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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 Motion Hearings for Licensees
June 3, 2014
Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 108
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Board members present were:

Danny L. Garnett, LMFT, LPC, D.Min.-President
H. Ellenor Mahon, M. Ed.
Ronald H. Reames, M.A.
Samer G. Touma, Ph. D.

Board members absent were: None

Also present were:

Patricia Glenn, LLR Administrator
Susan Harrington, Board Administrative Assistant
David Love, LLR Investigator – OIE
Melina Mann, LLR General Counsel
Phillip Fluor, LLR Investigator – OIE
Mary League, LLR Advice Attorney

BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

President Garnett 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 108, 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. President Garnett called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. It was noted that a quorum was present. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

NOTE: These Minutes are a record of the motions and official actions taken by the Board and a brief summary of the meeting.

AGENDA and APPROVAL OF MINUTES 9:10 a.m.

Motion: A motion was made by Dr. Touma to approve the June 3, 2014 Agenda and the October 8, 2013 and January 22, 2014 Minutes. Mr. Reames seconded the motion. The motion carried.

PRESIDENT’S REMARKS 9:12 A.M.:

President Garnett praised board member David Evans, LPES who passed away in January 2014 who had served on the board for 14 years. He discussed issues which will be addressed at the NBCC meeting in August, 2014 which he and Ms. Glenn, Administrator plan to attend. Topics will include educating

licensees regarding proper usage of technology and social media, ecounseling and how to navigate the world of technology.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS:

On a motion from Ms. Mahon , seconded by Mr. Reames, the board voted to elect Danny Garnett, LMFT/LPC as President and Samer Touma, LPC as Vice-President.

DISCIPLINARY MATTERS:

IRC Report 9:15 a.m.:

David Love, Investigator from Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE), presented the Investigative Review Committee's (IRC) reports concerning disciplinary matters.

Motion: A motion was made by Ms. Mahon to accept the IRC recommendations for Dismissal of cases 2013-11, 2013-17, 2013-20; for Authorization of Formal Complaints for 2013-16, 2013-18, for Dismissal with Letter of Caution for cases 2013-5 & 2013-22;for Cease & Desist, 2014-4. Dr. Touma seconded the motion. The motion carried.

David Love, Chief Investigator with OIE gave the statistical report from the Office of Investigation and Enforcement cases. The Board accepted this as information.

Melina Mann, LLR General Counsel gave the statistical report from the Office of General Counsel's (OGC) cases. The Board accepted this as information.

ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION AND FINANCIAL REPORT:

Patti Glenn gave the Administrative Report and the Financial Report of the Board. She gave statistical reports as handouts regarding the name and number of newly licensed LPCs/LMFTs/LPES.. Mrs. Glenn noted the OIE, OGC reports and other licensure information.

She discussed the up-coming national meetings of interest:

NBCC- Annual meeting will be held August, 2014.

AMFTRB- Annual meeting will be held Oct., 2014

REPORTS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:

President Garnett called for the ratification of the electronic reports of the Standards Committees and Continuing Education Committee beginning on October 8, 2013 through June,3, 2014. It was reported that the records are electronically maintained for the following 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);

Approval of One-Time Continuing Education Providership;
Approval of Permanent Continuing Education Providership

Motion: A motion was made by to ratify the reports by Ms. Mahon and seconded by Mr. Reames. The motion passed.

PROCEDURE FOR EXPUNGEMENT:

The Board may adopt procedures to expunge a Public Reprimand of a licensee.

Executive Session: Ms. Mahon made the motion to go into Executive Session for legal advice. Mr. Reames seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session: Dr. Touma made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Ms. Mahon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On a motion from Dr. Touma, seconded by Ms. Mahon the Board voted to hold a special call meeting to consider and adopt an Expungement Policy/Procedures.

APPEARANCES:

OIE #2011-24 1. Licensee made a motion for early termination of probationary period per the Consent Agreement. 2. Licensee requested Expungement of Order.

Executive Session: Dr. Touma made the motion to go into Executive Session for legal advice. Mr. Reames seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session: Dr. Touma made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Mr. Reames seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On a motion from Dr. Touma, seconded by Mr. Reames the Board voted to grant early termination from the probationary period.

The Board voted that to grant expungement is premature noting the need for a court order signed by a Judge. Also the Board does not have a policy/procedures for expungement at this point but will adopt procedures/policy for expungement at a special call meeting. The motion carried.

HEARINGS:

OIE#2012-10- Memorandum of Agreement -

Melina Mann, LLR General Counsel presented a Memorandum of Agreement signed and agreed to by respondent. The licensee was represented by Steve Henry, Esquire. Mr. Reames recused himself from hearing and vote.

On a motion from Dr. Touma, seconded by Ms. Mahon, the Board voted to accept the MOA and issued a Public Reprimand with sanctions to Sara Hammond, LPC. Sanctions included a board approved course in ethics and boundary issues to be taken within a year. The motion carried.

OIE#2013-08- Memorandum of Agreement -

Melina Mann, LLR General Counsel presented a Memorandum of Agreement signed and agreed to by respondent. The licensee was represented by Harvey Watson, Esquire.

Executive Session: Dr. Touma made the motion to go into Executive Session for legal advice. Mr. Reames seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Executive Session: Dr. Touma made the motion to come out of Executive Session. Ms. Mahon seconded the motion. The motion carried.

On a motion from Mr. Reames, seconded by Dr. Touma, the Board voted to accept the MOA and issued a Public Reprimand to Melissa Todd, LPC. Ms. Todd's license is to remain under suspension, and she shall

fulfill additional conditions for reconsideration of reinstatement of her licensure known to the Board and to appear before the Board at the next meeting October 7, 2014 to again be considered for reinstatement of her license at the April 2015 board meeting.. The motion carried.

OIE#2012-27- Consent Agreement-

Melina Mann, LLR General Counsel presented a Consent Agreement signed and agreed to by respondent, Melissa Mithcell-Blicht, LPC for a public reprimand, 2 year suspension.(stayed) with a 2 year probationary period, during which she must pay a monetary penalty of \$1000, must attend a board approved professional ethics course on boundaries and dual relationships, etc.

On a motion from Dr. Touma, seconded by Ms Mahon the Board voted to accept the Consent Agreement. The motion carried.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

It was announced the next meeting of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists will be Oct.7, 2014 in Room 105.

ADJOURNMENT:

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 2:00 PM. on a motion from Dr.Touma and seconded by Mr. Reames. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,



Administrator
Patricia F. Glenn