

WEST VIRGINIA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN COUNSELING
Minutes
October 22, 2010

TIME & PLACE: The West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling met October 22, 2010 at Marshall University Graduate College.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deb Frost, Chair
Dr. Chris Schimmel, Secretary
Beth Wright-Bragg
Dr. Marilyn Cassis
Frank Hartman

OTHERS PRESENT: Jean Ann Johnson, Executive Director
Roxanne Clay, Administrative
Carol-Mitchell Smith, MU Professor
Lori Ellison, MU Professor

QUOROM ESTABLISHED: Meeting called to order at 10:45am. A quorum was established.

BOARD MINUTES: Minutes from September 1, 2010 were reviewed. Motion made to accept September 1, 2010 minutes. M/S/P (Hartman/Cassis)

P-CARD REPORT: P-card reports were reviewed and accepted by Bragg. M/S/P (Bragg/Cassis)

CREDENTIALING: The Credentialing committee recommended the following Applicant(s) for licensure:

James Patrick Ward – MFT
Susanne Rue Erickson – LPC
(M/S/P) (Bragg/Cassis)

DISTANCE COUNSELING: Committee reviewing the issue of distance counseling made a full report to the board. The committee met several times in attempt to reach some consensus on how to handle the issue of distance counseling. Recommendations were submitted. One recommendation was to issue an “advisory opinion” regarding this issue. A second recommendation was to enact legislation by inserting a definition in code.

The board engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the topic. A decision was made to adopt and post the recommended advisory opinion with definition as follows:

The West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling (“The Board”) hereby issues the following advisory opinion regarding the practice of distance counseling:

Under the provisions of *W.Va. Code § 30-31-1*, it is unlawful for any person to practice or offer to practice professional counseling or marriage and family therapy in this state without a license. Be advised, it is the opinion of the Board that the requirements of *W.Va. Code § 30-31-1*, and all other rules and regulations governing the practice of professional counseling or marriage and family therapy, shall be applicable to the practice of distance counseling and shall expressly apply to any person providing distance counseling, as defined herein, to a person who resides, or is domiciled, in the State of West Virginia.

Distance counseling is defined as any counseling, including marriage and family therapy that is provided by any means other than direct in person services and is facilitated by the use of technology including, but not limited to, U.S. mail, telephone, telefax, email, internet or videoconference.

M/S/P (Schimmel/Bragg)

BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

Bob Masson has assumed a position in FL would like to be resign from the Board. A name has been submitted for consideration and is now in the Governor’s office. ED Jean Ann Johnson has requested that the office move as quickly as possible due to our complaint process.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S REPORT:

Financial reports were reviewed. Current balance is \$27,813.99 as of October 21, 2010. This is a low balance and the budget will have to be watched very closely as our budget requires between 8,000 and 10,000 a month. Chris, Jean Ann, Roxanne will speak at WVCA conference in Flatwoods the first week in November. The focus of the discussion will be on the 2015 requirements and the new renewal regulations.

2015 REQUIREMENT: A new document will be posted on the website outlining the new 2015 requirements. The question was raised what to do with LPC's who do meet the requirements by the due date. A recommendation was made to identify those folks who may be in danger of lacking the number of hours and sending them a letter sometime early next spring. Otherwise, on July 1, 2015, those folks who are out of compliance will be held to the same consequences and requirements of the existing renewal process.

MEETINGS FOR 2011: The following dates were established for 2011 meetings:
February 25, 2011
June 10, 2011
October 21, 2011

ENTER EXECUTIVE SESSION: Entered executive session 12:52pm.

Case #02-10: Case was set to go to hearing at today's meeting. In lieu of the hearing, the Complainant indicated that she did not have the funds to comply and therefore has chosen to relinquish her license.

EXIT EXECUTIVE SESSION: Exited executive session 12:57pm.

ADJOURNED: Motion to adjourn 1:05pm M/S/P (Hartman/Schimmel)

Respectfully Submitted:

Dr. Christine J. Schimmel, Secretary