

CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS  
BOARD OF MENTAL HEALTH COUNSELORS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY  
THERAPISTS

3 CAPITOL HILL  
CONFERENCE ROOM 104  
PROVIDENCE, RHODE ISLAND

Friday, October 9, 2015  
10:00 AM

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dale Blumen, MFT  
Joseph Costa, Public Member  
Terrance Giblin, MFT/MHC, Board Chairperson  
Noelle Harris, MHC  
Elizabeth Johnson, MFT  
James Pinel, MHC

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Ronald Mancini, MHC

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Sarah Harrigan, Chief, Center for Professional Boards and Commissions  
Arlene Hartwell, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Judi Drew, Salve Regina University  
Weston Martin, RI Mental Health Counselor Association

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was held on Friday, October 9, 2015 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 10:03 on a motion by James Pinel and seconded by Elizabeth Johnson. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the June 12, 2015 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by Noelle Harris and seconded by [name of Terrance Giblin to accept the Open Session minutes of June 12, 2015. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. New Business

- Conference call with Mary Alice Olsen, Executive Director Representative of the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB), and also the Executive Director for Louisiana, to discuss portability of Licensed Professional Counselor across state borders, 10:18 – 10:40 AM.
  - i. Motion was made by Noelle Harris and seconded by Dale Blumen to include the AASCBs portability proposal on the recommended amendments to the Rules and Regulations for Licensing Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists. The board voted unanimously in favor of the motion. The AASCB portability proposal states that:
    1. A fully-licensed counselor, who is licensed at the highest level of licensure available in his or her state, and who is in good standing with his or her licensure board, with no disciplinary record, and who has been in active practice for a minimum of five years post-receipt of licensure, and who has taken and passed the NCE or the NCMHCE, shall be eligible for licensure in a state to which he or she is establishing residence. The state to which the licensed counselor is moving may require a jurisprudence examination based on the rules and statutes of said state. An applicant who meets these criteria will be accepted for licensure without further review of education, supervision, and experiential hours.

#### 4. Old Business

- Discussion of the incorporation of CACREP standards into RI licensing parameters
  - i. The board reviewed the sub-committee's proposed amendments to the *Rules and Regulations for Licensing Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists*. The proposed changes require statutory changes and board members discussed options for making changes to RI statute. Terrance Giblin suggested having stakeholders get involved. Sarah Harrigan reminded the board that they are part of the Executive Branch of government and cannot actively lobby or seek lobbyists. Judi Drew stated that she will speak with the Governor's Commission for Disabilities to seek support for drafting legislation and Weston Martin will speak with members of the Rhode Island Mental Health Counselors Association will do the same.

#### 5. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Terrance Giblin and seconded by Noelle Harris to adjourn to Closed Session at 10:30 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.

#### 6. Motion to return to Open Session

Motion was made by Terrance Giblin and seconded by Joseph Costa at 11:55 AM 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.

#### 7. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Session

- The board reviewed 6 applications for licensure. They approved 4 and denied 2 applications.

8. Adjournment

The next Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists meeting will be held February 12, 2016 at the Rhode Island Department of Health, Conference Room 104, 3 Capitol Hill, Providence, RI 02908. Motion was made by Noelle Harris and seconded by Joseph Costa to adjourn at 11:57AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Arlene Hartwell  
Board Manager  
Office of Health Professionals Regulation