

**PROFESSIONAL COUNSELOR COMMITTEE MEETING  
PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

APRIL 1, 2004

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee was called to order at 9:38 a.m. by Committee Chair, J. Barry Mascari who read the notice of compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act.

**II. ROLL CALL**

Present:

Committee Chairman, J. Barry Mascari  
Committee Member Abbey F. Bradway  
Committee Member Jerry Cohen  
Committee Member Ronald A. Rossell  
Committee Member Edward D Stroh

Staff Present:

Executive Director Elaine L. DeMars  
Deputy Attorney General, Mileidy Perez  
Administrative Staff, Celeste Sweeper  
Administrative Staff, Theresa Harvey

**III. APPROVAL OF PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES**

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by Abbey Bradway, the minutes of March 4, 2004 were approved with corrections.

**IV. LEGISLATIVE/REGULATORY**

**A. S-1254**

Committee members have reviewed proposed legislation that provides for a second period of licensure based on credentials (grandfathering). DAG Perez reported that the bill has not moved since its February 24, 2004 introduction.

**B. A-1913**

The Committee has reviewed and discussed at length its position on this bill that proposes that a commission form that will study the operations of health-related boards within the Division of Consumer Affairs. It has been reported that as of March 22, 2004 this bill has passed 77 (in favor) to 2 (opposed) and has been referred to the Senate Commerce Committee.

**V. CORRESPONDENCE**

**A. Martin Mersereau**

The Committee reviewed a letter from Martin Mersereau, People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA). Mr Mersereau wrote to the Committee to inquire about whether a counselor is required to report a patient who engages in acts of animal cruelty. DAG Perez informed the Committee that animal cruelty is a disorderly persons offense or a crime of 3rd degree in New Jersey pursuant to N.J.S.A. 4:22-1.7 and that under the current code there is no mandatory requirement to report the cruelty to animals. On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by

Abbey Bradway, Elaine DeMars, Executive Director will respond to Mr. Mersereau, referencing the requirements for confidentiality between a licensed professional counselor or a licensed associate counselor and the person counseled pursuant to N.J.A.C. 13:34-18.5

#### B. Glenn Jacobs

The Committee reviewed a letter from Glenn Jacobs of State Farm Insurance Companies, in which Mr. Jacobs makes inquiry into whether a professional counselor is allowed to bill for psychological testing and therapy with interpretations and reports. On a motion by E. Stroh, seconded by J. Cohen, the Committee agreed that the use of the codes is appropriate, since there are no other codes that can be used. Counselors, however, must only practice in areas in which they have received the required training and supervision. The (CPT) codes are universally used by Licensed Clinical Social Workers, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psychologists.

#### C. Heino R. Erichsen, Los Ninos Children's International Adoption Center

Mr. Erichsen wrote to the Committee on behalf of "Los Ninos International Adoption Center" requesting clarification on whether a licensed professional counselor can conduct a homestudy for the purpose of an adoption matter. The Committee discussed the variables that must be considered, including the training of the licensee and the elements included/required in the homestudy. Additional information is necessary regarding the requirements of the agency that hired the licensee. On a motion by A. Bradway, seconded by R. Rossell, the Committee will refer Mr Erichsen to the Professional Counselor regulations outlining the scope of practice and refer the matter to the Board of Social Work Examiners.

### VI. OLD BUSINESS

#### A. Columbia-Pacific University

The Committee discussed the information provided:

1. Denial of Application: Council for Private Post-secondary and Vocational Education, State of California.
2. Permanent Injunction: Superior Court of California

This program began in 1978. California has permanently shut them down. This University had never received accreditation. It was noted that the school was never accredited. DAG Perez informed the Committee that Deputy Attorney General Asher Rubin (California) reported that Columbia Pacific University has not complied with the terms of the Injunction Order. The Committee will provide licensees with information regarding the use of degrees in the next newsletter.

### VII. NEW BUSINESS

#### A. IMO: Bennie Martin, LPC

This matter was moved to Executive Session for discussion.

#### B. Nancymarie Bride, Mental Health Association of Union County

The Committee reviewed Ms. Bride's report of inquiries and complaints regarding agency practice. On a motion by Abbey Bradway, seconded by Ronald Rossell, the Committee voted to respond in writing, informing her that the Committee is responsible for complaints that involve licensees. All complaints should be referred to the Committee. Information will be provided on the availability of licensee information on the Web site.

### VIII. PUBLIC COMMENT

Ethel Love, applicant for P.C. licensure, attended the public session. Ms. Love addressed the Committee to inquire about the application process and the status of her application for licensure. She was provided with information regarding the credential review process and informed that applicants are notified following the

Committee's review and determination.

## IX. NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Committee is May 6, 2004 at 9:30 a.m. at 124 Halsey Street, 6th Floor, Newark, New Jersey.

## X. EXECUTIVE SESSION

On a motion by Ronald Rossell, seconded by A. Bradway, the Committee voted to go into Executive Session at 10:15 a.m.

## XI. CREDENTIAL REVIEW

On a motion by E. Stroh, seconded by J. Cohen, the Committee voted to approve the following applications:

### Professional Counselors

Patricia M. Carroll  
Jacqueline Bonilla  
Holly Ann Deschenes  
Tricia L. Elliott  
Steven P. Greco  
Prajakia S. Harsche  
Catherine M. Herb  
Kelly Knapp  
Gregory Koguc  
Ethel M. Love  
David A. Matheson  
Silvia L. Mazzula  
Francis L. Picone  
Meryl R. Pfeiffer  
Anne M. Piotrowski (Pallett)  
Ramona R. Rushefsky  
Lisa Ann Ryan  
Ernest Savaria  
Gabriele Schorb-Machado  
William F. Seifried  
Danielle M. Straffi  
Debra Strauss

### Associate Counselors

Linda S Feichter  
Kelly Garritano  
Urszula Kobylinska  
William S. Welty  
Kathleen Danaher

### Out -of-State

Janice Dugan

## XII. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by J. Cohen, seconded by E. Stroh, the meeting adjourned at 1:17 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Elaine L. DeMars  
Executive Director

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