

DIVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES REGULATION
BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY
THERAPISTS

3 CAPITOL HILL
CONFERENCE ROOM 104
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Friday, October 17, 2014
10:00 AM

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dale Blumen, MFT
Terrance Giblin, MFT, MHC, Chairperson
Noelle Harris, MHC
Ronald Mancini, MHC
James Pinel, MHC

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Joseph Costa, Public Member
Elizabeth Johnson, MFT

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Karl Beaugard, Legal Counsel
Arlene Hartwell, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Judith L. Drew, Salve Regina University

1. Establishment of a quorum

- a. A meeting of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was held on Friday, October 17, 2014 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. A quorum was established and the Open Session meeting was called to order at 10:11 AM on a motion by Terrance Giblin and seconded by Ronald Mancini. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the April 18, 2014 Open Session Meeting Minutes

- a. Motion was made by James Pinel and seconded by Noelle Harris to accept the Open Session minutes of April 18, 2014. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Board Manager Report

- a. The Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulating Board has contracted Professional Testing Corporation as the provider for the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Exam, effective October 15, 2014.

4. Old Business

- a. Rules and Regulations for Marriage and Family Therapists
 - i. Tabled for a future meeting
 - 1. Board members request that Directors Stenning of the Department of Behavioral Healthcare, Developmental Disabilities and Hospitals (BHDDH), and Dr. Fine of the Department of Health attend the meeting.
 - 2. Board members requested that Arlene Hartwell book Conference room 401 if it is available for a future meeting scheduled specifically to review the rules and regulations.

5. New Business

- a. Granting licenses to Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists
 - i. The board reviewed Title 5, Chapter 5-63.2, Sections 5-62.2-9 and 5-62.2-10. Ronald Mancini made a motion that the board manager review applications and grant licensure to Mental Health Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapist applicants who meet the requirements set forth in the Statute and Rules and Regulations; and that applications that do not meet the requirements of the Statute and Rules and Regulations, be brought before the board for review. The motion was seconded by Noelle Harris. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. Motion carried.
- b. Application questions
 - i. There were four individuals made requests of the board via email; candidates, A, B, C, and D.
 1. Candidate A – requested that the board review the course selection he plans to take at Goddard College to verify that they are acceptable for licensure.
 - a. Dale Blumen made a motion to decline to honor the request as applicants are responsible for determining the courses that meet core curriculum requirements as stated in the Rules and Regulations for licensure. The motion was seconded by James Pinel. The board voted unanimously to decline the request.
 2. Candidate B – requested an extension to complete CEUs due to being unemployed and lacking funds to pay for CEUs.
 - a. The board voted 5 to 1 deny the request for extension following a motion from Noelle Harris and seconded by James Pinel.
 3. Candidate C – MA licensed MHC since 1998 requested board to accept 18 years of CEUs in lieu of 2 credit deficit of the 60 credit requirement in RI.

- a. On a motion made by Noelle Harris and seconded by Ronald Mancini, the board denied the request and advised the candidate to obtain the required credits.
4. Candidate D – Earned a degree requiring 50 credits in CA and requested that the board allow her to make up additional 10 credits required in RI via a specified on line website.
 - a. On a motion made by James Pinel and seconded by Dale Blumen, the board voted unanimously to decline the request as applicants are responsible to enroll in courses that match the core curriculum requirements as stated in the Rules and Regulations for licensure.

6. Public Comment

- a. Judith Drew from Salve Regina University questioned the board about when students are eligible to begin the prerequisite 2000 hours of supervised work experience.
 - i. Arlene Hartwell noted that the application specifies that the 2000 hours of supervised work experience is post – graduate, meaning that once students have graduated, they can begin the 2000 hours of supervised work experience.
 - ii. Ms. Drew stated that there is confusion among the students who think that they need 60 credits prior to beginning the supervised work experience. Terrance Giblin stated that the credit requirement varies from program to program and that supervised work experience begins once an individual had graduated from a program, regardless of number of credits. Noelle Harris suggested that all programs have uniform credit requirements. Ms. Drew acknowledged that Salve Regina is moving toward a 60 credit program and distributed a flyer containing information about a 60 credit M.A. in Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling being offered at Salve Regina University.

7. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

- a. Motion was made by Dale Blumen and seconded by Ronald Mancini to adjourn to Closed Session at 11:12 AM. Motion carried. Pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(1) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for the purpose of discussing job performance, character, physical or mental health of applicants for licensure. Said individuals have been notified in advance by writing that they may request that the discussion be held at an open meeting. Also, pursuant to Sections 42-46-4 and 42-46-5(a)(4) of the Rhode Island General Laws, for investigatory proceedings regarding allegations of civil or criminal misconduct.

8. Motion to return to Open Session

- a. Motion was made by Terrance Giblin and seconded by Noelle Harris at 11:55 to re-open the Open Session and to seal the Minutes of the Closed Session pursuant to Sections 42-46-4, 42-46-5 and 42-46-7 of the Rhode Island General Laws. Motion carried.

9. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- a. The board voted unanimously to take action in 4 of the 5 cases that were reviewed. One case remains open as the board has requested additional information from the licensee.

10. Adjournment

- a. The next Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists meeting will be held January 9, 2015 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Dale Blumen and seconded by James Pinel to adjourn at 12:03 PM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Arlene Hartwell
Board Manager
Office of Health Professionals Regulation