

**RHODE ISLAND BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS
AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

JUNE 16, 2006

MINUTES OF MEETING

The Open Session of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was called to order at 10:00 am on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meetings, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established.

Board members in attendance:

Dale Blumen

Ronald Mancini

Terrance Giblin

James Pinel

John Roche

Board Members not in attendance:

Joseph Costa

Staff members in attendance:

Donna Dickerman

Gregory Madoian, Legal Counsel

The minutes of the meeting held February 17, 2006 were presented. On motion by Terrance Giblin, seconded by Ronald Mancini, it was unanimously voted to accept the Open Session minutes as presented.

In April, 2006 a cease and desist letter was issued to John Koenig who advertised his hypnotherapy practice under the counseling/personal section of the yellow pages. Mr. Koenig is unlicensed, and the Board agreed hypnotherapy is within the scope of practice of mental health counseling. Mr. Koenig provided a written response stating he practices “hypnotism” and disputed its inclusion in Chapter 5-63.2. Mr. Koenig is a member of the National Guild of Hypnotists. Mr. Koenig stated he does not practice psychotherapy and provided evidence the Department of Labor decision that hypnotism is a separate and distinct occupation from counseling, psychotherapy, psychology or medicine. Hypnotism is defined in the “Directory of Occupational Titles” by the Department of Labor. Mr. Koenig stated in future advertising he will refer to himself as a hypnotist, not a hypnotherapist and inform clients his services are non-therapeutic. On a motion

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by John Roche, seconded by Terrence Giblin, the Board unanimously voted Mr. Koenig be notified hypnosis is not defined in statute and advise against advertising under the “counseling/personal” or therapy section of the yellow pages.

The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the following mental health counselor applications for licensure pending successful completion of the national examination:

- Cynthia Baldwin (pending remaining 200 supervision hours)**
- Katie Kroll (pending revised completed transcript)**
- Lauri Maynard - Elisa Robley (pending remaining supervision hours and supervisor’s resume)**
- Ancha Santana - Mary Angela Saravia (pending completion of core course in Human Growth & Development)**
- Faye Sotirakis - Tara Van Tassel (pending official transcript)**
- Dawn Whiteboard**

The Board reviewed and unanimously approved the following mental health counselor application for licensure by endorsement:

- Thalia Genes**

The Board reviewed and unanimously denied an application for mental health counselor for Sherri Snyder. Ms. Snyder lacks 60 credits, lacks completion of all required components of the core curriculum and completed only a portion of required 2000 hours of supervised practice.

The Board reviewed an application for licensure as a mental health counselor by endorsement for Deborah Connors. Ms. Connor's resume indicates she has been working in Rhode Island since October, 2005. Ms. Connor will be sent a cease and desist letter.

Members requested the Chair of the Counseling Program at Rhode Island College be invited to a meeting to discuss the educational core curriculum of the licensing rules and regulations.

Members reviewed a request from Erica Johnson to accept "...education and/or experience which is deemed equivalent by the Board"... pursuant to Section 4.1.5. Specifically, Ms. Johnson requests acceptance of extra supervised practice hours in lieu of a school-approved internship. Ms. Johnson completed her education in California, which does not require internships as part of their educational programs. Members unanimously agreed to Ms. Johnson's request.

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Adjournment to Executive Session

On a motion by Terrence Giblin, seconded by Ronald Pinel, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5 (a)(1)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. Complaint addressed: MHC#3-2004.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order. On motion of Dale Blumen, seconded by Ronald Mancini, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Executive Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed. Final actions: Complaint #3-2004 – probation completed July 1, 2006; Board agreed licensee's reinstatement of an unrestricted license.

Adjournment

On motion of Ronald Mancini, seconded by James Pinel, it was

unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna Dickerman

Board Administrator

Health Professionals Regulation