

55 N.J.R. 76(b)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

Reporter

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Agency

LAW AND PUBLIC SAFETY > DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

Administrative Code Citation

N.J.A.C. 13:34-10.2 and 11.3

Text

Notice of Action on Petition for Rulemaking

Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners

Professional Counselor Examiners Committee

Petitioners: Daniela Damiani-Paternostro, MA, LAC, and Veronica O'Brien, MS, LAC.

Take notice that on October 10, 2022, the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners (Board) received a petition for rulemaking from the above-named petitioners requesting changes to the experience requirements for licensed professional counselors. A notice of receipt for petitioner Damiani-Paternostro was published on November 21, 2022. 54 N.J.R. 2158(a). A notice of receipt for petitioner Veronica O'Brien was published on November 21, 2022. 54 N.J.R. 2158(b). As the petitioners request the same changes and raise the same issues, the Board is addressing both petitions in one notice of action.

The petitioners request that the number of hours of supervised counseling experience required for a licensed associate

counselor to become a licensed professional counselor be reduced from 4,500 hours to 3,000 hours. In addition, the petitioners request that the number of hours that can count toward this experience requirement be increased from no more than 30 hours per week (and no more than 125 hours per month) to an unspecified higher amount. These changes would require amendments at N.J.A.C. 13:34-10.2 and 11.3. The petitioners also state that there is a backlog of applications with the Professional Counselor Examiners Committee (Committee) of the Board. The petitioners expressed support for the proposed interstate counseling compact and also concern that associate counselors would not benefit from the ability to practice in other states under the compact due to the 4,500-hour experience requirement to become fully licensed professional counselors.

The Chair of the Committee recommended that the Board refer the petitions to the Committee for further deliberation to give the Committee the opportunity to conduct a thorough review of the proposed regulatory changes. On November 10, 2022, the Board voted to accept the Chair's recommendation. On December 1, 2022, the Committee voted to affirm the recommendation of the Chair to refer the petitions to the Committee for further deliberation.

In accordance with the provisions at N.J.A.C. 1:30-4.2, a copy of this notice has been mailed to the petitioners, and the Executive Director will subsequently mail to the petitioners and file with the Office of Administrative Law, a notice of action on the petition.

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