

**CALIFORNIA
BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
CONSUMER SERVICES/CONSUMER PROTECTION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

May 18, 2000

(Approved August 25, 2000)

**DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
400 R STREET, SUITE 1030
SACRAMENTO, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Selma Fields, MFT Member, Committee Chair
Judy Brislain, LEP Member
Christina Chen, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Howard Stein, Public Member

STAFF PRESENT

Sherry Mehl, Executive Officer
LaVonne Powell, Legal Counsel
Julie McAuliffe, Administrative Analyst
Debra Stiger, MFT Evaluator

GUEST LIST ON FILE

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m.

1. APPROVAL OF FEBRUARY 3, 2000 MINUTES

JUDY BRISLAIN MOVED, CHRISTINA CHEN SECONDED, AND THE COMMITTEE CONCURRED TO RECOMMEND APPROVING THE FEBRUARY 3, 2000 MINUTES.

2. PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS INFORMATION

Ms. Fields explained that Ms. Chen had requested that the issue of patient's rights be discussed at this meeting and asked that staff research this matter. Ms. Fields stated that although the professional associations did not have an official bill of rights, our "Professional Therapy Never Includes Sex" booklet did provide one. Ms. Chen provided the Committee with a handout that she had discovered. Ms. Pines stated that handout was a medical model. Ms. Fields suggested that the professional associations include this information regarding patients bill of rights in their newsletters and may want to add phone numbers to contact the Board and other appropriate agencies.

Mary Riemersma, Executive Director of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, indicated that the association would reprint this information in their magazine.

Ms. Mehl stated that all licensees receive a copy of this booklet when they are initially licensed with the Board.

3. REVIEW AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE BOARD'S RECORD RETENTION POLICY

Ms. Mehl stated that the Board currently has a record retention policy for enforcement related files. This policy does not include a citation and fine timeline. After discussion, the Committee decided to set a 1 year timeline to keep files in the office and a 10 year timeline to keep files at the State Record Center.

CHRISTINA CHEN MOVED, JUDY BRISLAIN SECONDED AND THE COMMITTEE CONCURRED TO ADD TO THE RECORD RETENTION POLICY A 1 YEAR TIMELINE IN OFFICE AND A 10 YEAR TIMELINE AT THE STATE RECORD CENTER FOR CITATION AND FINE FILES.

4. ENFORCEMENT STATISTICS

Ms. Mehl provided the Committee with an overview of the statistics. Ms. Fields asked that the licensee population be added to the Overview of Enforcement Activity chart. Ms. Mehl stated that the amount of complaints received every year is almost identical and the amount of licenses revoked continues to be high. Also, because most of the cases are so egregious, most do not go to hearing.

5. REVIEW OF STRATEGIC PLAN PERFORMANCE MEASURES

Ms. Fields stated that this information was not included in the February meeting materials when the Committee reviewed their current goals. Ms. Mehl explained that this is an ongoing document that staff uses to work from to meet the Committee's goals. She then stated that she is noticing that the Department's strategic plan has changed and the Board may want to review their plan to include possible changes to ours.

Ms. Fields suggested that to meet goal number 11 which is continue to identify and investigate avenues to improve ethic standards in practice, a document such as the patient bill of rights could be provided the licensees. She then indicated that David Fox, MFT, had suggested at the last meeting that the Board consider mandating a continuing education course in ethics. Although she did feel that the Board could suggest that licensees take an ethics course periodically, she did not think that is was necessary at this time to pursue requiring this training.

Ms. Fields then asked Ms. Mehl to comment on the national databank for disciplinary action information. Ms. Mehl stated that we added our disciplinary records in February and the information is continuously updated. This was a tremendous undertaking by the federal government and the organization of it was extremely confusing. It was very difficult to input data and very costly to extract data. Most of the fields that were required to be filled in were not relative to the license and was not relevant information. She feared that a lot of states are not providing the information because of the confusing process and hoped that people were not using this databank as their only source for enforcement information.

Mary Mallory from Chapman University asked what the Committee thought was the best way to involve the schools and students with the Board meetings. Ms. Mehl stated that she often visits schools and invites all students and staff to attend the meeting. The agendas are available on the website and a meeting mailing list is maintained at the office.

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.