

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

July 13, 2012

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 11:00 am.

Board members in attendance:

Joseph Costa

Noelle Harris

Ronald Mancini

James Pinel

Board members not in attendance:

Dale Blumen

Terrence Giblin

Elizabeth Johnson

Staff members in attendance:

Rosemary Sheets

Tom Corrigan

Others Present:

Dimity Peter

Nancy Gordon

Linda Hurley

The minutes of the meeting held on May 11, 2012 were presented. On motion of Joseph Costa, seconded by James Pinel, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

Business

Board member Ronald Mancini and those in attendance discussed issues for Mr. Mancini to present at the NBCC Annual State Boards Meeting that will be held in Greensboro, NC on August 9 and August 10, 2012 including behavioral and mental health in clinical credentials and CACREP issues.

A discussion was held regarding the standard for Tri-Care and the CACREP requirement. The two attendees from Salve Regina

remarked that it discriminates against small programs. CACREP is the only current standard and although the board agreed we need standards it was agreed by all present that diversity is also important. The need to protect the clinical mental health counselor credential was discussed and the possibility of setting up a structure so people are not confused when they seek a license in addition to streamlining the protocol.

The board would like to use some CACREP language in the potential amendments to the regulations. In comparing other State license requirements it was found that there is no consistent approach. Board attorney Tom Corrigan suggested and all agreed to a meeting with the Rhode Island schools that have mental health counseling graduate programs to ensure they are in agreement with any proposed changes, Rhode Island schools are not put in jeopardy and they have time to change curricula if necessary.

Linda Hurley, a representative from CODAC Behavioral Healthcare who attended the open session presented four points regarding CACREP that are important to this and similar organizations:

1. CODAC employs LMHC's, CACREP requirement would impact on current staffing.
2. Folks from advocacy groups will attend the next meeting.
3. Potential employer concern-limiting nature of CACREP. Organization employs people with varied expertise and broader perspectives.

4. Tri-Care. Insurance Co. tries to limit participation to CACREP accredited graduates only.

Salve Regina's Rehab Counseling Program was discussed. Board members felt that the Rehabilitation counseling is a completely different track than Salve's Holistic counseling program which does fit the regulatory requirements for mental health counselor licensure. The Rehab Counseling is a non-mental health focused degree. The Salve representatives responded they want to work with the board. It was suggested by the board that Salve review the syllabus and line it up with core curriculum. Also look at what is being taught and if it is in the standards.

The board members that were present unanimously voted to form a subcommittee for the review and draft of proposed amendments to the regulations. A meeting of the subcommittee was then scheduled for Friday July 31, 2012 at 10:00 am. Those members not in attendance will be informed of the subcommittee meeting.

Application Review

There were no applications that required board review.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Joseph Costa, seconded by Noelle Harris, 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 11:50 am.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 11:55 am.

On motion of James Pinel, seconded by Noelle Harris, 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:

There were no votes taken in executive session.

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of James Pinel, seconded by Noelle Harris, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Sheets

Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation