

DIVISION OF CUSTOMER SERVICES
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, May 13, 2016
10:00 AM

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

BOARD MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Terrance Giblin, MFT, MHC – Board Chairperson
Noelle Harris, MHC
Elizabeth Johnson, MFT
James Pinel, MHC

BOARD MEMBERS NOT IN ATTENDANCE

Dale Blumen, MFT
Joseph Costa, Public Member

STAFF MEMBERS IN ATTENDANCE

Arlene Hartwell, Board Manager
Alana Rodriguez, Board Manager

OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE

Dr. Judith Drew, Salve Regina University

1. Establishment of a quorum

A meeting of the Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists was held on Friday, May 13, 2016 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 10:16 AM on a motion by Elizabeth Johnson and seconded by Ronald Mancini. Motion carried.

2. Presentation of the February 12, 2016 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion was made by James Pinel and seconded by Elizabeth Johnson to accept the Open Session minutes of February 12, 2016. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Open Session minutes as presented. Motion carried.

3. Board Manager Report

- Introductions
 - Sarah Harrigan was not able to attend the meeting
 - Alana Rodriguez was introduced as the newly appointed Board Manager for this board.

4. Old Business

- Rules and regulations for licensure
 - i. Judith Drew informed the board that the Governor's Commission on Disabilities is willing to support legislation relating to language changes needed to amend the regulations.
 - 1. Noelle Harris expressed frustration for unclear communication from numerous legal counsel, administrators, and board managers regarding the procedure for amending regulations and statutes.

- a. Arlene Hartwell explained that the department is part of the executive branch of government and that these changes may not be a priority at this time.
- b. Terrance Giblin explained that in order to move legislation forward, stakeholders must be involved because they have money to pay lobbyists.
 - i. Noelle Harris countered that she does not understand why the Department of Health does not forward the legislation if statutory changes are needed so that the regulations can be amended to meet the standards of practice. Noelle expressed concern that the board has worked long and hard to amend the regulations and she is worried that having outside influences could result other changes not recommended by the board.
 - ii. Terrance Giblin commented that a representative from the Association of Marriage and Family Therapy and the RI Mental Health Counselors Association used to attend board meetings so the board may want to invite them to the open meetings.
 - iii. Ron Mancini offered that the National Board of Certified Counselors may have a representative for support.
 - iv. Judith Drew will review the recommendations and work with the Governor's Commission on Disabilities and move legislation forward independently of the board.

5. New Business

- Teletherapy
 - i. The board reviewed The American Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards Teletherapy Committees' draft of guidelines request for feedback letter. On a motion by Terrance Giblin, seconded by James Pinel, the board voted unanimously that feedback will be provided on an individual basis.

6. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by Noelle Harris and seconded by James Pinel to adjourn to Closed Session at 11:05 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.

7. Motion to return to Open Session

Motion was made by Ronald Mancini and seconded by Terrance Giblin at 11:43 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.

8. Motion to adjourn to Closed Session

Motion was made by James Pinel and seconded by Ronald Mancini to adjourn to Closed Session at 11:48 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.

9. Motion to return to Open Session

Motion was made by Elizabeth Johnson and seconded by Terrance Giblin at 11:48 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.

10. Final Actions on all votes taken in Closed Sessions

- The board reviewed and approved 2 and denied 1 application; and proposed action on 1 case.

11. Adjournment

The next Board of Mental Health Counselors and Marriage and Family Therapists meeting will be held September 16, 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 James Pinel to adjourn at 11:58 AM. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,



Arlene Hartwell
Board Manager
Center for Professional Boards and Commissions