

**BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
MINUTES OF MEETING**

January 8, 2010

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was called to order on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Rhode Island Department of Health, Three Capitol Hill, Providence, Rhode Island, pursuant to the applicable provisions of the Open Meeting Law, so called, and other applicable provisions of the General Laws of the State of Rhode Island, as amended. A quorum was established at 2:00 pm.

Board members in attendance:

Terrence Giblin

Dale Blumen

Noelle Harris

James Pinel

Elizabeth Johnson

Board members not in attendance:

Ronald Mancini

Joseph Costa

Staff members in attendance:

Charles Alexandre

The minutes of the meetings held on September 11, 2009 and November 13, 2009 were presented. On motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Dale Blumen, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

Business

There were no Announcements.

The Administrative Hearing Decision regarding the license application of Kristina Lagasse was presented. The Hearing Officer determined that Ms. Lagasse met the requirements for licensure and could sit for the licensure examination.

The Board reviewed a request from Tiffani Kisler, PhD regarding consideration of clinical hours for licensure. The recommended that Dr. Kisler apply for licensure as a marriage and family therapist.

The Board discussed the documentation submitted by Salve Regina University regarding the Rehabilitation Counseling Program. The Board made the following recommendation:

Helping Relationships

RHB520, RHB521 Rehabilitation Counseling Practicum Seminar

Practicum 1 and 2 Seminar notes using the Code of Ethics for Rehabilitation Counseling.

The requirements of the practicum seem to emphasize rehabilitation counseling practice, and not the practice of clinical mental health counseling. This practicum does not match section 1.7 in the regulations. The Board is questioning how a student can meet section 2.1.6 (2,000 hours of client contact) and supervision requirements if the practicum is rehabilitation focused. Where are the Practicum sites? The primary purpose of the practicum as it is described in the syllabus is not mental health counseling.

Social and Cultural Foundations

RHB523 Cultural and Psychosocial Aspects of Disability

The goals of the syllabus do not match the core curriculum requirements for Social and Cultural Foundations. The syllabus seems to be entirely about the cultural and psychosocial aspects of disability. This class misses issues related to all other diverse groups, and issues related to gender, age, race, religious preference, sexual orientation, SES and other.

Professional Orientation

RHB505 Foundations of Rehabilitation Counseling: History, Principles, Law and Ethics

The goals of the syllabus are completely rehabilitation focused...”frameworks influencing rehabilitation counseling...course explores how the role of the counselor and the disability support services...this course will focus on some of the dilemmas and challenges arising from current rehabilitation philosophy and practice...” The course does not focus on professional orientation, ethics, etc., that are connected to mental health counseling.

Dr. Thomas Sabbagh, Dean of Graduate Studies and Dr. Dimity Peter, Rehabilitation Counseling Program Director at Salve Regina University will be notified of the Board’s recommendations.

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

Bernia Mattos

Kristina Kirschner

Brandee Hutchins (pending receipt of supervised hours)

Brook Reid (pending receipt of supervised hours)

Lauren Rappoport

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

Tiffany Richard (pending receipt of supervised hours)

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of Dale Blumen, seconded by Noelle Harris, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Charles Alexandre

Chief, Health Professions Regulation