

**Oregon Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists
Minutes of April 8, 2011 Board Meeting**

Meeting called to order at 8:35 a.m. and adjourned at 2:46 p.m.

Members Present:	Ryan Melton, LPC, Chair Elizabeth Hartshorn, LPC	LeeAnne Wichmann, LMFT Julia Smith, LPC
Others Present:	Becky Eklund, Executive Dir. Brian Johnson, Board Staff Lonnie Knotts, Board Staff	Kelly Gabliks, AAG Opal Bontrager, DAS/SCS
Members Not Present:	Nila Epstein, LMFT Suzan Turley, Public Member	Linda Gray, LPC, Vice Chair

PUBLIC SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Ryan Melton called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. in the second floor large conference room of the Morrow Crane Building, 3218 Pringle Road SE, Salem, Oregon.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA & MINUTES

Julia Smith moved and Elizabeth Hartshorn seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the February 11, 2011 Board meeting and the March 4, 2011 Special Board meeting as submitted. The motion passed unanimously.

FINANCIAL REPORT

Opal Bontrager, the accountant assigned to the Board from the Department of Administrative Services, presented the financial report. The legislature increased the Board's expenditure limit to \$925,809, an increase of \$136,750 for the criminal background checks and AG costs.

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICIES

The Board reviewed and approved the final document setting forth the delegations granted to the Executive Director at the December 10, 2010 Board meeting.

Ms. Eklund provided members with the continuing education policies currently in place. The ensuing discussion included reporting requirements; imposition of fines; granting extensions to complete CEUs; approved providers of continuing education; and what constitutes a CEU.

Changes to the policies included:

- Continuing education may be granted for a language/communication course taken if the course is specific to the mental health profession.
- Language training must have a focus on medical and mental health needs in order to be considered continuing education.
- Continuing education may be completed during a licensee's renewal grace period, if a late fee is paid.
- If training is authorized by a mental health organization and fits into one of the Board's continuing education categories the Board would accept the CEU.
- Mediation training falls into the professional development category for continuing education.

- Current CEU rules allow up to 10 hours of supervision to count toward CEU requirements. A contractual relationship for supervision of supervision will count in the same way.
- If a licensee does not have six (6) hours of ethics, the licensee will have 30 days to correct the deficiency. If the licensee does not meet the deadline, then the licensee's license will not be renewed.
- The Board agreed that continuing education units could not be carried over from one reporting period to another reporting period.

BREAK 10 a.m.

RECOVERED 10:15 a.m.

AASCB CONFERENCE

Ms. Eklund provided information about AASCB Conference that she attended in January, 2011. AASCB is focusing on ways to establish licensing standards and requirements for professional counselors that all states would accept. The hope of AASCB in setting the standards and requirements is that a professional counselor's license would be portable throughout the country. AASCB is also working with other agencies and members of Congress to establish federal authority for reimbursement of LPC services from the Veterans Administration for services rendered to veterans.

The Board would like to see Oregon counseling and marriage and family therapy organizations make presentations to Board annually. The presentations would include how the organization is moving the profession forward and how the Board can help promote changes. The Board would like to see if at someone from ORCA, OMHCA or OAMFT could attend the June Board meeting.

ELECTRONIC SUBMISSION OF SIX-MONTH REPORT

The Board would like staff to move forward with electronic submission of six-month reports and other licensing procedures that could be completed on-line.

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Ms. Eklund updated the status of legislation related to LPCs and LMFTs under consideration by the Oregon legislature. Ms. Eklund explained why the Board's legislation lapse. Ms. Eklund reported that there is interest in exploring the establishment of a non-licensee registry. We will have an opportunity to appear before the Senate Health Care Committee to provide information about such a proposal.

SEMI-INDEPENDENT

Ms. Eklund described the possibilities of the Board becoming a semi-independent agency. The Board discussed the possibility and pros and cons of semi-independent status. The Board requested that Ms. Eklund conduct more research, including the cost of setting up a semi-independent Board and report back.

If the Board went semi-independent, would the Board be allowed to set up an independent impaired professional program?

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Board convened in Executive Session at 11 a.m. to discuss complaints and investigations through authority provided in ORS 192.660(2)(k).

1:30 p.m. Ryan Melton left the meeting during discussion of a complaint against an acquaintance.

1:30 p.m. Linda Gray joined the meeting via telephone and assumed Chair.

PUBLIC SESSION

The Board reconvened in Public Session at 1:50 p.m.

COMPLIANCE ISSUES

The Board took the following actions on license applications and compliance cases:

Resolved: Case #2011-001 – Julia Smith moved and Elizabeth Hartshorn seconded the motion to issue a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Case #2011-002 – LeeAnne Wichmann moved and Elizabeth Hartshorn seconded the motion to issue a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

1:55 p.m. Linda Gray terminated her telephone call and Ryan Melton assumed the Chair.

Resolved: Case #2011-006 – Elizabeth Hartshorn moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded the motion to dismiss the matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Case #2010-059 – LeeAnne Wichmann moved and Julia Smith seconded the motion for revocation of licensure. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Case #2010-055 – Julia Smith moved and Elizabeth Hartshorn seconded the motion to issue a letter of concern. The motion passed unanimously.

Case #2010-047 – Elizabeth Hartshorn moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded the motion for revocation of licensure. The motion passed unanimously.

Case #2010-046 – LeeAnne Wichmann moved and Julia Smith seconded the motion for revocation of licensure. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Case #2011-005 – LeeAnne Wichmann moved and Julia Smith seconded the motion to dismiss the matter. The motion passed unanimously.

Resolved: Case #2010-054 – Elizabeth Hartshorn moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded the motion to withdraw the previously issued notice of intent.

Staff requested an extension for the investigations in cases #2010-053, #2010-057, #2010-058 and #2011-003 due to caseload. Julia Smith moved and LeeAnne Wichmann seconded the motion to grant extensions for investigation. The motion passed unanimously.

REQUEST FOR AN INACTIVE LICENSE STATUS

The Board reviewed and discussed requests for creation an inactive license status. The Board determined that at this time there would be no separate fee or process for inactive status.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Ms. Eklund reported that there was Board member training provided by CLEAR, a national organization. The training would be held in Oregon, sponsored by several health licensing agencies. Board members expressed interest in the training, but none would be able to attend.

Legislation passed during the 2009 session, directed Oregon's health licensing boards to conduct reviews of operations of the boards. The boards created a peer review committee and a process.

There are three board directors and a public member of the review committee. They have already conducted two reviews. The committee issues a report to the governor's office and share the report with the other boards. The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists is not on the schedule yet.

The Counselor Educator committee has met. Ms. Eklund stated that rules have been drafted and she is waiting for responses from the committee members. Ms. Eklund will move ahead with the public review process of the rules.

The Board discussed online, distance and on-ground graduate programs and what courses should be approved by the Board to meet the educational requirements. The Board believes that a work group should be formed to study this issue.

Ms. Eklund relayed a question from Southern Oregon University who has set up a program called "Let's Talk." The program would like the Board to decide if they are counseling and are they required to hand out professional disclosure statements. The Board reviewed the description of the program and determined that they are providing counseling and they need to provide clients with professional disclosure statements and informed consent.

Ms. Eklund explained that we are receiving applications from individuals who graduated several years ago from Board approved graduate programs. Those graduates assumed that they would meet licensure education requirements since the board had approved the program. The Board's policy is that all applicants must meet the current educational requirements, not the requirements when they graduated.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating competency-based licensure in the State of Oregon. The Board wondered how to ascertain competency, how to measure competency and who determines competency. The Board is considering a pilot program using supervisors to institute a competency based training program. Ms. Eklund is going to do some additional research and report to the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Ryan Melton adjourned the meeting at 2:46 p.m.