

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

January 17, 2014

Open Session

The Open Session of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was held 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.

Board Members in attendance: Board Members not in attendance:

Terrence Giblin, Chair Ronald Mancini

Joseph Costa

Dale Blumen Staff members in attendance:

Noelle Harris J. Michel Martineau

James Pinel Steve Morris, Esq.

Elizabeth Johnson

A quorum was established and the meeting was called to order at 10:10 AM.

The Minutes of the open session held on November December 6, 2013 were presented. James Pinel made a motion to accept the Minutes,

seconded by Terry Giblin, it was unanimously passed.

Board members briefly mention the subject of TeleHealth and restate you must be licensed in the state where the client resides.

It is noted there is the possibility that a counseling entity may be practicing TeleHealth via a website without addressing RI licensing law. The administrator advises that if anyone (a member of the public or a licensed professional) believes an individual or an entity is advertising or delivering counseling services in an unlicensed manner they should consider filing a written complaint to allow the Department to address it within the complaint process.

Members state as they work to propose changes to the Regulations they intend to note support for the CACREP accredited program at RIC while not causing harm to other existing programs.

Members discuss interest in changing the title of the Mental Health Counselor (MHC) license to Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) in keeping with the practice of many states.

Board counsel Steve Morris advises the administrator to have staff deliver the Regulations as a Word document to allow Members the

flexibility to work with them, something the current Adobe pdf format does not allow. Atty. Morris also advises the next meeting be scheduled in a larger room to allow board members to divide to address different parts of the Regulations. Atty. Morris and Members determine to focus on the Regulations and not licensing Law when proposing changes.

A Member states some MHC / MFT license holders did not get the reminder notice to renew their license. The administrator and board counsel state the department sends out thousands of reminder post cards on a regular basis, the administrator states he gets few calls from individuals stating they did not get a reminder card, when it occurs he addresses these on a case by case basis and may ask if the individual had a change of address or another factor such as filing or discarding the reminder post card. The administrator states he focuses on getting the license holder to renew ASAP and that may involve paying a \$40 administrative late fee.

Referencing RIGL (5-63.2-10 (5) and (6)) Board counsel and Members discuss rewording the supervision requirement, suggestions include “one (1) hour of supervision a week = 100 hours (2 years), not five (5) hours a week to reduce the two (2) year requirement.” Also, “Minimum of 50% individual one on one supervision (the balance may be with multiple trainees)”.

Adjournment to Executive Session

Noelle Harris made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by James Pinel, it passed unanimously 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 11:10 AM.

Return to Open Session

The Open Session was called back to order at 11:25 AM. On motion of James Pinel, seconded by Dale Blumen, 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 December 6, 2013 were presented. Dale Blumen made a motion to accept the Minutes, seconded by James Pinel; it was unanimously voted to accept the Minutes.

Members discuss listing items to be placed on the next agenda, members advise the administrator to again place on the agenda a) Review proposed changes to Regulations (R5-63.2-MHC/MFT).

Licenses granted since the most recent meeting December 6, 2013 through January 16, 2014 include:

MFT00158 Grifka, Melissa Jean

MFT00159 Novack, Lindsay G.
MFT00160 Morrow, Hope Elizabeth
MFT00161 Creegan, Amy P.
MHC00620 Belhumeur, Babara Ann
MHC00621 Brown Sara Michelle

MHC00622 Adams, Nanci Elizabeth
MHC00623 Champagne, Corrin Marie
MHC00624 Quadros, Kimberly
MHC00625 D'Abate, Dana L.
MHC00626 Omara, Michael Patrick
MHC00627 Rattenni, Robert Anthony
MHC00628 Powell, Cynthia
MHC00629 Myrick, Marquita Shalaine
MHC00630 Thurman, Alexis Miki

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 11:30 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

J. Michel Martineau
Health Policy Analyst