

**BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK EXAMINERS
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
December 16, 2005**

Call to Order

The Meeting was initially opened in Public Session at 10:30 A.M. in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act. The meeting was held in the Sussex room on the 6th floor of the State offices at 124 Halsey Street. 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
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 Present

Also present were Executive Director Kay K. McCormack, D.A.G. Jodi Krugman, D.A.G. Susan Berger and Board staff member, Theresa Brundage.

A review of the Public Session minutes of October 19, 2005 and November 16, 2005 were reviewed and a motion was made by Ms. Bobby and Dr. Altamura to accept both as presented.

Public Comment

The NASW, NJ chapter was represented by its Executive Director, Walter Kalman, MSW, LSW and its liason to the Board, Dr. Dawn Hall Apgar, Ph.D., LSW. Dr. Apgar reiterated the Association's perspective on the hardships encountered by LSW level social workers in agency settings when having to comply with N.J.A.C. 13:44G-8.1(a)4 and obtain approved clinical supervision. To further its understanding of this situation, the Association established a Licensure Task Force to study the practical aspects of securing employment in a mental health agency where an LCSW, compliant with the regulation, is available to provide the necessary supervision. The revised supervision requirement impacts LSWs and non-compliant LCSWs when seeking agency positions as supervision requirements in the allied mental health categories are less stringent. The Association opined that harm to the consumer will ultimately occur as dwindling numbers of LCSWs makes social work psychotherapy less available to the public, if this current regulation remains intact.

Executive Director's Report

Ms. McCormack distributed the year 2006 meeting schedule to members with a reminder that the meetings between January and October are now scheduled for the 4th Wednesday of each month. However, November's meeting will be held on the 5th Wednesday and December's on the 3rd Wednesday to avoid conflict with the holidays.

Review of Supervisors' Credentials

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

APPROVED SUPERVISORS

Jolie C. Gordon, LCSW-PA
Laurie Patterson, LCSW-PA
Carrie Vick, LCSW-MA
Marilyn E. Jacob, LCSW-PA
Myles A. Paulson, LCSW-NY
Mary E. Regan, LCSW-NY

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. X. Vote on the Candidates Proposed for Licensure and Certification A motion was made by Ms. Ellis and seconded by Ms. Bobby 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. The vote was unanimous.

XI. Continuing Education

Vote on Recommendations

1. A motion was made by Dr. Murray and seconded by Mr. St. Onge 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 December 2005.

Discussion of Problematic CEs

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

CE Correspondence

The Board reviewed the response submitted by American Healthcare Institute to clarify its intent in using a "waiver" of responsibility in the documents included in one of the Institute's CE audio programs. The Institute supports its use of the "waiver" to deflect possible litigation arising from the ultimate use or misuse of the information presented in its CE audio coursework. The Board will advise that, while acknowledging the Institute's position, the Board cannot grant CE credit for a social work course which the sponsor is either unable or unwilling to represent to licensees as accurate at the time of presentation. If the Institute remains firm, the Board will reimburse the Institute's \$100.00 review fee and discontinue the review process

. At the Board's request, Ms. McCormack sought clarity of the current educational standing of the New York Institute for Psychoanalytic Self-Psychology. According to the Institute it retains its status to grant specialized certifications beyond the MSW graduate degrees awarded by CSWE-approved schools of social work. Therefore, CE credit hours obtained through the Institute are still calculated according to N.J.A.C. 13:44G-6.4(b)4.

The Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) The Board reviewed as informational the follow-up response from the New York State Education Department (Social Work Board) in support of its two proposed amendments to the Association's current bylaws which regulate the specific dissemination of exam score information. While both amendment proposals were ultimately defeated at the Association's Delegate Assembly, New York maintains that the limited distribution of exam results hinders the effectiveness of jurisdictional authorities who are denied access to information by the current policies of the ASWB Board of Directors.

National Association of Social Workers (NASW, NJ Chapter) – The minutes reflect that the Association presented its concern during the Public Comment portion of the Agenda.

F.Y.I. Filed Consent Order(s) Public disciplinary actions

Richard J. Mieliwocki – On November 16, 2005 Richard J. Mieliwocki entered an agreement with the Board to immediately surrender his LSW license to practice social work in New Jersey and cease and desist until further order of the Board. Legislation

The Board reviewed as informational a new reporting law, the New Jersey Health Care Professional Responsibility and Reporting Enhancement Act which went into effect on October 31, 2005. The new law requires that health care entities promptly report to the Division, in writing, when they take a negative action against a health care professional who is employed by, under contract to render professional services to, or has privileges granted by, that health care staffing registry. The health care entities must also report to the Division if a health care professional resigns or gives up privileges in order to avoid an investigation or action, fails to comply with a request to seek assistance in matters of impairment, or is a party to a malpractice action also involving the entity and payment is made. The law also requires that health care professionals promptly notify the Division if they are in possession of information which reasonable indicates that another health care professional has demonstrated an impairment, gross incompetence or unprofessional conduct which would present imminent danger to a patient or the public.

The Board reviewed the proposed legislation A#4434/S#2908 in order to formulate a comment. The Bill requires certain health care professionals to provide information and screening for postpartum depression and in so doing, this Bill increases the likelihood that new mothers with this disorder will get appropriate treatment to overcome its effects. The Board supports the intent of this legislation and bases its decision on the knowledge that an appropriate assessment tool and informational brochure, coupled with the essential background, training, will be mandated in order to disseminate this information to all Department of Human Services contract providers.

Correspondence

Shana Borko, CSW expressed her conflict at being asked by her employer to oversee the finances of a client diagnosed with Alzheimers Disease. She questioned this assignment in terms of her CSW scope. Since there is no specific mention of this task in the CSWs scope of practice regulation N.J.A.C. 13:44G-3.3, either to prohibit or to include this service, the Board suggests that Ms. Borko work with her employer to develop a written policy which apparently permits her to provide the services as directed. Meantime, Ms Borko should continue to maintain scrupulous written documentation of all financial transactions she oversees for this and any other client in this situation.

XIV. Adjournment

Public Session concluded at 12:25 P.M. whereupon the Board re-entered Executive Session to complete the agenda. The Board re-entered Public Session at 4:30 P.M. to adjourn the meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Kay K. McCormack
Executive Director