

**TENNESSEE BOARD OF LICENSED PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS, MARITAL &
FAMILY THERAPISTS AND CLINICAL PASTORAL THERAPISTS MINUTES**

DATE: May 18, 2007
TIME: 9:00 a.m., CST
LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Iris Room
227 French Landing, Suite 150
Heritage Place MetroCenter
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Janet Scott, LPC, Chair
Stuart B. Bonnington, LMFT
Susan Hammonds-White, LPC
Dan Hammer, LMFT
Reverend Gordon, Citizen Member

STAFF

PRESENT: Sherry Owens, Board Administrator
Robbie Bell, Director
Barbara Maxwell, Administrative Director
Nicole Armstrong, Advisory Attorney
Jerry Kosten, Rules Coordinator
Lakita Taylor, AARBI

Dr. Scott called the meeting to order at 9:01 a.m. All board members were present.

Review March 9, 2007 Minutes

Upon review of the March 9, 2007 board meeting minutes, Dr. Hammer made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hammonds-White, to approve the minutes as written. The motion carried.

Conflict of Interest Policy Statement

Ms. Armstrong reviewed the Conflict of Interest Policy with the board asking the board members to disclose any conflict of interest they may have prior to contested cases or any other legal proceedings or matters to determine if there is a conflict of interest. Ms. Armstrong stated if a board member does have a conflict of interest they must recuse him/herself and leave the hearing room during the proceeding.

Office of General Counsel Report

Ms. Armstrong said the rule amendment pertaining to advertising, titles and screening panels were sent to the Attorney General on December 27, 2005 and will become effective on July 1, 2007.

Ms. Armstrong said the rule amendment pertaining to ethics and jurisprudence continuing education, refundable fees, supervision requirements and petitions for stays and reconsiderations were sent to the Attorney General on May 30, 2006 and will become effective on June 6, 2007.

Ms. Armstrong said the rule amendment pertaining to the jurisprudence exam was presented to the board for consideration on August 18, 2006 and sent to the Attorney General on August 29, 2006 where it remains.

Ms. Armstrong stated there are four (4) open disciplinary cases pertaining to the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists and Pastoral Counselors at the Office of General Counsel.

Consent Order for George Curtis Trent, LMFT

Mr. Larkin, Assistant General Counsel, presented a consent order for George Curtis Trent, LMFT, to the board. Mr. Larkin stated Mr. Trent admits to continuing communication, giving gifts and engaging in a sexual relationship with a former patient less than two (2) years after counseling ended with that patient.

Mr. Larking stated Mr. Trent's license is to be placed on probation for a period of three (3) years; during the probationary period, Mr. Trent must be supervised by a licensee in good standing who must submit compliance reports every six (6) months; cannot counsel female patients under any circumstances; cannot hold a supervisory position; must complete six (6) hours of continuing education in ethics per year of probation in addition to what is required for licensure and assessed civil penalties in the amount of \$1000 and court costs.

Upon discussion, Dr. Bonnington made a motion, seconded by Reverend Gordon, to accept the consent order under the condition that Mr. Trent's supervisor be AAMFT approved. The motion carried.

Report from Jerry Kosten, Regulations Manager

Mr. Kosten stated the board previously discussed increasing the amount of post master's experience for professional counselors and increasing the number of supervised hours. Mr. Kosten said representatives of the Tennessee Licensed Professional Counselors Association (TLPCA) were there to provide recommendations for LPC/MHSP experience requirements.

Cindy Sneed, acting president for TLPCA, and Dr. Robin Lee, a founding member of TLPCA, addressed the board with recommendations to the current LPC/MHSP requirements for licensure in the state of Tennessee. Ms. Sneed stated the recommendations are based upon a comparison of

requirements in other states and the recommendations of current LPC/MHSP's and educators within Tennessee. Ms. Sneed said upon researching, it was found that Tennessee is currently tied for last with the state of Iowa, regarding post-masters experience. Ms. Sneed stated the current requirement for Tennessee is 1000 hours with 3000 being the average among other states. Ms. Sneed said the TLPCA would like to see an increase in post-masters experience hours from 1000 to 3000 and would like to divide those hours into two (2) categories. Ms. Sneed stated 1500 hours would be face-to-face client contact with the remaining 1500 hours dedicated to clinically related activities. Ms. Sneed said the TLPCA would also like to see an increase in the span of time to obtain licensure and an update in clinical supervision requirements for licensure.

Dr. Lee stated she has been a counselor and educator for the past ten (10) years and believes monitoring client welfare and protecting the public, as well as professional identity, is why there is a need to revamp the requirements for supervisors. Dr. Lee said the TLPCA feels the training of supervisors is important and would like to share with the board, at the next meeting, recommendations regarding the training of supervisors so they will be better at training the supervised.

Ms. Owens said a rule change would be required to increase the time to get a license from 2-6 years because currently temporary licenses are only good for three (3) years.

Dr. Hammonds-White stated she thinks the board should leave the requirement of obtaining licensure as it is and use some of the other recommendations presented to the board.

Mr. Kosten stated rule amendments pertaining to increasing LPC/MHSP experiential requirements, added subsections showing the breakdown of face-to-face client contact and clinically related activities, definition of clinically related activities and the requirement of AAMFT supervisors to be licensed at least five (5) years will be sent to rulemaking hearing on July 25, 2007.

Mr. Kosten discussed the economic impact of rule changes on small businesses.

Upon discussion, Dr. Hammonds-White made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hammer, to send the proposed amendments to rulemaking hearing. The motion carried.

Investigative Report

Ms. Owens reviewed the Investigative Report stating there are currently eight (8) complaints against LPC's; one (1) closed with a letter of concern, two (2) closed with letters of warning, and one (1) referred to OGC.

Ms. Owens stated there are currently no complaints against MFT's and CPT's.

Disciplinary Report

Ms. Owens reviewed the disciplinary report stating there are two (2) practitioners currently being monitored.

Financial Report

Ms. Owens reviewed the Financial Report stating the board has a cumulative carryover of \$197,861.78 as of June 2006. Ms. Owens stated a current report will be available at the next board meeting.

Administrative Report

Ms. Owens stated there are currently 1159 active, 172 retired and 179 failed to renew licensed professional counselors.

Ms. Owens stated there are currently 292 active, 70 retired and 46 failed to renew marital and family therapists.

Ms. Owens stated there are currently 35 active, 9 retired and 2 failed to renew clinical pastoral therapists.

Ms. Owens stated the benchmark for renewal processing time is ten (10) days with LPC's averaging 5.60, MFT's 5.80 and CPT's 5.86 days.

Ms. Owens stated the benchmark for application processing time is one hundred (100) days with LPC's averaging 218.7, MFT's 203.8 and CPT's 0 days.

Ms. Owens stated the renewal processing time has decreased due to licensees utilizing the internet renewal system and submitting required documentation in a timely manner.

Ms. Owens stated between February 24, 2007 and May 14, 2007, twenty-four (24) LPC's, eight (8) MFT's and zero (0) CPT's renewed their license online.

Ms. Owens stated all requests for travel must be submitted 120 days prior to travel date for approval.

Discuss the Request for Proposal for the Marital and Family Therapist and Clinical Pastoral Therapist Law Exam

The board discussed the request for proposal for the marital and family therapist and clinical pastoral therapist law exam. Ms. Armstrong said the trend the boards are seeing within the department is to do away with oral examinations and move toward written state law examinations (jurisprudence) and contracting someone to administer the exam. Ms. Armstrong stated the exam is not the determining factor of getting a license, but to make sure applicants

have an understanding of the law regarding the profession. Ms. Armstrong said a request for proposal is available to the general public and anyone can submit a proposal. Ms. Owens stated a letter may be sent to vendors to see who is interested in administering and/or writing the jurisprudence examination and those who are interested will be sent a request for proposal.

Mr. Kosten stated effective August 1, 2007, oral examinations will be replaced by the jurisprudence exam.

Upon discussion, Dr. Hammonds-White made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hammer, to delay sending out letters to vendors until the rule changes. The motion carried.

Ratify Oral Examination Results

Upon review, Dr. Bonnington made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hammonds-White, to ratify the following licensed marital and family therapist candidates who passed the oral examination:

Heidi McKinney
Manuel Gonzalez-Abreu
Melissa Canterbury
Chandra McMullen

The motion carried.

Ratify Newly Licensed, Reinstated and Temporary Permits for LPC's, MFT's and CPT's

Upon review, Dr. Bonnington made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hammer, to ratify the following newly licensed, reinstated, and temporary permits for LPC's, MFT's and CPT's:

Newly Licensed LPC's

Debra J. Alguire
Lori A. Boudreaux
Rachael A. Brite
April Clanton
Allison L. Coke-Weatherly
Jennifer Cummins
Colleen E. Miller
Mary E. Galloway
Stephanie C. Gibson
Stephanie A. Grissom
Thelma W. Johnson
Kathryn M. Karney
Ann H. Kelley
Andrew R. Killingsworth
Noelle Kirkham

Elizabeth R. Lashower
Carla D. Martin
Gayla McNatt
Marcellina E. Melvin
Tynya D. Patton
Tammie Presley
Constance Ratcliff
Kathryn Snell-Ryan
Sylvia T. White
Christi J. Witcher
Marsha Wright

Temporary Licensed LPC's

Linda V. Callahan
Anna Edgeston
Ira P. Helderman
Corey M. Teague
Karen Whitmore-Jenkins

Reinstated LPC's

Jennifer M. Adams

Newly Licensed MFT's

Bradley C. Barnett

Temporary Licensed MFT's

Christian Cid
Marilyn Garrett
Teresa Hardy
Sandra Jackson
Leona D. Lemay
Kari Milburn
Josephine Oakley

Reinstated MFT's

Charles A. Bellefant

Reinstated CPT's

Christopher D. O'Rear

The motion carried.

Review Files

Upon review of the application of **Stacie Thaxton, LPC**, Dr. Bonnington made motion, seconded by Dr. Hammer, to approve Ms. Thaxton for licensure. The motion carried.

Upon review of the application of **Thurston Moore, LPC**, Dr. Bonnington made a motion, seconded by Dr. Hammonds-White, to approve Mr. Moore for licensure. The motion carried.

Schedule 2008 Board Dates

Upon discussion, the board scheduled the following dates for the 2008 meetings:

February 29, 2008

May 9, 2008

August 15, 2008

November 21, 2008

Dr. Scott expressed appreciation on behalf of the board for Dr. Bonnington's service to the board.

With no other board business to conduct, Dr. Hammer made a motion, seconded by Reverend Gordon, to adjourn the meeting at 11:09 a.m. The motion carried.

Ratified by the Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, Licensed Marital and Family Therapist and Licensed Pastoral Therapist on August 24, 2007