

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

March 1, 201

AMENDED

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 10:10 am.

Board members in attendance:

Dale Blumen

Terrence Giblin

Noelle Harris

Elizabeth Johnson

Ronald Mancini

James Pinel

Board members not in attendance:

Joseph Costa

Staff members in attendance:

Rosemary Sheets

Thomas Corrigan

Others Present:

Dimity Peter

Linda Hurley

The minutes of the meeting held on January 4, 2013 were presented. On motion of James Pinel, seconded by Noelle Harris, it was unanimously voted to accept the minutes.

Business

The Board was informed that the proposed amendments to the statute drafted by board attorney Thomas Corrigan are still waiting for approval from Craig Stenning at the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH).

The board was informed that representatives from Rhode Island

College requested to speak to the board at the May 3, 2013 board meeting to discuss their progress toward CACREP accreditation and possible issues regarding the sequence of accruing 2000 supervised hours in a 60-credit program.

The board discussed the practicum and internship requirement in the RI regulations. The board unanimously voted to adopt a formal policy to accept 100 hours of practicum and 600 hours of internship if the masters degree was a 60 credit program and contained the required core curriculum.

Linda Hurley from CODAC attended the open session of the meeting to express their concern that CACREP accreditation requirements are too rigid and do not allow for diversity of staff and educators. The board assured Ms. Hurley that they are seeking to adopt a CACREP model in the regulations but not a requirement that licensees have degrees from CACEP accredited educational institutions.

It was suggested that a definition of practicum and internship added to the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations would be beneficial to the educational institutions who offer mental health counseling post graduate degrees. The board confirmed to Ms. Hurley that practicum occurs as part of the on campus degree program.

A request was reviewed from a Licensed Chemical Dependency Professional who also has a masters degree in Mental Health

Counseling. The individual asked for board approval to utilize paid supervision while practicing independently as an LCDP to complete 1000 hours of the 2000 hour supervised work experience requirement for licensure as a mental health counselor. The board unanimously voted yes.

Dale Blumen asked board members if CEU's obtained through the Connecticut Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (CTAMFT) are acceptable in accordance with Section 9.2 "CEU's" in the Rhode Island Rules and Regulations that specifies "CEU's approved by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)". A motion was made by Ronald Mancini, seconded by Elizabeth Johnson to adopt the policy to accept CEU's approved by the state divisions of AAMFT. The Board unanimously voted to adopt the policy.

Dale Blumen provided the board a guidance document titled Mandated Supervision: Ethical Challenges For Supervisors And Supervisees, Thomas, J.T. (2010). The ethics of supervision and consultation Washington, D C: American Psychological Association. Ms Blumen felt it is important for the board to consider, particularly page 185 of Chapter 8, where the author states that an extensive evaluation is done and the report of that evaluation is given to the person providing the mandated supervision so that person can get the licensing board's perspective and goals and can decide whether or not this is a good fit.

Ms Blumen suggested the board adopt a policy to start using an assessment/evaluation with supervision goals etc. regarding licensees who are under board mandated supervision. The board unanimously voted to adopt the use of an evaluation report that will be provided to the supervisors.

Application Review

The board reviewed the Mental Health Counselor application of Gabrielle Dworkin and approved the applicant to sit for the NBCC examination.

The board reviewed the Mental Health Counselor application of Corrin Champagne and approved the applicant to sit for the NBCC examination.

The board reviewed the Mental Health Counselor application of Cheryl Dill and did not approve the applicant to sit for the exam as it appeared the transcript from Pepperdine University indicated a total of 54 credits. Six additional credits are needed but board members commented they may have been completed in accordance with California requirements. If that is the case, Ms. Dill would qualify to sit for the exam.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Terrence Giblin, 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 10:45 am at which time Dimity Peter and Linda Hurley exited the public portion of the board meeting.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 11:20 am.

On motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Dale Blumen, 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.

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Dale Blumen, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 11:20 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemary Sheets

Board Administrator, Health Professions Regulation