

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

November 18, 2011

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 10:20 am.

Board members in attendance:

Dale Blumen

Elizabeth Johnson

Ronald Mancini

James Pinel

Board members not in attendance:

Joseph Costa

Terrence Giblin

Noelle Harris

Staff members in attendance:

Rosemary Sheets

Others Present:

None

The minutes of the meeting held on September 9, 2011 were presented. On motion of Ronald Mancini, seconded by James Pinel, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

Business

The Board was presented an invitation by Dr. Dimity Peter to have a representative of the Commission on Rehabilitation Counseling and Counselor of Rehabilitation Education who resides in Illinois attend the January 2012 Board meeting to discuss the national perspective of other licensing boards regarding CACREP requirements. The Board is overwhelmed with pressing issues and cannot commit to including this on the agenda.

There were two Applications for licensure reviewed:

The Board advised that the first applicant with a graduate degree in Art Therapy needs to complete the Core Curriculum Coursework Requirement Form in order to demonstrate compliance with Appendix A of the Regulations.

The second applicant (by endorsement) with a graduate degree in Transpersonal Counseling Psychology will need further review and is held for the January meeting.

In response to an e mail request from a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, the Board reviewed the continuing education course offerings of the American Association of Sexuality Educators, Counselors, and Therapists (AASECT). The Board voted to unanimously approve AASECT courses toward CEU requirements for licensed Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Dale Blumen, seconded by Elizabeth Johnson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, as Amended, in that confidential issues of fitness for licensure and investigative cases will be discussed. The Open Session adjourned at 10:40 am.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 11:15 am.

On motion of James Pinel, seconded by Ronald Mancini, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in

Executive Session and to seal those minutes of the meeting inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed. The Board voted unanimously on the following:

Case # 2011-05-MFT No Unprofessional Conduct

The following items were presented to the Board in open session for review and discussion:

A written request from David Klapatch asking the Board to provide feedback on an idea for a non-profit home-based psychological and therapeutic services organization called PATHS of Rhode Island was reviewed. After discussion the Board agreed that the idea sounded fine and home-based services such as this could fill a needed niche.

A question from an individual in the RIC CAGS program regarding internship with no credit was presented to the Board. The Board responded that as long as the transcript has 60 credit hours and shows the practicum and internship which documents that the classes were taken and passed, the Board would accept it.

An email question from a graduate of Golden Gate University with 51 credits and an MA in Applied Psychology asking whether the individual would be eligible for licensure was discussed. The Board agreed that the 60 credit requirement must be met in order to obtain a license. The Board suggested that the individual may want to explore

licensure with the Psychology Board.

A question was reviewed from a graduate student in Counseling Psychology at Northeastern University regarding how many total practicum hours are required for licensure as Northeastern only offers a 3 credit practicum class. The Board advised that two 3 credit practicum classes are needed to qualify for a Rhode Island license.

Due to the volume of business addressed at this meeting, the Board agreed to hold the distance learning policy issue and questions from Capella University, Walden University and Liberty University until the January 13, 2012 meeting to allow sufficient time for deliberation.

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 11:35 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Sheets

Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation