

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS
OPEN SESSION MINUTES
January 20, 2017**

PRESENT

Dr. Carol Deel, LCMFT, LCPC, *Board Chair*
Ms. Susan Tangires, LCADC, LCPC, *Vice Chair*
Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens, LCPC, LCADC, *Secretary*
Dr. Lorraine Garcia, LCPC
Ms. Linda Allen-Benton, LCMFT
Ms. Risa Ganel, LCMFT
Dr. Aparna Ramaswamy, LCPC
Ms. Marcia Mityga, LCADC
Ms. Amanda Bechtel, LCPAT, LCPC
Ms. Meena Gupta, *Consumer Member*
Dr. Sara Carlton, *Consumer Member*

NON-BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Ms. Tracey DeShields, Executive Director
Ms. Frances Cipriotti, Executive Assistant
Mr. Ari Elbaum, Board Counsel
Ms. Anna Sullivan, Administrative Officer
Ms. Janice Isaac, Administrative Specialist

PUBLIC ATTENDEES

Ms. Kristen Neville, DHMH
Ms. Sharon Bloom, DHMH
Mr. Willie Harris, Lobbyist, AAMFT
Ms. Michelle Darling, BHA

MEETING

- 10:45 Dr. Carol Deel called the Open Session to order. The minutes from December 16, 2016 meeting were reviewed.
- 10:50 Dr. Lorraine Garcia made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Marcia Mityga to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried with one abstention from Dr. Aparna Ramaswamy.
- 10:52 Credential Committee Report – Dr. Lorraine Garcia
- 7 criminal background checks reviewed and approved for CSC, and 1 applicant needs to provide more information.
 - Total of 146 applications: 20 licenses/certifications issued in alcohol and drug, 15 alcohol and drug approved supervisors, 14 trainees approved, 17 LGP/LCP/LCM approved, 6 LCP approved supervisors, 4 LCMFT approved supervisors, 14 LCP/LCM were approved for exams.

10:52 Regulations and Legislative Committee report – Dr. Carol Deel and Ms. Tracey DeShields

- According to Dr. Deel, the Committee completed Chapter 14 and Chapter 15 is almost complete. There will be another Committee meeting and hopefully the review of Chapter 15 will be completed.
- Medication Assisted Training Workshop Update – Ms. Tracey DeShields – Ms. DeShields met with Ms. Michelle Darling of BHA (Behavior Health Administration) and discussed implementation of the new requirement. She noted that the continuing education regulations would have to be amended. A letter will be sent to alcohol and drug certificate and license holders and approved supervisors informing them of this new requirement. The required CEU's will have to be completed by January, 2019 for licensees and certificate holders renewing in 2017 and for those renewing in 2018 they would have to complete the training by 2020. This training would be required every 4 years or every other renewal cycle. BHA is okay with licensees and certificate holders taking the training in a variety of ways, in-person class, on-line webinars, or on-line courses. Ms. Darling said the BHA is working with Central East – ATTC to develop an in-person class and live webinars for this training.
- Ms. Susan Tangires said the Board will need to indicate the period of time in which the MAT training will be honored - - will those taking the MAT training before it is required be honored or should applicants wait until it's required before they take it. Ms. Tangires noted that it should be clear as to when the workshop is required and how will the Board track who is completing the workshop.
- Dr. Lorraine Garcia asked about the difference between a Pharmacology course and Medication Assisted Treatment and what is the expectation of the content. Ms. Michelle Darling noted that the MAT workshop focuses specifically on a particular type of opioid treatment and not on broad coverage of drugs and their implications which is covered in a pharmacology course.

11:10 Legislative Session – Ms. Tracey DeShields

- The Board is considering amending the Alcohol and Drug certification requirements through regulation instead of legislation. The issue is that applicants who were not required to have an internship for their degree are finding it difficult to fulfill the 6-credit internship requirement. One possible solution would be to increase the supervised experience for the two certifications. For CSC-AD, where experience is not required, a person who does not have an internship would have to show at least 1 year and 500 hours of experience. For the CAC-AD, where 1 year and 2000 hours is required, a person without an internship would have the supervised experience increase to 1 year 2500 hours instead of 1 year 2000 hours of experience. The Board would be given more information about this via email.
- Bills of Interest: The Board isn't required to take a position on these bills but should be aware.

- HB 63 – Health Care Practitioners – Cost Estimate Notice – Required: This bill would require health care providers informing patients about what their true out of pocket cost would be for service. This bill is already facing opposition.
- SB 135 – Crimes- Child Abuse and Neglect – Failure to Report: This bill would require an amendment to the criminal code and the Family Law article to have the failure to report child abuse and neglect be considered a misdemeanor with the penalty of a \$1,000 fine or up to 1 year imprisonment or both.
- Ms. Risa Ganel asked about the status of the Teletherapy Bill. According to public participant Willie Harris, Senator Resnick is consulting with organizations and will reintroduce this bill.

11:22 Update on Behavior Analysts – Ms. Tracey DeShields

- The Behavior Analysts bill is being published on this Board meeting day for the 30-day public comment.
- There are currently 287 LBA's.

11:27 Update on Renewal- Ms. Tracey DeShields

- So far, the renewal period is running smoothly.
- There are still people who have questions on if they are required to do a background check.
- Applicants have to call the Board when they have completed their background so that they are able to get into the portal by the 31st.
- Ms. Deshields suggested having the portal remain open until Friday since the 31st falls on a Tuesday.
- The Board will send a blast email to people who haven't renewed, reminding them that they must renew by January 31st.

11:30 Other Business – Ms. Tracey DeShields

- In February, the Board should be getting Chrome Books for meeting purposes in an effort to go paperless.
- The “Intranet for the Board” has been created and the Board members will soon receive an email as soon as the site is available. More information about the Intranet will be explained in the February Board meeting.

11:35 Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens asked about using the stipend that Board members get towards paying for renewal fees or possibly have a discount for renewal fees for Board members especially since some members are dually licensed and they have to renew every year instead of every 2 years. Dr. Deel noted that this would be an administrative decision. Ms. Susan Tangires

noted that it may not be feasible to have a discount or using the stipend for renewal fees because this is voluntary position and the money comes from the state.

Ms. Susan Tangires asked if the Board would consider having the time being on the Board count for CEU's if it was not possible to use their stipend or get a discount. Ms. Marcia Mityga noted that her experience as a Board member has helped her and she wished she would have had this experience earlier in her career.

Dr. Deel noted that she would have to consult with Board Counsel and the Ethics Board about the discount or using the stipend for fees, also if the CEU's would be considered category A or B.

Dr. Deel also noted that the CEU's would not benefit the consumer members of the Board.

11:45 After further discussion, Ms. Candice Richardson-Dickens made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Marcia Mityga to pursue the idea of getting CEU credits for participation on the Board and that the regulation and legislation committee would present a proposal after consulting with Board Counsel and the Ethics Board. The motion carried unanimously.

11:47 Open Session Adjourned.