

(approved April 25, 2002)

**BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
EXAMINATION COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

JANUARY 24, 2002

**HYATT REGENCY ISLANDIA
1441 QUIVIRA ROAD
SAN DIEGO, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Mark Burdick, LEP Member, Acting Chair
Roberto Quiroz, Public Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Karen Pines, MFT Member, Committee Chair

STAFF PRESENT

Sherry Mehl, Executive Officer
Mary-Alice Coleman, Legal Counsel
Laura Freedman, Legal Counsel
Julie McAuliffe, Administrative Analyst
Janene Mayberry, Licensing Evaluator

GUEST LIST ON FILE

The meeting was called to order at approximately 1:35 p.m.

Due to Ms. Pine's absence, Dr. Burdick chaired the Committee meeting.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MARK BURDICK MOVED, ROBERTO QUIROZ SECONDED, AND THE COMMITTEE CONCURRED TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 8, 2001 MINUTES.

2. EXAMINATION STATISTICS

Ms. Mehl stated that the current statistics were included in the meeting materials. These statistics are included for each meeting.

David Fox, Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), asked about the lower pass rates for the MFT written examination in the last six months. Mr. Fox suggested that there were either problems with the examination or problems with the candidates. Ms. Mehl explained that the questions are written in a more clinical manner and are more in line with the current professions. The examination questions are

much more reflective of the clinical nature that is tested in the oral examinations. The questions go through very rigorous statistical analysis both in pre test as well as during examinations to determine that the questions are psychometrically sound.

Ms. Ulevitch questioned the first time takers statistics and stated that this was a very significant, high, pass rate. Ms. Mehl explained that in licensing profession examinations it is very typical to see that the highest pass rate is in first time takers, the next highest in second time takers, then third, fourth, and fifth time takers drop dramatically. These statistics identify that licensing examinations are knowledge based and, if someone does not increase their knowledge, they will not pass.

Mr. Quiroz stated that the majority of responses received from candidates through the oral examination exit survey indicate that they feel the examination is fair. When combined with the examination statistics, as well as the shortage of social workers in California, the issues around the oral examination are complex and the Committee should begin to work with counties regarding the quality of supervision and with the schools regarding the preparation of students who may enter clinical practice.

Dr. Stein stated that the population of California continues to grow and there will continue to be an increasing need for social workers. He also indicated that years ago California was first or second in educational quality and now California is, he thought, forty-ninth. This may impact the examination.

Ms. Ulevitch asked that as discussions continue regarding these issues, the issues of shortages of social workers be separated from the issues of the quality and competency of the examinations.

Mr. Fox asked that the Committee look into having an independent review of the examination performed outside of the Office of Examination Resources.

Geraldine Esposito, Executive Director of the California Society for Clinical Social Work, stated that the Office of Examination Resources is an independent body and has the expertise to perform independent reviews of the examinations. She then thanked Ms. Ulevitch for her request to separate the political issues from the necessary standards.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1:45 p.m.