

Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists

Minutes of May 5, 2009 Telephone Meeting

Members Present: Ryan Melton, LPC, Chair
Linda White, LPC, Vice Chair
Elizabeth Wosley-George, LPC
Lee Anne Wichmann, LMFT
Julia Smith, LPC

Members Excused: Loretta Slepikas, Public Member

In attendance: Becky Eklund, Executive Director

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists was called to order by Chair Ryan Melton pursuant to ORS 192.660(3) at 2:07 p.m. by telephone conference call.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Linda White moved and Julia Smith seconded a motion to approve the minutes of the April 3, 2009 meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

WORK GROUP UPDATES

Graduate Degree Standards

Elizabeth Wosley-George reported that the letters of invitation will be sent Friday, May 8, 2009 to program chairs to review graduate degree standards in relation to CACREP changes and to provide feedback on the Board's review process for Board-approved graduate programs.

Administrative Rules

- Interns: Linda White reported that the work group had met three times to develop changes to administrative rules about interns. The next meeting is set for May 14, 2009. The work group identified two policy issues for Board discussion: whether to use "direct client contact hours" or "supervised clinical work experience" as the basis for licensure; and developing procedures in situations when supervisors express concerns about interns being licensed.
- Internet Counseling: The group to develop administrative rules about internet counseling is exploring dates in May for the first meeting.

Supervisor Registry:

Art Tolentino resigned from the Board so this work group needs a new Board member to serve as the lead. Julia Smith and Lee Anne Wichmann expressed interest in taking the lead. Staff will send background information to them. Further discussion about this work group will occur during the June 12, 2009 board meeting.

Changes to the Law & Rules exam changes will be discussed during the June 12, 2009 Board meeting. Board members will submit suggested changes to staff by May 22 in preparation for the June meeting.

The Board will take action on a request for approval of Corban College's new graduate counseling program during the June board meeting. Corban is developing their response to issues raised by board members during the April 3, 2009 Board meeting.

LEGISLATURE

The Board's 2009-11 biennium budget is scheduled for vote on the House floor on Friday, May 8, 2009.

House Bill 2506A, the practice act bill, is scheduled for a public hearing and work session in the Senate Health Care Committee on Thursday, May 7, 2009.

IMPAIRED PROFESSIONALS

A brief discussion ensued about an impaired professional programs that included questions about the Board's statute and administrative rules and if the Board directs a licensee into a treatment programs whether that would constitute discipline. Staff will compile and summarize information about impaired professional programs from other states and other Oregon health licensing boards for further discussion at the June Board meeting.

COMPLIANCE

The Board took the following action on one compliance case:

Resolved: Case #2006-037 – Linda White moved and Julia Smith seconded a motion to close the case and issue a letter of concern to the licensee. Lee Anne Wichmann recused herself. The motion passed unanimously.

Staff shared a recent email message from a licensee about fees imposed for late license renewal and wondering about the importance of being licensed. Board members asked staff to respond to the licensee and include information about the role of the Board, the importance of protecting the public, licenses help establish a professional identity and support the counseling and marriage and family therapy professions.

DISCIPLINARY GUIDELINES

Brief discussions ensued about adopting disciplinary guidelines for compliance cases and whether to have a Board planning retreat. Both topics will be discussed further during the June 12, 2009 board meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:59 p.m.

Discussions/Topics for June 12, 2009 Board Meeting

- Policy discussion about "direct client contact hours" or "supervised clinical work experience"
- Addressing supervisor concerns about interns
- Appointment of lead for supervisor registry work group
- Changes to Law & Rules exam
- Corban College request
- Impaired professional program
- Disciplinary guidelines
- Board planning retreat