

**West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling Board Meeting**  
**July 12, 2013**  
**Meeting Called to order: 2:02 PM**

The WV Board of Examiners in Counseling held a telephone board meeting on July 12, 2013.

Board Members Present:        Deb Frost, Chair  
                                         Beth Wright-Bragg  
                                         Dr. Lori Ellison  
                                         Dr. Marilyn Cassis

Others Present:                    Jean Ann Johnson, Executive Director  
                                         Roxanne Clay, Program Director

Credentialing: The following persons were submitted for licensure:

Sarah DiSimone - Reciprocity MD  
Angela Stanley - Reciprocity OH  
JoAnn Marie Davis Frey - Reciprocity PA  
Kristen R. Stepanczuk - Reciprocity PA  
Jon L. Thomas - Reciprocity VA  
Stephanie Brooke Gustafson - Reciprocity from TN  
Wendy Beech - Reciprocity from OH  
Estebania Llado-Frazer - Reciprocity from PA  
MFT Reciprocity - Carol L. Yates - CA  
Jessica L. Williams  
Kerrie Harris  
Kacey Arnold  
Debra A. Law  
Franchon K. Francees

New ALPS-  
Kimberley Parsons  
Doris King  
James Patrick Ward, LPC & LMFT  
Marla Hull  
Wanda Riffe  
M/S/P (Bragg/Frost)

**Sunrise Proposal**

By Drug/Alcohol Org.    WVBEC is charged with protecting the public. West Virginia does not need another sub-specialty of counseling when a Licensed Professional Counselor, Licensed Psychologist and other existing professionals can and do provide addiction services in accordance with their licensure, training and skill base.

Lori Ellison PhD, LPC, ALPS, stated, "The problem with licensing all levels of preparation in addictions counseling is the confusion such designations causes those seeking help (WV citizens). I'm not certain that those in the

public, undergoing the stress and many issues accompanying their problems are going to be able differentiate between the two or three levels of license that this proposal suggests. Your average consumer will see the word licensed and assume the same level of preparation for all of them. A cursory look at various state codes regarding this particular specialization shows that there are precedents for bachelor's level and below being allowed recognition for the training they have received, however, such language to designate them most often does not include the word licensed unless the person has achieved a graduate degree".

The other Board members also added that the Drug and Alcohol specialization has the recognition of their training through their certification program. They can list their certification right after the existing appropriate master's level licensure is obtained. Master's level licensure insures a practitioner will have a well rounded base of graduate work with 3000 hours of supervision in preparation to meet the needs of the public, See Licensing Rule, Series 1; specialized training certification/certificates do not.

Dr. Ellison also stated, "Preparation programs to train individuals in Addictions Counseling are scarce in WV so it is unclear to me where these individuals will get their training. On the NAADAC website listing for training programs, Marshall University is the only program listed and this program is under moratorium for lack of numbers of students interested in taking courses. If those who are training to be licensed counselors and licensed marriage and family therapists already get training in the 12 core areas (evidence based practice in addiction studies), it is unclear to me why another license is necessary that only adds to the financial burden a practicing therapist in the field would need to bear when they already possess the necessary skills (and credentials) to perform the job satisfactorily.

Meeting Adjourned: 2:42 PM M/S/P (Ellison/Cassis)

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jean Ann Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

Respectfully submitted By Jean Ann Johnson