face weekly clinical supervision. Based on Mr. Morollo's years of social work practice and his current Pennsylvania clinical license status, the Board unanimously approved Mr. Morollo for New Jersey's LCSW license. The Board reviewed as informational the first sample of certified copies of original application documents – verified for this purpose through the ASWB Registry process.

FYI Filed Consent Orders Public Disciplinary Action taken by the Board Since the Previous Meeting

Evelyn Wilson – I/M/O a revocation of Ms. Wilson's LCSW and LMFT licenses to cease and desist practice, surrender and return both licenses, the dissolution of her private practice and payment of a civil penalty. The Board acknowledged the filed Order signed by Evelyn Wilson wherein she voluntarily and permanently surrendered her licenses to practice Clinical Social Work and Marriage and Family Therapy, with prejudice, which is deemed to be a revocation of these licenses. Further, Ms. Wilson understands and agrees that she is precluded from seeking the reinstatement of either of these licenses at any time in the future. Costs of \$8,000.00 were assessed by the Order and have been paid. This action was taken by the Boards of Social Work Examiners and Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners based on Ms. Wilson's failure to maintain adequate client progress notes and records, egregious billing inaccuracies and her evident inability to document an appropriate treatment plan with goals and interventions which raised serious concern as to the quality of care Ms. Wilson was able to provide to her clients.

Roy Spiegel, MSW, LSW – Mr. Spiegel signed an Order with the Board for his unlicensed practice of clinical social work with his LSW in "suspended" status since September 1, 2004. Also noted as violation were his failure to appropriately advertise his LSW license credential (prior to August 31, 2004 of his license) and, for advertising as and engaging in the independent practice of psychotherapy while licensed at the LSW level. The Board granted the reinstatement of Mr. Spiegel's LSW license but also entered into a Consent Order, which included a civil penalty of \$1,000.00. Mr. Spiegel was ordered to cease and desist from offering independent psychotherapy including not accepting fees directly from clients. Mr. Spiegel was further ordered to practice clinical social work in accordance with the supervision standards for an LSW set forth in N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1. He must work in a private practice or agency owned by regulated mental health professionals where on-site clinical supervision is available to him in compliance with the regulations.

Correspondence

Craig Demmer, Ph.D. Ed.D – Dr. Demmer submitted his foreign transcript documenting a Ph.D. in Social Work from a University in South Africa. Since the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) confirms it does not evaluate foreign transcripts at the doctorate level, Dr. Demmer questioned whether the Board would permit him to proceed with the LSW license application process by submitting his Ph.D. transcript to World Education Services (WES) for evaluation: The Board was in agreement that Dr. Demmer should proceed to the WES for the

evaluation of his Ph.D. transcript.

Public Session concluded at 3:30 P.M. whereupon a motion was made by Dr. Altamura and seconded by Ms. Bobby to adjourn this meeting. There was unanimous agreement.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay K. McCormack
Executive Director