



Mark Sanford  
Governor

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Director

South Carolina  
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation

Board of Examiners for Licensure of  
Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family  
Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists



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Minutes of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for the Licensure of  
Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists and Psycho-Educational Specialists

Regular Board Meeting  
February 14, 2006

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 111  
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

Board members present were:

Gloria Busch Johnson, Ed.S., President; Chairperson, LPC Standards Committee  
Tanya A. Williams-Reeves, M.Ed., Vice President  
David L. Evans, Jr., M.A., Secretary-Treasurer; Chairperson, LPES Standards  
Committee

Excused absence noted for:

M. Ellenor Mahon, M.Ed., Chairperson, Continuing Education Committee

Unexcused absence noted for:

J. Benjamin Alexander, Esquire, Public Member

Also present were:

Larry E. Atkins, Jr., Investigator - Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Kate K. Cox, Board Administrator  
Susan F. Harrington, Administrative Assistant  
Sheridon H. Spoon, Assistant General Counsel, Litigation Counsel for the Board  
Richard P. Wilson, Deputy General Counsel, Advice Counsel to the Board

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BOARD MEETING CALL TO ORDER:

President Johnson stated that Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the office of the South Carolina Board of Examiners for Licensure of Professional Counselors, Marriage and Family Therapists, and Psycho-Educational Specialists, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room #111, 110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, SC 29210 and provided to any requesting persons, organizations, or news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. President Johnson called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m. It was noted that a quorum was present. All votes referenced herein were unanimous unless otherwise indicated.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

**Motion:** A motion was made by Ms. Williams-Reeves to approve the agenda. Mr. Evans seconded the motion. The motion carried.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes of the November 22, 2005 meeting.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Evans to accept the minutes of the November 22, 2005 meeting as presented. Ms. Williams-Reeves seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**PRESIDENT'S REMARKS:**

President Johnson noted the Board is seeking names for nomination for appointment to the Board and encouraged members to submit names of interested persons to the Governor's office. She also reported on the South Carolina Counselors Association meeting and her presentations at workshops on licensure and on supervision. She said interest at the meeting in the Proposed Regulations was positive. One question was posed regarding supervision for employment purposes. She said she gave out the Board's telephone number, e-mail, and address for anyone to contact the Board with their questions or comments.

**REPORTS/INFORMATION:**

Administrative Information:

Mrs. Cox gave the administrative report on the work of the Board with numerical data provided by Ms. Harrington. She noted that the 2005 Continuing Education (CE) Audit was completed with 100% compliance. Mrs. Cox reported that she is speaking with the Governor's Office for Boards and Commissions to assist in submitting information on the status of members' terms on the Board and on the vacancies on the Board.

American Association of State Counseling Boards Report:

Mrs. Cox reported on her attendance at the American Association of State Counseling Boards (AASCB) conference and reviewed the topics presented. She reported on the continued interest and progress with the AASCB's portability of licensure model in some states and the National Credential Bank of registrants' credentials, work history, supervision documents, CE, and work experience. The model of portability was discussed and the component of work experience being considered "equivalent" for deficiencies between a registrant's credentials and a state's particular requirements. It was noted South Carolina law does not allow for work experience to be considered "equivalent." Mrs. Cox stated Dr. Janice McMillan of AASCB would like to attend a future board meeting to discuss the portability issue. President Johnson asked that Dr. McMillan be invited to attend a future Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report:

Mrs. Cox reminded the Board that financial information is available upon request. She reported the Board is financially sound.

**DISCIPLINARY ISSUES:**

Mr. Atkins presented the IRC report concerning disciplinary matters.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Evans to accept the Investigative Review Committee's recommendations as presented by Mr. Atkins: Case Numbers - 2004-4 for Dismissal, 2005-16 for Dismissal, 2005-17 for Dismissal, 2005-21 for Dismissal, 2005-25 for Dismissal, and 2005-18 for Formal Complaint. Ms. Williams-Reeves seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Continuing in Disciplinary Issues, Mr. Spoon presented an Agreement to Relinquish Marriage and Family Therapy, Marriage and Family Therapy Supervisor, Professional Counselor, and Professional Counselor Supervisor Licenses, which was signed by Dr. Owen Tucker in light of complaint matters. Mr. Spoon noted the document is public and the relinquishment of all the licenses is permanent. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Evans for the Board to accept and sign the Agreement for Relinquishment. Ms. Williams-Reeves seconded the motion. The motion carried.

#### LEGAL ISSUES:

The Board discussed the issuing of Cease and Desist letters against the licensees of this Board who have shared scopes of practice with licensees of other boards. Discussion followed. The Board asked that a meeting be held with management and legal within the Agency to discuss the handling of alleged complaints where a shared scope of practice exists and to discuss the best way to investigate the allegations. The Board noted that Cease & Desist letters are being sent and then rescinded, licensees and the public are confused, Freedom of Information requests and many calls are generated to board staffs, and licensees and the public have contacted attorneys in some incidents. Mr. Wilson said he would work with Mrs. Cox on this issue with management in the Agency. He also suggested meetings between the boards that have shared scopes of practice can be helpful.

#### UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Mrs. Cox reported that the Proposed Regulations of the Board have been read across the desk in the state legislature and have been given a bill number, Number 3012. The bill was assigned to the Senate Medical Affairs Committee and the House Labor, Commerce, and Industry Committee. She reported the Board has had only one call concerning the Proposed Regulations, which was from the South Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Association (SCMFTA). The person calling inquired if the request for 150 hours of supervision from SCMFTA was in the Proposed Regulations and when would they be effective. The Board had placed the change to 150 hours down from 200 hours into the Proposed Regulations. Mrs. Cox reported the bill has not appeared on the agenda for either committee to date.

#### NEW BUSINESS:

The Board discussed the examination approvals being done by the Board of third semester graduate students in counseling programs and marriage and family therapy programs. President Johnson stated the colleges and universities in South Carolina already offer these examinations on their campuses to appropriate degree candidates who are known to be ready for graduation. She stated it is not necessary for the Board to make these approvals. Discussion followed.

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Evans stating the Board will no longer approve third semester graduate students for professional examination approval by the Board for at the and to agree with the continued process of colleges and universities to make appropriate arrangements with professional testing services to test students who are in appropriate degree programs. Ms. Williams-Reeves seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A letter was presented from a licensee, Dr. Samer Touma, PhD. He asked for guidance and clarification regarding the use of certain credentials, and he submitted a Cease & Desist letter from the South Carolina Board of Psychology in regard to his use of the credentials. Discussion followed. The Board recommended Dr. Touma discontinue the use of these credentials at this time and referred the matter for further investigation.

**DISCUSSION TOPICS:**

Therapeutic restraint holds were discussed by the Board. The Board did not take a position on the matter.

Use of degrees was discussed. The Board stated degrees to be used by the licensees of this Board for their profession are first based on the standards set forth in the Code of Laws and the Code of Regulations which require that education to be used in this professional field must come from a college or university accredited by the Commission on the Colleges of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, one of its transferring regional associations, the Association of Theological Schools in the US and Canada, or a regionally-accredited institution of higher learning such as the Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP). Secondly the Board stated, based on Code of Laws and the Code of Regulations, degrees must be primarily in counseling or a related discipline. The Board uses the highest degree obtained in the counseling area or related discipline. The Board stated it might be misleading to the public to use a degree that is not in a counseling or related discipline.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None

**REPORTS OF STANDARDS COMMITTEES AND CONTINUING EDUCATION COMMITTEE:**

President Johnson called for review and ratification of the reports submitted for the Standards Committees and Continuing Education Committee beginning November 23, 2005 through February 14, 2006.

**Recommended for Licensure as a Professional Counselor Intern:**

Boykin, Meilin T.  
Brien, Jennette I.  
Brisbane, Cheryl  
Carter, Angelia G.  
Caudill, Carrie C.  
Helton, Carrie Brooke  
Hickman, Vickey A.  
Johnson, Nakisha E.  
Jones, Denise N.  
Madison, Kathleen R.  
Melvin, Sheresa S.  
Nesbitt, Susan M.  
O'Malley, Austin F., III  
O'Quinn, Georgann E.  
Parnell, Helen T.  
Walsh, Michael J.  
Washington, Ahmad R.

**Recommended for Transfer from Intern Status to Professional Counselor:**

Beahm, Martha  
Brzezinski, Jessie  
Cogdell, Edna Nicole  
Elrod, Philip  
Hampton, Renee  
Jones, Jacquelyne  
Kea, Luanne N.  
Lachance, Kerry  
Lassiter, Kerry S.  
MacLeay, Jan  
Schaffer, Heather Kline  
Spearing, Latoshia  
Talerico, Charmayne H.  
Wallace, Donya  
Wright, Carla

**Recommended for Licensure as a Professional Counselor by Endorsement:**

DelliCarpini, Christopher -- Fla

**Recommended for Extension of LPC Intern Licensure Status:**

Bethea, Robin (2<sup>nd</sup> extension)  
Foulks, Fawn J.  
Moody, Robin L.  
Moore, Frankie G.

**Recommended for Extension of LPC/SIT Registration Status:**

None

**Recommended for Extension on LPC/S:**

None

**Recommended for Licensure as Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor:**

Easterling, Sonya F.  
Epps, Debra Chapman

**Recommended for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapy Intern:**

Barnes, Kristen M.  
Hall, Patricia A.  
Halley, Kimberly A.  
Pitariu, Gabriela V.

**Recommended for Licensure as Marriage and Family Therapist:**

None

**Recommended for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist by Endorsement:**

None

**Recommended for an Extension of LMFT Intern Licensure Status:**

None

**Recommended for Transfer from LMFT/Intern to LMFT:**

Beahm, Martha E.

**Recommended for Licensure as Marriage and Family Supervisor (LMFT/S):**

None

**Recommended for Licensure as Licensed Psycho-Educational Specialist:**

**One-Time Providership:**

American Group Psychotherapy Assoc-(AGPA)  
Children's Law Office  
Good Success Consulting Group, LLC  
SC Counseling & Consulting Network-2 applications  
Stewart, Jemme B. -2 applications

**Permanent Providership:**

None

**Permanent Sponsor Renewals:**

None

**Motion:** A motion was made by Mr. Evans to ratify the reports and was seconded by Ms. Williams-Reeves. The motion passed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Mrs. Cox announced the next Board meeting dates for 2006 to be May 16, August 15, and November 21, 2006. President Johnson stated Janice F. McMillan, PhD, Chair of the National Credentials Registry, will be invited to attend the May 16 meeting.

Mrs. Cox reminded the Board members to submit their Economic Interest Statement to the South Carolina Ethics Commission by April 15, 2006. She noted that the Board Member Forum will be held Friday, February 17, 2006 at the South Carolina Fire Academy from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 12:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Kate K. Cox  
Administrator