

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
June 28, 2006**

The Board meeting called to order at 10:30 A.M. by Board Chair, Doreen J. Bobby. In compliance with the Open Public Meeting of the Board of Social Work Examiners was held at 124 Halsey Street, 6th floor, on Wednesday, June 28, 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 Absent
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 Present
Louise A. Murray, DSW, LSW, Board Vice-Chair Professional Member Present
Paul J. St. Onge, Esq. Public Member Absent
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, Board staff, Nermin Messiha and Celeste Sweeper, Staff of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners.

The Public session minutes of May 26, 2006 were reviewed and approved as presented by motion of Kathleen Ellis and Louise Murray. The vote was unanimous.

Public Comment

The following attendance was noted from the public sector:

- Stephen Winter, President-American Healthcare Institute
- Dr. Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW-NASW, N.J. liason to the Board
- Walter X. Kalman, MSW, LSW-Executive Director, NASW, N.J. Chapter
- Mr. Winter spoke of the Institute's interest in regaining Board approval for its continuing education programs. Documents submitted by the Institute are scheduled for discussion on this agenda.
- Mr. Kalman and Dr. Apgar informed the Board of the NASW's annual Chapter Meeting of the Profession held in April 2006 where topics included the regulatory requirements for CE credits in ethics and clinical supervision.

The State Chapter expects to conduct studies of workforce issues with the intent to track trends/concerns as they emerge. Issues related to the 2006-2008 license/certificate renewal cycle will be included in the next Focus edition. The Association National chapter has established a Law and Ethics Institute to re-examine the Code of Ethics. The State Chapter expects that topics from the Code will be integrated into social work program curriculum, emphasizing their relationship to New Jersey's Statutes and Regulations. It was announced that Bill Waldman will serve, as the Chapter's President-Elect for the coming year before assuming the Presidency from Dr. Alison Blake during the second year of his term.

Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Kay McCormack reported that, on June 26, 2006 the State offered the option to renew on-line for the first time. Renewal documents will be mailed out in early August to all active status social workers, with a

2006 expiration. -Board Member, Maxine Lisboa, reported on her attendance at the new Board member training conference which is sponsored annually by the Association of Social Work Boards. Ms. Lisboa appreciated the opportunity to network with other newly appointed members of member Boards across the country and felt that the topics covered were relevant and informative to new comers. -Vacation schedules were reviewed in terms of Board quorums for the July and August 2006 meetings.

Review of Clinical Supervisors' Credentials A motion was made by Ms. Bobby and Dr. Altamura to approve all clinical supervisors listed as recommended. The vote was unanimous.

APPROVED SUPERVISORS

Kathleen Deschenes, MSW, CSW-CT
Linda Badger, MSW, LSW-PA
Sam Tsemberis, Ph.D Licensed Psychologist-NY
Maryann Kenney, LCSW-NY
Dorothy E. Martino, LCSW-LA

Review of BA Degree(s) in Compliance with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-4.3(a)3.ii There were no degrees presented for review in this category.

IX. Vote on Candidates Proposed for Licensure and Certification

A motion by Ms. Lisboa and Ms. Ellis recommended the approval of all candidates listed. The Board then unanimously approved 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. Altamura and seconded by Ms. Ellis to approve the 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 June 2006.

Discussion of Problematic CEs

CE Correspondence-

The Board discussed the May 18, 2006 follow up correspondence submitted by the Executive Vice President of the American Healthcare Institute of MD. The correspondence, with attachments, was submitted in appeal to the Board's May 2006 denial of the Institute as an approved CE provider. During the Public Comment portion of this session, Stephen Winter, CEO of the Institute, made a personal appeal that the Board reconsider its recent decision to reject the Institute's programs for review and rescind its CE provider status based on the Institute's controversial use of a "waiver of liability" for its audio/video CE presentations. Based on new information presented by the Institute during this meeting, a motion was made by Dr. Murray and Ms. Lisboa to accept only the Institute's live CE seminars for review. Mr. Winter is encouraged to advise the Board of the organization's future policy regarding its taped presentations. Melissa Cohen, MSW, LSW requested a waiver of the CE credit requirement for future renewals as she is currently licensed as a social worker and practicing in New York where she has no CE requirement. While the Board denies Ms. Cohen's request to waive the CE requirement, Ms. Cohen is encouraged to temporarily place her license on inactive status. When/if Ms. Cohen applies to reactivate her New Jersey LSW the Board will consider evidence of her licensed New York social work practice. Marilyn G. Vicenzino, MSW, LCSW requested extended time in which to complete the required 40 continuing education (CE) credits for her 2006-2008 license renewal. Ms. Vicenzino cited a medical condition as the basis for this

request and attached a statement from her treating psychiatrist. Unless Ms. Vicenzino establishes that she was granted employment disability status and has not been employed in social work during this current cycle, the Board denies her request. Additionally, Ms. Vicenzino is to request that Dr. Savitri Sundaram, MD provide the Board with his evaluation of her fitness to practice as an independent clinical for the 2006-2008 cycle. Timothy J. Krakowski, MSW, LCSW requested a waiver of the upcoming 40 CE credits required for the upcoming 2008 renewal of his license. As the basis for his request, Mr. Krakowski documented his recall to active Reserve duty on July 28, 2006 for approximately a period of 1-1/2 years. The Board unanimously agreed to waive Mr. Krakowski's CE requirement for the next cycle pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-6.6. Major Richard Rivera (Retired) appealed the license reinstatement process specific to his situation of 5 plus years in a "suspended" license status pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-7.3(b). Major Rivera's clinical license lapsed on August 31, 2000 though he states he has been certified as a New Jersey school social worker since 1998, which requires no license issued by this Board, Major Rivera described his recall to active duty between 2003 and July 2005. The Board granted a to waiver of the past-due continuing education (CE) credits for the 2-year period of active duty between 2003 and 2005. The CE credits would apply to the 2002-2004 cycle and the first initial year of the current 2004-2006 cycle.

Due to Major Rivera's active duty during a portion of this time frame, the Board unanimously agreed to waive the clinical exam requirement, required for a 5 plus year license lapsed with the stipulation that Major Rivera document completion of the 20 CE he must obtain to reinstate for this current 2004-2006 cycle. If necessary, an extension to February 28, 2007, is granted for this purpose. D. At the Board's request, information was provided regarding the approximate revenue generated by CE sponsor review fees (\$100.00 fee per sponsor per 2-year cycle). For the period between September 1, 2004 and June 7, 2006 the sum totalled \$21,5000.00 from approximately 215 sponsors.

Regulation Issues

Chair, Ms. Bobby reported that a joint committee of the related mental health boards held its first meeting in Spring 2006 during which discussion focused on protecting New Jersey consumers from unlicensed online therapists. The committee plans to again in Fall 2006 to consider policy for professionals regulated by all of the state's mental health boards. FYI-National Practitioner Data Bank for Adverse Information on Physicians and Other Health Care Practitioners: Reporting on Adverse and Negative Actions-The Board discussed this regulation proposed, by the Department of Health and Human Services, Health Resources and Services Administration, which will result in automatically transferring information currently reported to the Healthcare Integrity and Protection Data Bank (HIPDB) directly into the National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB). This process will add all adverse licensure action reports on all licensed practitioners to the NPDB. The proposal will allow hospitals access to adverse licensure action reports on all health care practitioners since, under current regulations, non-government hospitals have access only to licensure actions taken against licensed physicians and dentists, for reasons related to professional competence or conduct.

Legislation

The Board reviewed A3063-a proposal concerning Meeting Notice s and Minutes Requirements of the Open Public Meetings act and voiced strenuous objection to the mandatory tape recording of Public sessions and to the preparation of draft minutes within five business days as it would preclude the reasonable review by the DAG and Board members.

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB)

FYI-ACE (Approved Continuing Education) Approval Process-The Board reviewed the Association's implementation of an individual course approval process specifically for the smaller CE providers. A CE provider can have the first course approved by ACE for a 3-year period for \$150.00. Courses can be offered an unlimited number of times within 3-year span provided the content remains unchanged. Subsequent courses are approved for \$75.00.

B./C. FYI-The Board reviewed its option to submit a proposed amendment to the Association's By Laws and, the opportunity to submit nominations for the Association's annual Major Awards in preparation for the annual Fall

2006 meeting. The Board declined comment in both categories. Public Consent Orders filed since the previous meeting-FYI-There were no Orders acknowledged in this category.

Correspondence

Melissa L. Donahue, MSW, LCSW requested the Board's interpretation of N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1(a)4 relative to her recent qualification for New Jersey's LCSW. Ms. Donahue hoped her compliance could be based on her out-of-state clinical experience. The Board agreed that, as Ms. Donahue had documented her out of state clinical experience for the LCSW, this criteria would qualify her to provide clinical supervision pursuant to e New Jersey's Regulation. Public Session concluded at 4:10 P.M. by unanimous consent. The Board re-entered Executive Session to complete the agenda. The Board re-entered Public Session at 5:00 P.M. to adjourn the meeting with unanimous consent.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay K. McCormack
Executive Director