

**Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists  
Minutes of April 26, 2013 Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 8:39 a.m. and adjourned at 2:56 p.m.

**Members Present:** Ryan Melton, LPC, Chair  
Elizabeth Hartshorn, LPC  
Lee Anne Wichmann, LMFT  
Suzan Turley, Public Member  
Julia Smith, LPC, Faculty  
Scott Christie, LMFT  
Ahjane Billingsley, Public Member

**Others Present:** Brian Johnson, Board Staff  
Lonnie Knotts, Board Staff  
Tony Lai, LPC  
Kelly Gabliks, AAG  
Opal Bontrager, DAS/SCS  
Doug Querin, LPC  
Lynne Nesbit, LPC

**PUBLIC SESSION**

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Ryan Melton called the meeting to order at 8:39 a.m. in the second floor large conference room of the Morrow Crane Building, 3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, Oregon.

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

Opal Bontrager, the accountant assigned to the Board from the Department of Administrative Services, presented the financial report.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA AND MINUTES**

Suzan Turley moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded a motion to approve the February 8, 2013 meeting minutes as submitted. The motion passed 6-0 with Suzan Turley abstaining.

**PDS WAIVERS**

Mr. Knotts summarized the waiver recommendations proposed for the professional disclosure statement (PDS) by the workgroup. The workgroup proposed the following changes: grant waivers when a counselor or therapist is providing crisis response; distribution may cause a safety issue; mandated clients; other paperwork that contains the information provided in the PDS; schools where clients are children; inpatient settings; and, acute settings. The Board requested that staff create a waiver form and criteria for the waiver. Staff to bring a sample group PDS to the next Board meeting. The Board would like staff to revise the sample PDS currently on the Board's.

**LATE INTERN REPORTS**

Mr. Knotts reviewed and summarized the workgroups recommendation for interns who submit their six-month report late. The initial recommendation from the workgroup was to levy a fine against the intern for late submission of a six-month report. The Board sent the issue back to the workgroup as the Board's legal counsel stated that any fine is discipline. The workgroup proposes the following appeal process:

- (1) There would be only one exception to the rules;
- (2) That the intern and the intern's supervisor submit a letter to the Board detailing the reasons for the late submission and the corrective action to ensure that no future report is late; and,
- (3) That the intern would lose one month of hours for every month the report is late.

The Board discussed the workgroup's recommendations. The Board would like staff to place instructions and reporting requirements on the website. Barbara Biedrzycki, a member of the work group, spoke to the Board and explained the work group's thinking regarding the recommendations. The Board took no action on this matter and asked staff to send a letter to the work group members thanking them for their efforts and ideas presented to the Board.

**BREAK: 10:08 a.m.**

**RECONVENED: 10:22 a.m.**

### **CURRENT LEGISLATION**

Mr. Knotts gave the Board a summary of the current legislation before the Oregon House and Senate.

### **DISTANCE SUPERVISION**

The Board reviewed Nila Epstein's comments regarding distance supervision. The Board would like to adopt the changes suggested in Ms. Epstein letter. Staff will bring the revised administrative rule to the next Board meeting. Staff will contact Ms. Epstein and thank her for the suggestions. The Board would like the clarification about the number of individuals and group supervision hours required after the first three months.

### **ACA REVISED CODE OF ETHICS**

The Board discussed the changes and additions to the ACA code of ethics. The Board would like staff to draft a letter to the American Counseling Association commending and supporting the changes they have made to their code of ethics.

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board convened in executive session at 10:47 a.m. to discuss complaints and investigations through authority provided in ORS 192.660(2) (h) and (k).

**BREAK: 11:37 a.m.**

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

The Board reconvened in executive session at 12 p.m. to discuss complaints and investigations through authority provided in ORS 192.660(2) (h) and (k).

### **PUBLIC SESSION**

The Board reconvened in public session at 1:32 p.m.

### **COMPLIANCE ISSUES**

The Board took the following actions on license applications and compliance cases:

**Case #2012-014** Elizabeth Hartshorn moved and Julia Smith seconded a motion to issue a final order by default. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved Case #2012-020** Julia Smith moved and Scott Christie seconded a motion to dismiss the complaint and issue a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

**Case #2012-049** Suzan Turley moved and Ahjane Billingsley seconded a motion to issue a notice of intent to impose discipline in the form of revocation of license and issuance of an emergency suspension. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved Case #2012-053** LeeAnne Wichmann moved and Julia Smith seconded a motion to dismiss the complaint and issue a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

**Case #2012-054** Scott Christie moved and Suzan Turley seconded a motion to issue a notice of intent to impose discipline in the form of revocation of registered internship and issuance of an emergency suspension. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved Case #2012-056** Elizabeth Hartshorn moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded a motion to dismiss the complaint. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved Case #2012-057** Julie Smith moved and Ahjane Billingsley seconded a motion to dismiss the complaint. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved Case #2012-063** Suzan Turley moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded a motion to dismiss the complaint. The motion passed unanimously.

**Resolved Case #2012-065** Julia Smith moved and Elizabeth Hartshorn seconded a motion to dismiss the complaint and issue a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff requested extensions for the investigations of the following cases due to heavy workload. **2012-055, 2012-058, 2012-059, 2012-060, 2012-061, 2012-064, 2013-01, 2013-02, 2013-03, 2013-04, 2013-05, and 2013-06.** Suzan Turley moved and Julia Smith seconded the motion to grant extensions for investigation. The motion passed unanimously.

### **SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

License applicant Liesl Geschke requests that the Board grant an exception to the rules and accept her graduate degree from the American Behavioral Studies Institute even though the graduate school is not regional or nationally accredited. Julia Smith moved and Suzan Turley seconded a motion to deny Ms. Geschke's request for an exception.

Tracy Gonzalez requests that the Board recognize her as a medical records company. Staff will send a letter to Ms. Gonzalez explaining that the Board is unable to offer legal advice.

Barbara Biedrzycki requested that the Board grant an exception allowing Ms. Biedrzycki's direct client contact hours for March 5, 2010 through August 31, 2010. Ms. Biedrzycki's hours were denied as her report was submitted after the deadline. Scott Christie moved and Julia Smith seconded a motion to grant Ms. Biedrzycki's request in part by subtracting the average of one month of hours from the total number of hours and granting Ms. Biedrzycki the remaining hours for the period. The motion passed unanimously.

Melissa Leehan requests that the Board grant an exception to the rules allowing for licensure by reciprocity even though her present license, in New Mexico, was granted by reciprocity. Elizabeth Hartshorn moved and Suzan Turley seconded a motion to deny Ms. Leehan's request for an exception. The Board would like Ms. Leehan to know that they are impressed with her credentials and certainly would like to license her, however the rules do not allow for Ms. Leehan to be granted licensure by reciprocity.

Marc Zola requests that the Board place him on the supervisor registry as an approved supervisor. Suzan Turley moved and Ahjane Billingsley. The motion passed 6-0 with Lee Anne Wichmann abstaining.

### **GRADUATE COUNSELING PROGRAMS CHANGES**

Pacific University is planning to end their graduate counseling program and going to a masters in psychology program. The University wanted to ensure that their last cohort, which starts in the Fall of 2013, would still meeting the licensure requirements. Northwest Christian University is revising their counseling program to bring it into alignment with other graduate programs. The NCU will follow CACERP standards during the revision.

The Board stated that as long as Pacific University and Northwest Christian University maintained the current criteria set forth by the Board, the schools' programs would remain Board approved.

### **RECIPROCITY WITH THE STATE OF TENNESSEE**

The State of Tennessee requests that the States of Oregon and Tennessee begin communication on creating reciprocity between the states. The Board directed staff to write a letter to Tennessee expressing interest in opening dialogue towards mutual reciprocity of licensure.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

The Board held the annual elections for Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board. Lee Anne Wichmann moved and Suzan Turley seconded the motion that Scott Christie be the Board Chair. The motion passed unanimously. Lee Anne Wichmann moved and Elizabeth Hartshorn seconded a motion that Ahjane Billingsley be the Board Vice-Chair. The motion passed unanimously.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Ryan Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:30 p.m.