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South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Examiners for Licensure of
Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family
Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists



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Minutes of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of
Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists

Regular Board Meeting and Presentation

February 3, 2009

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 105
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Board members present were:

Pamela G. Clark, PhD, Secretary-Treasurer, Chairperson, LMFT Standards
Committee
David L. Evans, Jr., M.A., Chairperson, LPES Standards Committee
Jackie H. Fleshman, Public Member
Linda E. Womack, Public Member

Board members excused Absences:

Tanya A. Williams, M.Ed., President, Chairperson LPC Standards Committee
Danny L. Garnett, D. Min., Vice President
M. Ellenor Mahon, M.Ed., Chairperson, Continuing Education Committee

Also present were:

Yari Alexander, LLR Investigator
Kate K. Cox, Board Administrator
Susan F. Harrington, Board Administrative Assistant
Elva M. (Sandy) Hyre, MSN, RN, SCDMH
Kathy Meadows, LLR Office of Investigations
Magdalene W. Moton, Recorder
Kathleen H. Robbins, PhD, LPC
Tobias Schreiber, LPC, SCDMH

BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Clark stated that Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the office of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 105, at 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. Secretary-Treasurer Clark called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. It was noted that a quorum was present. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

The Board reviewed the agenda for the meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Womack to approve the agenda for the meeting. Ms. Fleshman seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 18, 2008 meeting.

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Evans to accept the minutes of the last meeting as printed. Ms. Womack seconded the motion. The motion carried.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:

IRC Report

Kathy Meadows, Office of Investigations and Enforcement, presented the January 27, 2009 and February 2, 2009 Investigative Review Committee's (IRC) reports concerning disciplinary matters. The IRC report included four (4) Dismissals; one (1) Administratively Closed and Flagged, and one (1) Letter of Caution. There was no discussion.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Fleshman to accept the January 27, 2009 and February 2, 2009 IRC recommendations. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PRESENTATION BY THE SOUTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF MENTAL HEALTH:

Ms. Hyre and Mr. Schreiber made a presentation before the Board regarding a request for licensed supervision by Licensed Professional Counselor - Supervisors to be approved by using telemedicine/video-conferencing equipment in certain agencies. They stated that the equipment has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid. The Board listened to the request and asked appropriate questions.

Motion: A motion was made to allow approved (licensed) supervisors of this Board to provide supervision through the SC Department of Mental Health (SCDMH), SC Department of Health and Environmental Control (SCDHEC), SC Department of Health and Human Services (SCDHHS), and other state agencies by using telemedicine/video-conferencing equipment. This motion also provides that these above mentioned agencies will abide by the Board's **Regulations 36-01 (1), 36-22, and 36-23** in providing approved (licensed) supervision. In addition, this motion provides, as presented to the Board, the use of this telemedicine/video-conferencing equipment has been approved by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid (CMS). The motion was seconded and passed.

REPORTS/INFORMATION:

Administrative Information:

Mrs. Cox reported to the Board the licensure total of all licensees to be 2573. She noted LLR's new Office of Licensure and Compliance (OL&C) which conducts renewal processes and assist in continuing education audits has begun to function. She reported LLR is continuing to seek more electronic means for initial licensure and some functions of initial licensure will become more standardized under OL&C. She noted individual boards may not begin or may not complete all phases of licensure in the future. Mrs. Cox reported that LLR's meeting rooms have now been redesigned for the future purpose of videoing Board meetings.

Mrs. Cox reminded the Board of the mailing concerning the Economic Interest Statements that are due on or before April 15, 2009. She stated if anyone needs a paper form that she will provide one.

License Renewal:

As a continued reminder, Mrs. Cox reported that biennial renewals will be due on or before August 31, 2009 and will be handled through LLR's new Office of Licensure and Compliance. She stated licensees will have the opportunity to renew their licenses twenty-four (24) hours a day on any day of the week. This was reported to be the third cycle that has been an on-line renewal. The new unit will print the forms and mail renewal notifications, manage the on line web site, handle on-line renewals, manage paper renewal requests and late renewals, deposit all funds, and do the random audit selection. The new unit will answer renewal questions and handle any on-line problems.

Budgets and Technology:

Mrs. Cox reported that due to budget constraints all monetary saving plans will be implemented and more technology will be looked into and used. She reported work groups will be developed as needed. She stated that with the increased demand for technology that the Board's use of emails has proven to be cost and time saving, as well as the use of the web site.

Treasurer's Report:

Mrs. Cox reminded the Board that financial information is available upon request. She reported the Board is financially sound and has had no audit exceptions reported. She stated that the financial reports regarding the Board are kept in the LLR Finance Department and monthly statements are also maintained in the Board's office.

AASCB REPORT:

Mrs. Cox gave the report on the AASCB 22nd Annual Meeting & Conference was held January 7 - 10, 2009 which focused on member boards needs as regulators of counselor licensure for varied information that would assist them in their core responsibilities. She stated Tanya Williams, Board President, attended with her in Tucson, AZ. She reported the focus areas were working with investigators, conducting disciplinary processes, roles of board members, and hearing topics of on latest information in the counselor field. She said some of the topics included were testing practices, accreditation standards, and counselor supervisory liability. Mrs. Cox said there was an Administrator's Form and a meeting for new board members who were attending for the first time.

LEGAL ISSUES:

There were no legal issues brought before the Board.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

The Board tabled Unfinished Business until the June meeting of the Board.

NEW BUSINESS:

The Board tabled New Business until the June meeting of the Board.

DISCUSSION TOPICS:

Dr. Clark discussed the current job market for licensed interns and the reimbursement issues for them. She pointed out that many agencies that were non profit and provided supervision are not hiring unlicensed

persons or interns due to this reimbursement issue. The Board agreed that this is becoming a professional training issue.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dr. Robbins addressed the Board again regarding a mailing she would still like to be sent to all licensees to announce that the Board's web site is the primary source of information; she commented again on the LLR web page design and placement of topics; she commented again on the Frequently Asked Questions on the web; and she again asked if the renewal letters could be mailed three months in advance of the renewal period. The Board replied that a letter is not going to be sent concerning the use of the web as they felt it was unnecessary and expensive. The Board replied that the time for renewal notifications to be mailed will not be recommended to be three months and stated a new division in LLR will now handle renewals. The Board commented that the web site is in the same design format as all boards at LLR. Ms. Cox asked Dr. Robbins to send in the renewal and continuing education information that Dr. Robbins would like to see gathered into one place on the web for her to review, Mrs. Cox reminded the Board that there is a Board News item on the Board's home page which is very informative for topical issues such as upcoming renewals.

REPORTS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

Secretary Treasurer Clark called for the ratification of the electronic reports of the Standards Committees and Continuing Education Committee beginning on November 19, 2008 through February 3, 2009. It was reported that the records are electronically maintained and can be for categories:

Recommended for Licensure as a Professional Counselor Intern:
Recommended for Extension of LPC Intern Licensure Status for 2 years:
Recommended for Transfer from LPC-Intern to Professional Counselor:
Recommended for Licensure as a Professional Counselor by Endorsement:
Recommended for Licensure as Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor:

Recommended for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern:
Recommended for an Extension of LMFT Intern Licensure Status for 2 years:
Recommended for Transfer from LMFT/Intern to LMFT:
Recommended for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist by Endorsement:
Recommended for Licensure as Marriage and Family Supervisor (LMFT/S):

Recommended for Licensure as Licensed Psycho-Educational Specialist:
Recommended for Licensure as a Licensed Psycho-Educational Specialist by Endorsement:

Recommended for Reinstatement of Licensure or Re-application (all license types):
One-Time Continuing Education Providership: and
Permanent Continuing Education Providership:

Motion: A motion was made by Mr. Evans to ratify the reports. The motion was seconded by Ms. Womack. The motion passed.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

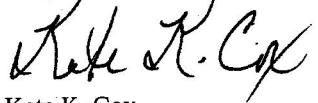
It was announced the next meetings of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists will be held on June 2, 2009 and on October 6, 2009.

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ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kate K. Cox". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kate K. Cox
Administrator