



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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State of Ohio Counselor Professional Standards Committee Meeting May 16, 2013

Members Present: Otha Gilyard, Maureen Cooper, Terri Hamm, Mary Venrick and Christin Jungers

Staff Present: James Rough, Bill Hegarty, Tracey Hosom, Tammy Tingle, Rena Elliott and Simeon Frazier

Guests Present: None

Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:25 a.m.

Discussion/Approval of Agenda

Cooper added: "Letter from Jamie Marich."

Cooper moved to approve the agenda as amended, Jungers seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Investigation Report

Hegarty thanked Cooper and Venrick for their work on the cases they reviewed. Venrick moved to close the 2 cases that she reviewed based on the issues listed on the sheet. Gilyard seconded. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Cooper moved to close the 4 cases that she reviewed based on the issues listed on the sheet. Gilyard seconded. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Hegarty, then, passed out 2 consent agreements regarding audit failures.

JoAnne Shannon

She opted to surrender her license, as she was unwilling to comply with the audit. Cooper moved to accept the consent agreement based on information obtained. Gilyard seconded. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Paul Toriello

He opted to surrender her license, as she was unwilling to comply with the audit. Gilyard moved to accept the consent agreement based on information obtained. Cooper seconded. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

The ACA Code of Ethics

The committee discussed that Jim Rough submitted a proposal to adjust the ACA Code of ethics to line up with the ASWB Code of ethics, since it's up for review. The recommendation is that the rule regarding the 5 year period where licensees are prohibited from having sex with former clients, to "a licensee never being permitted to engage in a sexual relationship with a current/former client."

He wanted to make sure that the committee supported the recommendation, before he moved forward.

They agreed that the 5 year number was arbitrary. They, still, discussed if "never," was appropriate, other, and if people enter relationships as equals, in the first place. Additionally, they wondered if people entering relationships on unequal footing, emotionally, were inherent in relationships, overall, and if the scenario could occur in a healthy way, etc.

Rough entered at 9:33am

Hegarty shared that there may be a hearing in September, since there won't be one in July.

Hegarty, Hosom, and Tingle left at 9:40am

Rough discussed the "Supervisor-Supervisee" component of the ACA ethics rule. He shared that he spoke with OACES and it was discussed that Nick Piazza, president of OACES, stated that it was, strongly, recommended that the 5 year "No sex with a client rule" includes the "Supervisor/Supervisee" relationship, as well as the "Faculty/Student" relationship.

The committee reviewed the statement to the ACA taskforce, and discussed the merits/demerits of it.

Ultimately, the committee agreed that "Never," is, probably, a bad idea, however, a limit should be established.

Cooper shared with Rough that the committee agrees with the statement, sans, changing the 5 year amendment to "Never."

Executive Committee Report

Cooper shared that there are 2 new appointments to the board.

The budget is in good shape.

JCARR doesn't want to approve the 10,000 word per minute recommendation. They don't want a wpm requirement because they believe that it hurts providers, and limits them from protecting businesses.

The planning for the off-site July meeting is underway.

The Board received a request by students that can't get transcripts released because they owe money to their school. There is a rule being drafted by the social workers' committee to allow a temporary window to be released if a payment plan is established, and is applied.

Gilyard moved to support the language for a draft pertaining to counselors. Venrick seconded. There was no further discussion, as the motion passed, unanimously.

It was shared that Board member, social worker, Steven Polovick wants the board to participate in Columbus' Gay Pride parade. The Board's Assistant Attorney General stated that it would be outside of the Board's auspices. The committee agreed that they wouldn't participate.

CT Issues

Applicant I

The committee agreed to approve, conditionally, once the FBI check arrives, assuming nothing new is shown that warrants their attention.

At 11:33, the committee worked on program approvals, before and after lunch. They went back on the record at 2:25p.m.

CEU Committee Report

Jungers replied that the 10,000 wpm agenda dominated the conversation. Stephanie McClelland stated that, even, 3,000 wpm wouldn't work. They were offered to get consultants to evaluate and come to a measurable outcome, as opposed to focusing on words, possibly, funded by "Elite." They'd want to focus on "Quality of the CEU, as opposed to the word count."

They discussed limiting online CEUs/Distance learning.

They discussed a peer- review via a journal was discussed as an alternative in pursuit of quality. It was discussed that there could be legal pushback if programs/providers were approved, before, aren't continually approved.

They also discussed measuring /defining quality.

Concern was discussed about how licensees would work to get around the regulations. The committee believes that keeping long distance/online accumulation at 15 hours is best.

A hardship request was discussed, regarding a stay-at-home mother that wanted more than 15 accumulated online hours to count. The committee agreed that she did not have a hardship.

Audit Compliance Officer, Paula Broome discussed getting more cases of non-compliant or 30 ours accumulated in 1 day. People were renewing without hours completed, and providers were not doing what they stated they would do.

The committee adjourned for the day @ 2:35 p.m.

**State of Ohio
Counselor Professional Standards Committee Meeting
May 17, 2013**

Members Present: Mary Venrick, Terri Hamm, Otha Gilyard and Christin Jungers

Staff Present: Rena Elliott, Bill Hegarty, Tracey Hosom, Jim Rough and Simeon Frazier

Guests Present: Matt Paylo (Ohio Council), Thelma Greaser & Jessica Quach (OCA)

Cooper called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m.

Discussion and Approval of Agenda

Venrick added “Retreat venues ad hoc Committee.”

Cooper added “Broome’s Audit Concerns.”

Gilyard moved to accept the agenda as amended. Jungers seconded

There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Approval of March ‘13 Minutes

A short section from the “Discussion/Approval of Agenda” was stricken.

Gilyard moved to accept the minutes, as amended. Venrick seconded. There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Counselor Application Coordinator’s Report

Elliott reported that, since the last board meeting, Frazier processed 523 Counselor Trainee/Clinical Resident applications and that she had sent 101 Exam packets.

Approval of Applications for Licensure

PC License

Gilyard moved to approve the 61 applications for LPC licensure. Jungers seconded
There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

PCC License

Gilyard moved to approve the 53 applications for PCC licensure. Jungers seconded
There was no additional discussion and the motion passed unanimously.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

With regard to the Ad hoc committees for the July retreat meeting, Venrick shared that, of the sites that will be visited, the Nationwide Children's Hospital site would be headed by Polovick and Venrick. The VA Clinic would be headed by Tommie Robertson and Cooper, although it may be adjusted, given that, only, Social Workers are working at the VA, however, it was discussed that this may be a reason to have counselors attend. At Southeast, Charlie and Tim are heading up the committee.

The ad hoc committee was asked to put together a list of thoughts & ideas to share with licenses in the field, or information to be retrieved from the field (general or site-specific).

The goal was to, respectfully, place faces with names, but not to interfere with the workload, or to be treated as VIPs.

Additionally, there will be discussion regarding CEUs, challenges they face at the site, how effective the board is at getting general information, newsletters, ethics violations information, competencies, etc., whether or not the board is aware of their challenges. Greaser asked to add "how they get training for advancement in their career, and whether or not that's considered to be important." She also recommended a counselor go to the VA to promote counselors at the VA, since it's approved, now. Additionally, she wanted to know what a counselor's title would be at the VA, since it's currently "Psych assistant."

Venrick reiterated that the board is there to listen. Jungers and Cooper confirmed that the original goal is to assess the needs, and be visible. Quach shared that it would be helpful to learn the licensing process, as she found the website to be difficult to navigate.

Audit Concerns

Broome entered at 9:43am, and reported that CE4Less, a Social Worker provider, has had counselors getting post-program approval when they aren't an approved provider for counselors.

The committee agrees that Broome is to say "No," to providers that aren't qualified, and may not have credit, even via post program approval.

Rhonda Franklin entered @ 10am.

Franklin shared the process regarding post-program approval & providers. She shared that the licensees are confused and recommended the board to provide a 1.5 hour (or so) CEU regarding how to identify board approved CEUs and how to renew your license.

Franklin reiterated that the post program approval form is, only, for out of state, or online programs.

Jungers left at 10:15am, returning at 10:45am.

Gilyard left at 10:14am, and returned at 10:20am.

The committee believes that a fine should accompany the 1st caution letter. They'll advise Rough.

Broome shared that counselors are frustrated that they may not do as much as social workers for renewal.

Rough entered at 10:45am.

The committee shared with Rough that a fine should accompany the (Post Program approval) violation after the 1st occurrence. They also suggested eliminating online CEUs that aren't pre-approved.

Rough shared that this would disqualify outstanding programs as they are not pre-approved.

He shared that the statutory authority denies them the ability to fine after 1 violation. To prevent the dramatic sting of disciplinary action is to identify it as a fee (not a fine). The committee shared with Rough that they want an instructional podcast regarding the CEU/Renewal process, that is required and for CEU credit, approved Professional Standards Committee- Specific.

Executive Director's Report

Rough reported that there are 2 new Board appointees.

The ethics commission disclosure report was satisfied.

He met with Rep. Sears.

Regarding the budget, everything was approved by the senate; New telephones and a new licensing system will be added.

Quality description requirements will be discussed instead of a 10,000wpm requirement with regards to Online CEUs.

The "L" in "LPC" and "LPCC" will, now, be reflected in the new rules.

Cooper shared that the mental health questions being asked with criminal history questions in background checks seemed objectionable.

Rough asked for guidance on how/if to proceed with it. He, also shared that, in the spirit of protecting the public, is it a reasonable question to ask.

Hamm shared that it's only relevant if there's an impaired practitioner, though she considers their privacy and wondered about HIPPA violations, particularly, if it goes into their Board File.

The committee agreed that the rest of it was alright.

The Social Worker approved language to set up a payment plan with the school and have a temporary license awarded if it allows them to get their transcript to get licensed.

The Human Trafficking law was enacted, stating that 4757.45 says that the board is instructed to comply with 4776.20.

The ACA ethics code issue will be adjusted to reflect "Training supervisor/supervision." only.

Steve Polovick's issue with the Pride parade was discussed, as it's an inappropriate activity, given the scope of the Board.

The National Center for Health & Workforce Development, and the NBCC nominated Rough to testify for Counselors at the hearing.

A universal standard for health related agencies, CEUs process will reflect intentions of licensees, but the data numbers in the survey must, first, be valid. It would include an "inactive" status.

The July meeting will be form 9-12 sites; then 1-3 lunch & meet, to come back & meet regarding counselor issues at the office.

Correspondence

Dr. Jo-Ann Saunders

The committee agrees that the CACREP standards will be used as the standard to guide their decision regarding the internship with school counselors getting a licensee, and Rough will confirm with CACREP.

Elizabeth Martinez Acuna

The committee decided that she hadn't qualified by the standards. She didn't Diagnose and Treat mental and emotional disorders. Her hours aren't post-PC, so they won't count.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

Maureen Cooper, LPCC-S
Maureen Cooper, Chair