

PUBLIC SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, January 23, 2009

Salem, OR

Members Present: Susan Latham, Public Member, Chair
Benson Schaeffer, Ph.D., Vice Chair
David Wade, Psy.D.
Nancy Taylor Kemp, Ph.D.
Shane Haydon, Ph.D.
Terrel Templeman, Ph.D.
Kent Anderson, Public member

Staff: Debra Orman
Karen Berry

Legal Counsel: Warren Foote, AAG

1:00 p.m. - CALL MEETING TO ORDER

A. CONSUMER PROTECTION

Complaint Statistics: 84 complaints had been filed in 2008. There are 43 open files: 37 under investigation (including the investigation files up for Board consideration), and 7 in the contested case process. Of the open cases under investigation, 29 are licensed and 8 are unlicensed practitioners.

B. CONSENT AGENDA

Moved: Templeman Second: Haydon
To accept the Consent Agenda: Investigation Extensions & Unlicensed Practice cases.
In Favor: Unanimous Oppose: None Abstain: None

C. PRESCRIBING PSYCHOLOGISTS

Dr Wade revisited the Board discussion at the November Board retreat wherein Board members took a "straw-poll" regarding their support for the Prescribing Psychologists Bill sponsored by OPA (the Oregon Psychological Association). The Board discussed the pros and cons of the concept such as: increasing prescribing providers in rural areas and concerns about adequate education and training. The Board also discussed the capacity of Board staff to implement such a large project. A few Board members expressed concern about the cost of the bill given the Board's budget concerns going into 2009-2011 budget process.

Action: Directed Ms. Orman McHugh to provide Legislative testimony in support of the Prescribing Psychologists bill as written. Request OPA to allow continual input to ensure the final draft of the bill is doable by the Board.

D. BOARD POLICY

Ms. Orman McHugh presented challenges around the licensure renewal process for 2008, and requested that the Board make some policy statements for staff to convey to licensees challenging the rules and laws. The following policy statements were developed and approved by the Board:

1. 2009 – 2010 DELINQUENT LICENSURE RENEWALS (Policy Statement)

“Any licensure fee and/or continuing education report that is received in the Board’s office *later than* December 31 of the renewing year shall be considered late, and a late fee of \$200 shall be required before the licensee is issued a current license.”

2. CONTINUING EDUCATION EXCEPTION REQUESTS (Policy Statement)

“The Board or the Executive Director may grant exceptions to meeting the CE Requirements based only on hardship circumstances such as critical illness.”

3. CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDITS OUTCOME (Policy Statement)

“The Executive Director may impose a \$200 late fee if a licensee fails a Continuing Education Audit. Licensee shall be given 90 days to correct any deficiencies.”

4. RESIDENT EXTENSION REQUESTS (Policy Statement)

“The Executive Director may deny or approve routine requests from applicants to extend the ‘active file status’ period to complete the application process and residency requirements.”

5. INACTIVE STATUS TO ACTIVE STATUS (Policy Statement)

“Licensees requesting a change from Inactive status to Active status shall apply in writing to the Board, and must be approved by the full Board.”

Action:

Move: Schaeffer Second: Anderson

To approve Policy Statements #1-#5 as written.

In favor: Unanimous Oppose: None Abstain: None

6. TELE-PSYCHOLOGY

Ms. Orman McHugh received an inquiry regarding the Board’s policy on “telepsychology.” For example, is it OK for an Oregon licensee to provide psychological services to Oregon consumers via telephone, email, chat or other form of electronic communications? If so, what are the parameters and considerations?

After a short discussion the Board agreed that this is part of a larger question that includes how to evaluate “on-line” Ph.D. programs (see agenda item G(2) below).

Action: The Board directed Ms. Orman McHugh to form a small group to identify the issues and propose some solutions to present to the Board at a future meeting. Dr. Kemp and Dr. Templeman volunteered to participate in this group.

7. APPLICANT CREDENTIAL REVIEW

Applicant Marilyn Thatcher, Ph.D. does not meet the educational requirements as written in law and/or rule OAR 858-010-0015 (a-b), which reads Ph.D. or Master’s degree in psychology from an APA accredited program OR regionally accredited school at the time of graduation. Dr. Thatcher has a Ph.D. in Psychology (Calif. Institute of Integral Studies) which is not APA or regionally approved.

Action: Deny application as not meeting the educational requirements.

E. PUBLIC FORUM

Dr. Scott Pengelly discussed general legislative issues, and described the Legislative process and the affect of fiscal impact statements prepared by State agencies.

F. PAROLE BOARD

Steven Powers from the Board of Parole came to speak with the Board regarding the recommendations from a work group established to review the entire process utilized by the Parole Board regarding psychological evaluations for inmates. The work group looked at everything from transportation of inmates to reimbursement to standard of care when administering a psychological evaluation. The Board recommended meeting with psychologists that regularly perform psychological evaluations. Dr Templeman will work with the Parole Board to identify those individuals.

G. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT

1. 2009 Legislative Session

Ms. Orman McHugh reviewed the various pieces of legislation being put before the Legislature. Ms. Orman McHugh has set-up a legislative alert process to keep key OPA and all Board members apprised of any legislation affecting psychologists in the State, and other legislation of interest such as any State Hospital legislation or legislation affecting mental health practitioners and/or their clients.

2. OAR 585-010-0015(1-2)

Discussion of this item was deferred to the Telepsychology group which will meet to discuss policies and issue around on-line practice of psychology and on-line Ph.D. programs.

H. LICENSEE IMPAIRMENT

The Board deferred this discussion to the March 20, 2009 meeting to allow sufficient time to explore this important topic. Dr. Haydon will facilitate.

I. UNLICENSED PRACTICE CASES

1. 2008-075 Berman—Board

Berman was dishonest when she stated she was an LPC applicant. Berman is now an applicant with the LPC Board and is exempt under ORS 675.090(b)(C).

Action: Dismiss with letter to Ms. Berman and copy to the LPC Board.

2. 2008-080 Christensen—Board

Christensen, who holds a bachelor's in spiritual psychology, removed her advertisement that she was a "Spiritual Psychology Coach Counselor." Question about the unlicensed practice of psychology because she is treating serious mental disorders. Question of whether she can use certain titles.

Action: Send 30-Day Letter for unlicensed practice.

5:00p.m. ADJOURN MEETING

Respectfully Submitted:

Debra Orman McHugh, Executive Director