

MINUTES

**UTAH
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
LICENSING BOARD MEETING**

March 11, 2010

**Room 402 – 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

CONVENED: 9:01 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 11:14 A.M.

Bureau Manager:

Richard J. Oborn

Board Secretary:

Lee Avery

Board Members Present:

Richard Nielsen, Ph. D., Chairperson

Scot M. Allgood, Ph. D.

Veon G. Smith, DSW

Karen Feinauer

Jean N. Soderquist, Ph. D

Guests:

David Rathofer

Kelli McDonald

Shari Allen

Jeff Allen

Tom Harper

Gina Denning

Lori J. Mastro

Nathan Leavitt

Stephen Anderson

Ashley Laakso

Angie Panes

John Knoche

Athea Bland

DOPL Staff Present:

Susan Higgs, Compliance Specialist

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the December 10, 2009 Board meeting. Mr. Allgood motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. Feinauer. The motion carried unanimously.

Susan Higgs, Compliance Specialist

#1. Ms. Linda Helquist is in compliance with her stipulation. She has submitted a current letter requesting the Board consider releasing her from probation. Her probation is scheduled to end August 8, 2011.

Discussion:

The Board noted that Ms. Helquist's supervisor, Mr. Larson, is supporting her request for early termination of her probation. The Board noted that she has enrolled in another ethics course.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Linda Helquist, probation interview

Ms. Helquist met with the Board. Mr. Allgood conducted the interview. Ms. Helquist advised the Board that she is doing well. She meets every week with her group where they discuss many issues including ethical concerns. Ms. Helquist stated that she has learned a lot during this probation period and her associates, in their group, have learned a lot from her experience with her license on probation. Ms. Helquist stated that she continues expanding her training. She signed up for another course in ethics training. Ms. Helquist advised the Board that she feels this experience has been more of a supportive environment than of a punitive environment. After further discussion, Mr. Allgood motioned to release Ms. Helquist from her probation, based on completing half of her probation, her long history of compliance with her stipulation, and her supervisor recommendation that her probation be terminated early, seconded by Mr. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Mr. David Bridgeman, applicant for reinstatement

Mr. Bridgeman met with the Board. The Board introduced itself. Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Mr. Bridgeman is applying for reinstatement of his Utah MFT license. Mr. Bridgeman held an active license in good standing between January 1991 and September 2004. Mr. Oborn stated that the Board needs to decide if Mr. Bridgeman meets current license requirements. The Board reviewed Mr. Bridgeman's application, education, and training. The Board noted that Mr. Bridgeman graduated with a masters in counseling psychology. The program he attended is not accredited by COAMFTE and he needs

1.5 additional quarter hours in clinical practicum. After further discussion, Dr. Soderquist motioned to keep Mr. Bridgeman's application pending until he completes forty (40) hours of continuing education with at least 6 hours in MFT ethics, seconded by Dr. Allgood. The motion carried unanimously. Once Mr. Bridgeman completes the required continuing education, he must submit the documentation verifying completion to Mr. Oborn.

DISCUSSION:

1. Update regarding legislative session

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that the SB 90: Mental Health Professionals Practice Act Amendments passed during the 2010 legislative session and is waiting for the Governor's signature. Once the bill is signed, the statute will become effective May 11, 2010. Mr. Oborn noted that the Board would need to modify the rule such that Certified Marriage and Family Therapist Interns are identified as Associate Marriage and Family Therapists.

2. Continuing education requirement

Mr. Oborn stated that Dr. Nielsen, Board Chair proposed to modify the continuing education (CE) requirements in the Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Act Rule. Mr. Oborn noted the following statistics:

- 23 states require completion of 40 or more hours of CEs every two years (including Utah)*
- 15 states require completion of 30-36 hours of CEs every two years.*
- 5 states require completion of 20-24 hours of CE every two years.*
- 5 states do not require that MFTs complete any CE.*

The Board discussed how many of the courses are not substantive and have little new information being taught. The Board stated it is more interested in the quality of courses rather than the quantity in hours. After further discussion, the Board decided to table the discussion until the June Board meeting. Dr. Allgood will seek input from the UAMFT regarding potential changes to the CE requirement.

3. Revisions to license application

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that the Division is reviewing all of the license applications to shorten and simplify them if possible. The Board reviewed the

marriage and family therapist application and noted that there are questions under the qualifying questionnaire that could be combined. The Board recommended the following questions be combined: Question numbers three and four, number six and seven, 13 and 14, 18 and 19. Mr. Oborn stated that there would be an application for the marriage and family therapist and a separate application for the marriage and family therapist intern. Mr. Oborn stated that he would develop some language for the Board's review.

4. Definition of unprofessional conduct in Marriage and Family Therapy Practice Act Rule

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that he completed modifying the language regarding the definition of unprofessional conduct in the Marriage and Family Therapy Practice Act Rule specifically relating to dual relationships. Mr. Oborn noted that the change included language from the UAMFT Code of Ethics. Mr. Oborn stated that he would obtain feedback from UAMFT. If there are no concerns, he will proceed with the rule change.

Mr. Oborn noted that this rule change would also replace references to "Certified Marriage and Family Therapist Interns" with "Associate Marriage and Family Therapist". This is due to the legislature's passing of SB 90.

5. Licensing statistics

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that as of March 1, 2010 the Division has issued the following number of professional licenses: Marriage and Family Therapist - 468, Interns - 85, Externs - 3.

The Board noted that June 10, 2010 would be Dr. Nielsen's last meeting with the Board. He will have completed the end of his term with the Board.

APPLICATIONS:

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

June 10, 2010

2010 Board meetings are tentatively scheduled:
June 10, September 9, December 9.

ADJOURN:

The Board adjourned at 11:14 A.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

September 16, 2010
Date Approved

(ss) Scott Allgood
Chairperson, Utah Marriage and Family Therapist
Licensing Board

September 16, 2010
Date Approved

(ss) Richard J. Oborn
Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational &
Professional Licensing