

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

**August 31, 2012**

**Open Session**

**The Subcommittee Work 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 10:05 am.**

**Board members in attendance:**

**Joseph Costa**

**Terrence Giblin**

**Noelle Harris**

**Elizabeth Johnson**

**James Pinel**

**Board members not in attendance:**

**Dale Blumen**

**Ronald Mancini**

**Staff members in attendance:**

**Rosemary Sheets**

**Others Present:**

**Dimity Peter**

**Elizabeth Hayes**

-----

**Business**

**The board was informed that the license fees for Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists have been reduced in Public Law 2012-241, Article 9 as amended, effective July 1, 2012. The new application fee for Mental Health Counselors is \$70.00 and Marriage and Family Therapists is \$130.00. New renewal fees are \$50.00 for Mental Health Counselors and \$130.00 for Marriage and Family Therapists.**

**The Board discussed the research they conducted on various state requirements for Mental Health Counselor licensure. The standard for Tri-Care and CACREP requirements were reviewed in the context of RI and other state licensing/practice requirements. It was agreed that the CACREP standard could be a model for RI educational institutions but we cannot mandate CACREP accreditation. The need for a national standard for the profession was discussed as there are many bodies that provide accreditation such as NBCC, CHEA and**

**CORE in addition to CACREP.**

**The practicum and internship language in RI regulations was reviewed. It was suggested that RI should align the regulations for greater consistency with nationwide graduate degree programs and simplify the practicum and internship language in RI regulations regarding number of hours required. It was agreed that the CACREP standard of 100 clock hours of practicum and 600 clock hours of internship is the preferred model.**

**The discussion evolved into on-line programs and whether the board would accept graduate degrees conferred by these programs for licensure. On a motion by James Pinel, seconded by Elizabeth Johnson, the board unanimously voted that the Rhode Island Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists will accept on-line programs that meet the qualification for licensure requirements in Section 2.12 and Section 3.12 of the RI Rules and Regulations For Licensing Mental Health Counselors And Marriage And Family Therapists as having completed a graduate degree program from a college or university accredited by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges, or an equivalent regional accrediting agency; and additionally for Mental Health Counselors, which has the approval by a cognizable national or regional certifying authority.**

**The board agreed that a meeting will be scheduled at some time in**

**the future with the Rhode Island educational institutions that have mental health counseling graduate programs to ensure they are aware and in agreement with any proposed changes.**

### **Adjournment**

**Having no further business, on motion of Noelle Harris, seconded by Elizabeth Johnson, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 AM.**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Rosemary Sheets**

**Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation**