

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS  
OPEN SESSION MINUTES  
November 18, 2016**

**PRESENT**

Dr. Carol Deel, LCMFT, LCPC, *Board Chair*  
Ms. Susan Tangires, LCADC, LCPC, *Vice Chair*  
Ms. Linda Allen-Benton, LCMFT  
Ms. Risa Ganel, LCMFT  
Ms. Aparna Ramaswamy, LCPC  
Ms. Anna deJong, LCPC, LCADC  
Ms. Marcia Mityga, LCADC  
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  
Mr. Edward Fox, Board Investigator  
Ms. Anna Sullivan, Administrative Officer  
Ms. Janice Isaac, Administrative Specialist  
Ms. Tawana Brown, Administrative Specialist

**PUBLIC ATTENDEES**

Ms. Kristen Neville, Boards and Commissions  
Ms. Sharon Bloom, DHMH  
Mr. Willie Harris, Lobbyist, AAMFT  
Mr. Howard Ashkin, MATOD and Medmark  
Mr. Brandon Wright, DHMH

**MEETING**

- 10:50 Dr. Carol Deel called the Open Session to order. The minutes from October 21, 2016 meeting were reviewed.
- 10:55 Ms. Susan Tangires made a motion that was seconded by Ms. Risa Ganel to accept the minutes as presented. The motion carried with two abstentions from Ms. Marcia Mityga and Dr. Sara Carlton.
- 10:57 Credential Committee Report – Dr. Carol Deel
- Total of 123 applications came in since the last Board meeting.
  - 15 Alcohol and Drug, 10 Alcohol and Drug Trainees, 93 Professional Counselors and Marriage and Family. No Art Therapy applications and 5 Behavior Analyst applications.

11:00 Regulations and Legislative Committee report – Dr. Carol Deel

- According to Dr. Deel, the Committee is currently working on Chapter 14 of 15. There will be another meeting on December 2, 2016. There will also be another meeting prior to the December Board meeting. Dr. Deel expects to have the regulations completed by the end of the year.

11:02 Discussion of the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) proposal presented by Michelle Darling of the Behavioral Health Administration (BHA):

- The Board discussed if they should accept the recommendation to require a 4 CEU web based seminar on Medical Assisted Treatment as a required CEU workshop for all licensees every 2 years.
- Ms. Risa Ganel – suggested adding Ethics as a required CEU before considering this workshop for as requirement for everyone.
- Ms. Susan Tangires suggested that this workshop is especially important for Alcohol and Drug certified and licensed counselors and approved supervisors. Also, the workshop shouldn't be every two years but at least every 4 to 6 years.

*11:10 Discussion temporarily tabled for NAADAC presentation*

11:12 NAADAC Presentation – via Webinar – Cynthia Moreno Touhy presented information about the NAADAC organization, the credentials they provide, and the exams they offer.

- According to Ms. Touhy, NADAAC offers the National Certified Addiction Counselor I and II. Counselor I level requires at least 270 hours of education and training in alcohol and drug addiction and at least 3 years or 6,000 hours of supervised experience. Counselor II level requires at least a Bachelor's degree and 450 hours of education and training that includes at least 6 hours in ethics. The applicant must also have at least 5 years or 10,000 hours of supervised experience.
- The MAC (Master Addiction Counselor) credential requires a Master's degree with a minimum of 3 years or 6,000 hours of supervised experience as an alcohol and drug counselor with at least 2 years of that experience post Masters degree.
- Each credential requires an applicant to have state certification in addictions counseling. Ms. Touhy noted that if an applicant achieves state certification, they do not have to retake the exams if they want national certification through NAADAC.
- NAADAC also offers Peer Recovery Specialists credential, Nicotine Dependent Specialists, and Adolescent Specialist Credential.

- 11:32 Ms. Tracey DeShields noted that the purpose of the presentation was to have the Board consider NAADAC to administer the national exams for alcohol and drug certification in addition to already administering the exam for alcohol and drug licensure.
- 11:40 After some discussion by the Board, Ms. Susan Tangires made the motion that was seconded by Ms. Anna deJong to accept the NAADAC examinations for all levels of alcohol and drug certification and licensure on the condition that there would be a transitional period. The motion carried unanimously. Ms. Tracey DeShields noted that there will be a transitional period before the new exam will take effect.
- 11:42 Discussion resumed about considering requiring the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) workshop for either all licensees are only alcohol and drug certificate, and license holders and approved supervisors.
- 12:05 After further discussion, Ms. Susan Tangires made the motion that was seconded by Dr. Sarah Carlton to make the Methadone Assisted Treatment workshop a requirement for all licensees and certificate holders under the Board. The motion failed with 1 approved, 4 opposed, and 2 abstentions.
- 12:07 Ms. Susan Tangires made a new motion that was seconded by Ms. Anna deJong to have the MAT workshop required only for the alcohol and drug certificate holders, licensees, and approved supervisors every 4 years. The motion carried with 1 abstention.
- 12:10 Update on Behavior Analysts
- There regulations have been submitted for publication in the Maryland Registry and will be submitted for the 30-day public comment.
  - There are currently 276 LBA and there are a few pending applications.
- 12:00 Renewal – Ms. Tracey DeShields
- The renewal process is running smoothly. This will be the first renewal where people who did the background check during the last renewal do not have to do it again for another 6 years.
  - This is also the first time where applicants can only renew with a credit card and not a check and there is no resistance so far.
- 12:10 Law Test – Ms. Tracey DeShields
- Ms. DeShields is still working with NBCC to have them take over the administration of the law exam.

- As noted last meeting, space has been an issue. Should NBCC take over the administration of the law exam, it would be conducted the first two weeks of the month, and applicants would know their unofficial scores at the end of the test and the test would be administered at a testing center via computer.

12:15 Open Session Adjourned.