

**TENNESSEE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND
CLINICAL PASTORAL THERAPISTS MINUTES**

DATE: December 4, 2015
TIME: 9:00 a.m.
LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Poplar Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Susan Hammonds-White, Ed.D. LPC, President
Howard Nelson, Ph.D., LPC, LPCT
Kimberly Speakman, LPC
Bradley Bull, Ph.D., LMFT

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Stephen Caldwell, M.Div., Citizen Member

STAFF PRESENT:

Teddy Wilkins, Unit Director
James Hill, Board Administrator
Todd Pinckley, Advisory Attorney

Dr. Hammonds-White called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m. A roll call vote was conducted and a quorum was present.

Minutes

Upon review of the September 4, 2015 minutes, Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bull, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Office of General Counsel

Mr. Pinckley said the fee change rules were approved by the Attorney General's Office and signed by General Slatery and the rules become effective December 10, 2015.

Mr. Pinckley stated that OGC has been monitoring the North Carolina Dental Board Examiners vs. the FTC Supreme Court case in which non-dentists entered the teeth whitening market place in 2000 with a substantially reduced cost to its customers. The Dental Board Examiners issued cease and desist letters to kiosk teeth whitening companies in shopping malls who then contacted the FTC. The FTC ruled it was an anti-trust case behavior by a group of dentists trying to exclude the companies from the profession. The Supreme Court agreed with the FTC.

Mr. Pinckley said it would not affect disciplinary decisions or prevent the Board from investigating a non-licensed person for violations of the practice act provided there is statutory and regulatory authority.

Ms. Wilkins said when the decision came down it appeared it would not have an effect on any Board in Tennessee; however, there has been a lawsuit filed against the Council for Licensing Hearing Instrument Specialists and some of the allegations were part of that lawsuit and pertains to testing.

Ms. Wilkins stated the Marital and Family Therapists and Clinical Pastoral Therapists rules contain information regarding an oral examination, which hasn't been given to applicants in years, and suggested the Board amend their rules to eliminate the examination or outsource the exam if the Board thinks one is necessary.

Mr. Pinckley said that any anti-competitive action the Board takes could lead to a potential lawsuit.

Office of Investigations

Ms. Dorroh stated there are twelve (12) complaints against LPC's, five (5) complaints against LMFT's, one (1) complaint against a CPC and one (1) complaint against a LCPT.

Ms. Dorroh said a review of the complaints is scheduled for next week.

Ms. Dorroh said they are currently monitoring one (1) practitioner.

Dr. Bull asked how OGC handles cases where there are no witnesses and is a case of he said/she said?

Ms. Dorroh stated that all complaints are reviewed by the Board consultant and attorney who make the initial determination if the complaint is a violation of the practice act.

Dr. Bull said he was witness to something grotesque which he relayed to Investigations via phone and after receiving no response contacted the victim who stated he did receive a letter stating the perpetrator received a warning.

Ms. Dorroh said if the person received a letter of warning, it was determined that it did not meet the criteria for a violation of the practice act.

Dr. Bull said if a school's Admission Board tells a candidate he has a great future in counseling and, after the student leaves the room, states the person will never graduate. Dr. Bull stated this is a breach of ethics in the field and needs to be publically addressed and stopped.

Dr. Hammonds-White asked if there was a grievance procedure which the complainant could take if they were not satisfied with the decision.

Ms. Dorroh stated it depended on what the issue was and that the complainant could file a lawsuit.

Consent Order

Mr. Pinckley presented a Consent Order to the Board for **Robert Earl Buxton, Jr.** for having a dual relationship with a patient that exceeded professional boundaries.

Mr. Buxton agreed to the Consent Order which suspends his license effective today; undergo an evaluation with the Tennessee Colleagues Assistance Fund (“TCAF”); and, upon following the recommendations of the evaluation, placing his license on probation. Mr. Buxton further agreed to enter into a monitoring agreement with TCAF, if required, for no less than three (3) years in duration.

The Board reviewed correspondence from Dukens Eliacin requesting that the Board acknowledge completion of the requirements in his Consent Order which revoked his temporary Marital and Family Therapy license; required him to obtain therapy; and, take a course in doctoral professional and legal ethics. Mr. Eliacin stated he is pursuing licensure in Florida where he now presides and is not seeking licensure in Tennessee.

Dr. Bull asked to be recused from the matter and left the meeting room.

Mr. Pinckley suggested that the Board send a letter to Florida stating that Mr. Eliacin has completed his probation and include in the letter that there is nothing indicating he has learned anything from the incident and the therapy he received.

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to send a letter to Florida stating that Mr. Eliacin has fulfilled the conditions of his order and include that reservations still exist as to whether or not he would be fit to practice in the state of Florida and submit documentation from his therapist and course information with the letter. The motion carried.

Agreed Citations

Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Speakman, to approve the Agreed Citation for **Annabel Lee Agee, LPC**, who failed to obtain continuing education hours for the 2013/2014 audit. The motion carried.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Ms. Speakman, to approve the Agreed Citation for **Stacey Lanier, LPC**, who failed to obtain continuing education hours for the 2013/2014 audit. The motion carried.

Administrative Report

Mr. Hill reviewed the Administrative Report stating there are 1858 Licensed Professional Counselors, 1603 Licensed Professional Counselors with Mental Health Service Provider designation and forty-three (43) Licensed Professional Counselors as approved supervisors.

Mr. Hill said there are twenty-two (22) Certified Professional Counselors; seven (7) Certified Marital and Family Therapists; twenty-five (25) Licensed Clinical Pastoral Therapists; and five hundred and eleven (511) Licensed Marital and Family Therapists.

Mr. Hill stated that of the 170 LPC's who renewed their licenses since the September 2015 meeting, 106 renewed on-line for a rate of 62%.

Mr. Hill stated that of the thirty-seven (37) LMFT's who renewed their licenses since the September 2015 meeting, twenty-three (23) renewed on-line for a rate of 62%.

Mr. Hill said all travel requests must be submitted 120 days prior to the travel date for approval.

Mr. Hill stated the following Board meeting dates for 2016 have been scheduled:

March 4, 2016

June 3, 2016

September 2, 2016

December 2, 2016

Dr. Bull stated he is heading a Task Force to streamline the licensure process and asked how organizations could submit continuing education courses for licensees. Dr. Bull said he hopes to have the results of the Task Force by February 2016.

Ms. Wilkins said she would speak with the Director, Rosemarie Otto, to see if there are plans for the Audit Division and IT staff to allow course providers to submit names of licensees who have completed continuing education hours.

Newly Licensed

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following newly Licensed Professional Counselors:

Jan Turner Amerman
Megan L. Avery
Nicole Lynn Raastad Bonham
Karen Brown
Andrew Michael Buckner
Holli Noel Clevenger
Katherine Combs
Jessica Lyn Copeland

Molly E. Moore
Lynette Marie Myers
Mary Hilgeman Neal
Patrick Michael Nitch
Bethany Michelle Ott
Racheal Marie Phillips
Anita Holland Pringle
Michael R. Racki

**Liesl Denise Danley
Andrea J. Davis
Vanessa Gail Davis
Jeffrey Lane Devine
Alana M. Deyo-Morris
Sara E. Fulton
Adam C. Graham
Devon Chanel Guirand
Alyson Hale
Catherine Regina Harris
Ivan M. Herrera
Amanda Marie Hinds
Machelle Lee Johnson
Shayla Camille Johnson-Bunion
Sloan S. Mankin
Cheryl M. McAdams
Dawn I. Meadow**

**Jessica Spring Ramey
Carrie A. Ratliff-Yahyavi
Vanessa Ribeiro
Jhonkia D. Richard
Amanda Lynn Roman
Suzanne Maria Runion
Rachel Ryan
Kimberly Brooke Scheidger
Steven Scott Sellars
Brandi Deshea Smith
Kimberly Paige Smith
Emma Soechting
Lauren Strini
Ilona Terral
Lori Seay Thornton**

The motion carried.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following newly Licensed Marital and Family Therapists:

**Nina Boshers
Jennifer Edwards
Julie Fortune
Rose H. Gainey
William R. Garris, Jr.
Jennifer Payne Guarino
Camren A. Haigh
Carol S. Johnson
Clancy Kiener
Timothy S. Kiernon**

**Sandra Lee
Logan Gillen Love
Daniel L. Marshall
Jason Brent Myers
Stephanie R. Piper
Melanie L. Reese
Tom K. Rhodes
Linda Steele
Lisa Stone
Robert P. Williams**

The motion carried.

Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bull, to approve the following temporarily Licensed Professional Counselors:

**Heidi B. Ables
Brandon Timoth Antoskow
Jennifer Tanneca Par Ayers
Amy Marie Benedict
Kelsey Marie Callahan
Rebecca L. Calvert
Benjamin Carter Cook**

**Nina Elise Ingram
Angela Evann Johnson
Dr. Adriel D. Johnson, Jr.
Emily Kristen Kilbourn
Barbara J. Lanz
Vanessa A. Londino
Jodi R. Makela**

**Elizabeth Margu DeVaughn
Eric Adams Esters
Ashley Danielle Fussell
Caroline Rhett Hartman
Claire F. Herb
Danielle E. Hickman
Walter E. Hindman, Jr.
Jessica E. Huddleston**

**Lisa A. Maners
Bryan E. Maynard
Karissa L. Moll
Alice J. Sanderlin
Shilo Morning Star Satran
Amy M. Taft
Chelsea Miller Watkins**

The motion carried.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following temporarily Licensed Marital and Family Therapists:

**Wendy S. Brown
Mariam Coaster
Norma C. Cox
Kyle Buddy Cruze, Jr.
Summer Curwen
Lindsey Dartt
Randal L. Halstead
Adella K. Harris
Jillian Hawks**

**Elizabeth Ann Houle
Daniel Jackson
Andrew C. Lyon
Sallie B. Miller
Kimberly Ratcliffe
Hannah Mae Roberts
Aron Strong
Rebecca Walker**

The motion carried.

Reinstatement Applications

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following reinstated Licensed Professional Counselors:

**Michelle Barnhart
Owen (Tom) A. Biller, Jr.
Dr. Verna R. Dobbs
Lonnie Graden Harris, Jr.
Jane Hilt**

**Rhonda R. Laster
Kathryn Myrick-Jones
Leslie Jacobs Schenk
Noah N. Zapf**

The motion carried.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve the following reinstated Licensed Marital and Family Therapists:

**Owen (Tom) A. Biller, Jr.
Otis D. Lynch, Jr.
Shirley Marks**

The motion carried.

Ms. Wilkins stated that Mr. Hill has a new Licensure Technician, Doris VanOvermeyer, who is very efficient and has been able to go through the files that have been closed for over six (6) months.

Mr. Hill said Ms. VanOvermeyer is very efficient and doing an excellent job in helping him with applications and correspondence.

Mr. Hill stated they have a new category for Closed Files and have closed twenty (20) Licensed Professional Counselors application files.

Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Speakman, to approve the following closed Licensed Professional Counselors application files:

Regina Sexton-Webb
Michael Catalana
Lynnndee Rainey
Sharron A. Webb
Brandon Swaggart
Mary I. Sulllivan
Marie B. Reeves
Connie Potvin
Valentine Nanev
Kelli Hankins

Sarah Hibler
Alicia M. Haley
Allison Costley
Paul Bailey
Jessica Fox
Cynthia Hughes
Erica Fair
Marilyn Garrett
Jarolyn Johnson
Emily King

The motion carried.

Discuss requirements for upgrading to the MHSP Designation

Mr. Hill stated that he, Mr. Pinckley, and Ms. Wilkens have worked on a policy statement to upgrade to the MHSP designation for the Board's review and approval.

Ms. Wilkens stated the rules do not give a clear process for upgrading to the MHSP designation and a policy statement should clear up any discrepancies.

Upon review of the proposed policy statement, Dr. Bull suggested adding a criminal background check to the requirements for upgrading.

Mr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Ms. Speakman, to approve the policy statement with the addition of requiring a criminal background check. The motion carried.

Correspondence

The Board reviewed a letter from the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) proposing a five (5) year plan for portability, which they sent to all licensure boards across the United States and its territories.

Dr. Hammonds-White stated that Tennessee only has a reciprocal agreement with Kentucky and that the proposal would require a change in statute, which cannot be done at this time. Dr. Hammonds-White said if they open the statute now, potentially harmful changes could be made to the statute.

Mr. Peter Wilson, Ed.D. of Trevecca College recommended that the Board look at the reciprocal licensure requirements from other states and make reciprocity to Tennessee easier.

Ms. Wilkins said the statute allows reciprocal agreements with other states but reciprocity is so different in other states they haven't been able to reach agreements with the exception of Kentucky. Ms. Wilkins suggested asking Mr. Pinckley to re-examine the reciprocity agreement with Ms. Huddleston.

Dr. Hammonds-White stated that a lot of states are very protective of their licensure and reciprocity process and that it would be difficult to have a nation-wide reciprocity agreement.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Amy Dixon, M.Ed., NCC**, requesting that the Board accept the hours she has obtained in a clinical nature as a school-based therapist at KIPP Nashville Collegiate High School. Ms. Dixon also submitted a letter of appeal including references from her clinical supervisor.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to accept the hours she is accruing towards licensure. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Annemarie Sears** requesting reinstatement of her LMFT license. Ms. Sears was in attendance at the meeting and addressed the Board regarding her failed to renew status.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve Ms. Sears to reinstatement her LMFT license. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Christine Larkin Oates** requesting a medical extension of the four (4) year deadline to obtain the required supervision hours for LPC licensure. Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to ask Ms. Oates to submit information on which type of licensure she is applying; the number of supervision hours she has completed; the name of her supervisor; and, if the supervision is conducted in a clinical setting. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Jeffrey Lambert**, a licensed LPC in Colorado, requesting that the Board accept the one hundred and thirty-nine (139) hours of supervision he obtained from September 2007 to July 2015.

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve Mr. Lambert's hours he obtained in Colorado and give him a one (1) year extension to complete his supervision and take the required examinations. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **George Tsirgiotis, LPC/MHSP, LMFT**, requesting that the Board accept his MHSP designation and other credentials in order to supervise even though he has not held the MHSP designation for five (5) years.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve Mr. Tsirgiotis's request to supervise as he qualifies under his LMFT licensure. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Jama White, LPC/MHSP, Psychologist/HSP**, requesting that the Board accept his MHSP designation which he obtained in 2014 and his psychologist/HSP designation which he obtained in 1995 in order to supervise.

Dr. Bull made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve Dr. White's request to supervise. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Karen Casey, LPC**, requesting clarification of individual supervision hour requirements.

The Board determined that individuals do not require supervision each and every week and Ms. Casey may alternate individual supervision with group supervision weekly.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Lauren Martin, M.A.**, requesting that Stephanie Vaughn, Psy.D., be allowed to supervise her clinical hours.

The Board determined that Ms. Martin cannot obtain all of her supervised hours from a Psychologist and must receive at least fifty percent (50%) of her supervision by a LPC/MHSP.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Molly Fleming, LPC/MHSP (temporary)** regarding her being unable to obtain supervision by an LPC/MHSP in the West Tennessee area.

The Board asked Mr. Hill to send Ms. Fleming a letter acknowledging her concerns, stating distance supervision is being approved on a case by case basis, and that the Board approved George Tsirgiotis, LPC/MHSP in the West Tennessee area to conduct supervision.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Alex Colston**, asking if his crisis care consultant hours for Centerstone be used for his clinical hours in order to obtain licensure as an LMFT.

The Board determined that over the phone crisis counseling hours cannot be used for face to face supervision.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Sara Cawood, LMFT**, asking for an extension to supervise her current supervisees until the end of 2016 as she is unable to obtain the required AAMFT supervision review course on-line.

Ms. Diane Bradley, LMFT, stated there are a lot of licensees caught up in the process and the review course is very expensive. Ms. Bradley said it is not easy to negotiate with the AAMFT.

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to approve Ms. Cawood's request to continue supervision until the end of 2016. The motion carried.

The Board reviewed a letter from **Suzanne Rumbley**, requesting an extension of time to obtain the required hours for licensure as an LMFT due to starting a family and obtaining the required hours on a temporary basis.

The Board determined there is no cap on completion of her hours as she does not hold a temporary license and urged her to continue her quest for licensure.

Discuss Other Board Business

Peter Wilson, Ed.D. from Trevecca College stated he appreciates the Board for sending out letters to obtain approved supervisors and asked if it will be listed in the verification of licensure at the Board's web site.

Mr. Hill said if someone is interested in a list of approved supervisors they can send me an e-mail and I will send them the link to the list of approved supervisors.

Dr. Hammonds-White asked Mr. Hill if the continuing education hours obtained for supervision is on the web site.

Mr. Hill said no it is not listed on the web site. Mr. Hill said they conduct random audits at which time the licensee is requested to submit documentation of their continuing education, including supervision, if applicable.

Ms. Diane Bradley, LMFT, stated the AAMFT has a link on its web-site which lists approved supervisors.

The Board discussed preparing a policy statement pertaining to appropriate continuing education for supervisors and asked Ms. Speakman to prepare a policy for the Board's review at the next meeting.

Adjourn

With no other Board business to conduct, Dr. Nelson made a motion, seconded by Dr. Bull, to adjourn at 11:20 a.m. The motion carried.

Adopted by the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapist, Clinical Pastoral Therapist on this the 4th day of March, 2014.