



BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

As the new Executive Director for the Board of Professional Licensed Counselors and Therapists and the Board of Psychologists Examiners, I would like to reflect for a moment about what it's like to wear two hats and to manage the pilot project that was developed back in 2013 to bring the two Boards together. I started my new position in March 2015 and was informed during the interview process that if selected for the position, I would be managing two Boards under a pilot project initiated by the Governor's office.

What is it like to direct two State behavioral Boards? The simplest way to describe it is that it is like trying to speak two different languages at the exact same time. Although each Board has some similarities, the fact is, is that the Boards are quite different in the ways in which they operate. Both Boards are similar in that they exist to protect the consumer. Basically, that is where the similarities end. The two Boards are very different in the way that they are administered. The two Boards have similar, yet different Rules. The two Boards have different intern and licensing requirements. The two Boards have different ways of collecting fees and different systems for deposition revenues into the bank. To some extent, the two Boards pay their bills differently. The two Boards have different data base systems for tracking licensees and for monitoring compliance. Each Board has its own individual strengths and its own individual challenges. To summarize, each Board has its own individual ways of conducting business and its own separate language and sets of operating procedures and systems. Is this an easy and efficient way to run two Boards? NO!

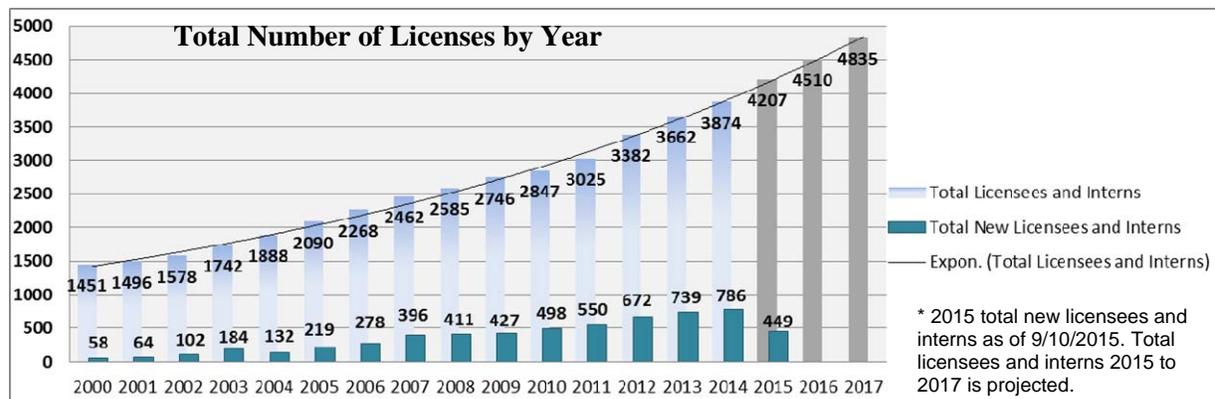
My plan moving forward is to keep the efficient and well-operating procedures and systems, and to eliminate the outdated and cumbersome procedures and systems. My goal is to unify the two Boards as much as possible administratively, while keeping the identity and integrity of each Board intact. My goal in essence, is to streamline and share systems between the two Boards, and to speak one language administratively.

The leadership of the two Boards met in June of 2015 with the Governor's office to review the Interagency Agreement that spells out the details on how the two Boards can consolidate administratively. The Chairs of both Boards have signed on to continue this pilot project for the 2015-2017 biennium. The two Boards will share the same Executive Director (Charles Hill), and the same Operations Manager. Ms. LaRee Felton from the Psychologist Examiners Board has agreed to accept the position of Operations Manager effective June 2015. Ms. Felton, who has a firm grasp of the analytical systems of both Boards, will be assisting me in developing and implementing a unified set of systems for both Boards. By the end of the 2015-2017 biennium both Boards will be utilizing the same processes and systems from top to bottom. We will speak one language administratively. To accomplish this of course will require some strategic planning. My hope is that we will be able to provide better services to our licensees while at the same time better protecting the consumer.

Charles Hill, Executive Director

"Plans are nothing, but planning is everything"

-Dwight D. Eisenhower



We would like to introduce our new Program Assistant, Natalie Altermatt. Natalie has over 20 years of experience as a public employee, most recently with the Department of Revenue, as well as over 20 years with the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, including time in Germany, Korea, and a variety of U.S. Army Posts.

ENCRYPTING YOUR HARD DRIVE

Since computers are not typically mental health professionals' "first language", the Board wanted to alert licensees to the critical importance of ensuring that your hard drive is encrypted. Even with password protection and encrypted documents, if your computer is stolen, your hard drive can easily be removed and placed into a different computer to complete a breach.

Encryption programs are available on most computers, or can be downloaded and installed. Check with your technical advisor for more information. One good option for PCs is DiskCryptor at diskcryptor.net—and it's free!

REMINDER

The Board is accepting public comments on a proposed rulemaking that will repeal the "counselor educator application method," which allowed graduate level teaching to meet education requirements for licensure as a professional counselor or a marriage therapist through June 30, 2014. Your comments must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 22, 2015. Please send your comments to ree.felton@state.or.us, or mail them to OBLPCT, 3218 Pringle Road SE, Ste. 250, Salem, OR 97302. The rulemaking notice and proposed rule text can be found here: http://www.oregon.gov/oblpcct/ActionDocs/PermOAR_Notice_Repeal_CounEd.pdf

Locating Board Action against Licensees and Registered Interns

The Board recently updated the discipline summary on the website (June 30, 2015). Board Staff updates this summary every few months. This summary allows the public, licensees and registered interns to view the type of actions that the Board considers and the resulting discipline. Here is the link to the summary: <http://www.oregon.gov/oblpcct/ActionDocs/Discipline%20Sumarry%20as%20of%20June%2030%202015%20-%20203.pdf>.

If you want more detailed information regarding a licensee or registered intern, you may use the Board's online Licensee Verification & Lookup. Here you may view and download public disciplinary orders against licensees and registered interns. Here is the link to the online lookup: <https://hrlb.oregon.gov/oblpcct/licenseelookup/index.asp>

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

The Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists currently has **one** vacant Public Member position to sit on the Board.. If you are interested, please review the [Expectations of Service](#) and [How to Apply](#) webpages of the Governor's Office. This page also contains the Interest Form if you wish to apply. Must be a member of the public who has demonstrated an interest in the fields of professional counseling and marriage and family therapy but who are not a licensed professional counselor or marriage and family therapist or spouse, domestic partner, child, parent or sibling of a licensee, ORS 675.775(d). For more information about becoming a board member, please visit <http://www.oregon.gov/gov/Pages/boards.aspx>

Position Description: Attend regular Board Meetings, Committee Meetings, Phone Conferences, and various other duties.
Qualifications: Must be a member of the public, not licensed with the OBLPCT.

2015/2016 UPCOMING DATES

- October
- 10/2 - **Board Meeting**
- November
- 11/11 - Office Closed For Veterans' Day Holiday
- 11/26 - 11/27 Office Closed For Thanksgiving Holiday
- December
- 12/4 - **Board Meeting**
- 12/25 - Office Closed For Christmas Holiday
- January
- 1/1 - 1/3 Office Closed For New Year's Holiday

BE GREEN! Please make sure to update your email address with us if it changes so that you continue to receive correspondence. If you have not provided one, please do so.

This is the official newsletter of the Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists and is edited by board staff. Please send comments or suggestions to lpct.board@state.or.us.

MEMBERS

- Don Thomson, *Licensed Professional Counselor, Chair*
- Doug Querin, *Licensed Professional Counselor, Vice Chair*
- Bradley Christie, *Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist*
- Tony Lai, *Licensed Professional Counselor*
- Tina Anctil, *Licensed Professional Counselor, Faculty Member*
- Lindsay McGrath, *Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist*
- Suzan Turley, *Public Member*

STAFF

- Charles Hill, *Executive Director*
- LaRee Felton, *Operations Manager*
- Connie Brown, *Licensing Coordinator*
- Lonnie Knotts, MBA, *Intake Coordinator*
- Lonnie Knotts, *Investigator*
- Natalie Altermatt, *Program Assistant*

OFFICE

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