

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

November 1, 2013

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was called to order at 10:15 AM on the above date in Room 104, Cannon Building, Rhode Island Department of Health, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI, 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.

Board Members in attendance: Board Members not in attendance:

Terrence Giblin, Chair James Pinel

Joseph Costa Elizabeth Johnson

Dale Blumen

Noelle Harris Staff members in attendance:

Ronald Mancini J. Michel Martineau

Steve Morris, Esq.

Others Present:

Prof. Nancy Gordon, Salve Regina Univ.

Prof. Judy Drew, Salve Regina Univ.

The Minutes of the open session held on July 12, 2013 were presented. Ronald Mancini notes he was present at the July 12, 2013 meeting, but he is listed as not in attendance. Dale Blumen makes a motion to address this error, seconded by Noelle Harris, it was unanimously passed. Dale Blumen makes a motion to pass the amended Minutes, seconded by Noelle Harris, it passed unanimously.

Members review an inquiry from Prof. Judy Drew seeking clarification on the term “Appraisal” as a core requirement. The board administrator and more than one board member address this matter referencing items including but not limited to: mental status exams, mental health history taking, testing, and DSM V diagnosis. Professors Drew and Gordon express appreciation for meeting with and receiving guidance from board members.

Members review an inquiry from Carla Zubria, a licensed counselor in AZ seeking guidance on practicing TeleHealth in RI. Board members indicate practicing TeleHealth in RI is indeed viewed as practicing in RI; as such a RI license is required. As a secondary part of this inquiry, the board

administrator references concern about performing “psychological

evaluations”. Board members including Noelle Harris indicate licensed MHC / MFT professionals may perform psychological evaluations provided they have the appropriate education and training. A member indicates that in RI courts, these licensed professionals may or may not be able to present the tests.

Member Dale Blumen states that TeleHealth was addressed in the Minutes of a previous meeting. The board administrator asks for a time frame and members indicate it was addressed in the past four months.

Member Ronald Mancini presents an update from the NBCC conference. His synopsis includes, a) NBCC staff report that RI is the only board that does not have an active role in CE, b) twenty states have approved Skype to be in accordance with HIPAA, c) NBCC made it known there are numerous employment opportunities, including in London, Japan, Africa as well as in upwards of twenty five countries, d) Support is expressed for professional counselors to seek national certification, this pertains to clinical work and would be addressed by an arm of NBCC, e) NBCC notes they offer numerous training sessions, both online and in person. Members comment and express appreciation for receiving this update.

Member Dale Blumen indicates it would be useful to post useful information on the board page on the HEALTH website, the administrator indicates he will look in to the matter but his experience

is that since the HEALTH page now redirects inquiries to the Secretary of State website, HEALTH has limited input as to the content on that page.

Members reference board involvement in reviewing CE, the administrator relates that the Regulations provide for CE accredited by numerous specific organizations and it would be best that any group that wants their CE to be qualified for RI should first determine if their CE program is already qualified by an organization approved for CE in RI, and if not they may want to seek approval from one of the listed groups as this would likely result in approval of their course for RI and other states. The administrator states that some boards value their limited role in CE as it relieves them of having to review individual programs.

A member indicates a certain individual who failed the national exam three times seeks approval to sit for the exam again. Members indicate the individual needs to contact NBCC as this is in their purview.

A member indicates the high value of a CACREP accredited program but this does not match up with the RI requirements, referencing the hours in the practicum. Members determine the need to re-review the proposed changes to RI Law (5-63.2) addressing this license category. The administrator indicates we have a secure portal and copies of the proposed changes to state law (5-63.2), current state

law (5-63.2), and current Regulations are posted in this online “library”. Members direct the administrator to resend to them the Word document with the link and the necessary logon information.

A member states a change of name for the license category from MHC/MFT to LPC would be in line with a uniform approach to their profession.

Upon discussion of review of post-graduate requirements, member Dale Blumen expresses support for a shift in education to focus on outcome. What are necessary skills, not just hours such as the current mandatory 2,000 hour requirement.

Members indicate a new item for the next agenda: Parameters of TeleHealth.

Adjournment to Executive Session

On motion of Ronald Mancini, seconded by Joseph Costa, 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 11:07 AM.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 11:42 AM. On motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Ronald Mancini, it was unanimously voted to keep confidential all matters discussed in Closed Session and to seal those minutes inasmuch as fitness for licensure and ongoing disciplinary matters were addressed.

The Minutes of the executive session held on July 12, 2013 were presented. On motion of Ronald Mancini, seconded by Noelle Harris, it was unanimously voted to accept the Minutes.

Board members determine to schedule a Special Meeting on December 6, 2013 at 10 AM; this is primarily to address a complaint matter.

Adjournment

Having no further business, on motion of Terrence Giblin, seconded by Ronald Mancini, it was unanimously voted to adjourn. The Open Session of the meeting was adjourned at 11:43 am.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michel Martineau

Health Policy Analyst