



September 2, 2011
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NEWSLETTER

The Board office is open Monday through Friday from 8:00 am to 5:00 pm Monday through Friday.

The remaining 2011/12 office closures for state mandated furlough days and holidays are:

September 16, 2011
November 23, 2011
November 24, 2011
December 26, 2011
January 2, 2012

OBLPCT Board Members

Ryan Melton, LPC, Chair
Linda Gray, LPC, Vice-Chair
Nila Epstein, LPC, LMFT
Elizabeth Hartshorn, LPC
Julia Smith, LPC
Suzan Turley, Public Member
Lee Anne Wichmann, LMFT

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BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

Treating Minors

In response to many recent questions, here is the Board's understanding of issues relating to LPCs, LMFTs and registered interns treating minors (under age 18) in Oregon:

1. Parental consent required: LPCs, LMFTs and registered interns *must have* parental consent to treat minors. Oregon law allows some health care professionals to provide services to minors 14 years of age and older without parental consent, but LPCs and LMFTs are not included in the list, unless they are part of an approved community mental health program.

2. Custodial vs. non-custodial parents: Ab-

sent an emergency, a non-custodial parent *may not* authorize counseling services for a minor. In cases involving children of a divorce, licensees must ensure that the parent requesting counseling has the legal authority to do so. Licensees/interns should ask for a copy of the custody agreement or obtain written consent from the custodial parent. If parents share joint custody, either parent may authorize counseling.

3. Releasing records of minors: The law appears to restrict a non-custodial parent's access to a child's counseling records. ORS 107.154(3) provides that a non-custodial parent has the

right to access the child's medical, dental and psychological records, but counseling records are *not* considered "psychological records". Non-custodial parents *do not* have a right to receive a child's counseling records developed by an LPC, LMFT, or registered intern without the written consent of the custodial parent. The non-custodial parent *does* have the right to consult and receive verbal updates from the licensee/intern.

If you have questions, please contact Brian Johnson at (503) 378-5499 ext. 4 or LPCT.Investigator@state.or.us.

What is Unlicensed Practice of Psychology?

Regulating the unlicensed practice of psychology is one of the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiner's major public protection functions. In general, a person may not practice psychology without a

license. However, many non-psychologist practitioners fall into various exemptions created by the legislature.

A person licensed by another mental health licensing board may not use the title

"psychologist," but may provide some psychological services, so long as the services are within the lawful scope of his or her license. An LPC, LMFT or Intern licensed or registered by the Oregon Board of Licensed

CONTINUING EDUCATION — 2012

2012 is fast approaching and this means that it is time for all licensees to report their continuing education units (CEUs) for the previous 2 years. The requirement for CEUs is 40 hours every two years including six units of ethics training. The number of CEUs reported to the Board is determined by your initial license date. If you received your initial license 0-11 months prior to your renewal date then

you do not need to report CEUs for that period. If you received your initial license 12-23 months prior to your renewal date then you must report 20 hours of CEUs, including 3 hours of ethics. If you received your initial license 24 months or more prior to your renewal date then you must report 40 hours of CEUs. Including 6 hours of ethics. If you have any questions regarding your CEUs

contact Connie Brown at (503) 378-5499 ext. 2 or email Ms. Brown at connie.brown@state.or.us.

The Board does not pre-approve continuing education courses or seminars.

Please refer to OAR 833-080-0031. If the course/ seminar satisfies the criteria listed in the administrative rules, then it should satisfy the CEU requirements.

Intern 6-Month Supervision Evaluation and Report

Interns registered with the board have six month reporting periods based upon their individual start dates. The start date, initial reporting period and report due date are found on the official notification letter sent to each intern upon completion of the registration process (a copy of the registration

letter is provided to the initial supervisor). An intern's official notification letter may be delayed by the criminal background check process. However, the Board allows interns to begin collecting hours and supervision prior to receiving the official letter. The Board staff contacts each intern and provides the

intern's start date, initial reporting period and report due date prior to the official notification.

Please note that if the Board receives a six-month report after the due date, the hours reported for that six-month period will be denied.

Unlicensed Practice of Psychology (continued)

Professional Counselors and Therapists may provide psychological services. For more information, contact the Oregon Board of Psychologist Examiners at www.oregon.gov/obpe or (503) 373-1196.

Bits and Extras

Do not anticipate trouble, or worry about what may never happen. Keep in the sunlight. Benjamin Franklin

The Board maintains a Listserv that posts education and workshop opportunities. Please visit the Board's website at www.oregon.gov/oblpc to sign up for the listserv. The link is located on the right side of the home page under Licensee and Intern Information.

Licensees

1,804 Oregon LPCs
499 Oregon LMFTs
Average age of Licensees 52
Average number of years licensed was 9
(as of August 1, 2011)

Registered Interns

759 Registered Interns
Average age of Interns 31
(as of August 1, 2011)

Number of Complaints Received

28 — 2008
38 — 2009
59 — 2010

Please email your ideas or suggestions for Newsletter articles to:
lpct.board@state.or.us

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