

(Approved November 14, 2002)

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

JULY 25, 2002

**HILTON SAN PEDRO
2800 VIA CABRILLO MARINA
SAN PEDRO, CA**

MEMBERS PRESENT

Karen Pines, MFT Member, Committee Chair
Howard Stein, Public Member
Susan Ulevitch, LCSW Member

MEMBERS ABSENT

Mark Burdick, LEP Member

STAFF PRESENT

Sherry Mehl, Executive Officer
Mary-Alice Coleman, Legal Counsel
Julie McAuliffe, Administrative Analyst

GUEST LIST ON FILE

The meeting was called to order at approximately 9:15 a.m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

SUSAN ULEVITCH MOVED, KAREN PINES SECONDED, AND THE COMMITTEE CONCURRED TO APPROVE THE APRIL 25, 2002 MINUTES.

2. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING AMENDMENTS TO THE ACCEPTABLE SETTINGS FOR GAINING QUALIFYING EXPERIENCE TOWARD LICENSURE AS A MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST AND LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

Ms. Mehl stated that there are specific settings delineated in our law and we have had to deny hours of experience gained in settings that are not included. The meeting materials included letters from two such settings that explained their contractual agreements with particular settings. If the Committee were to determine that they would like to take out the delineations, Ms. Mehl suggested that the law be enhanced to further clarify the clinical experience that should be gained. Also, Ms. Mehl stated that we could continue to add acceptable settings but it would still not guarantee that interns were gaining the appropriate experience needed to be a competent clinician.

Ms. Pines asked that if the Committee were to determine a change was needed, the Clinical Social Worker law be reviewed as well.

Ms. Pines stated that she did not see in any of the correspondences received where there was a determination that interns were gaining clinical experience.

Mary Riemersma, Executive Director of the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists, stated that she agreed with Ms. Mehl's comments and indicated the Association would support any change that would simplify the law and focus more on the experience than the setting.

Bob Davis from Ryokan College indicated that he questions settings regularly when trainees submit them as acceptable settings to gain pre degree experience. He submitted a suggestion to the Committee in which the law would be amended to indicate that experience may be gained in a setting that provides psychotherapeutic counseling services, except that trainees may not gain such experience in a private practice.

A representative from Telecare Corporation, one of the authors of the correspondence included in the meeting materials, indicated that there are some interns who have already gained their experience in this unacceptable setting. Ms. Pines clarified that the law is very specific and does not allow the Board to apply any changes retroactively.

An intern who is employed by Enki Services, another setting that is not identified in law, supported the change and asked that the Committee consider having the law focus on the experience and not the setting.

Ms. Mehl explained that any legislative change would not become effective until 2004. She then suggested that the public submit written comments on this issue. Staff will work with legal to draft language to describe acceptable experience and settings and include the drafts in the November meeting materials.

3. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR SUPERVISORS OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST INTERNS AND ASSOCIATE CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKERS

The California Mental Health Directors Association had written to the Board asking if they would amend the laws and regulations to allow supervisors in mental health settings to not have to comply with the requirement that supervisors have practiced psychotherapy for at least two of the last five years immediately preceding supervision and have averaged at least five patient/client contact hours per week. The Association appears to be experiencing a problem with complying with this requirement.

Ms. Mehl stated that when the Board amended this into law and regulation, they felt very strongly about ensuring that a supervisor had recent clinical experience.

Ms. Riemersma stated that she agrees that it is important that a supervisor have recent clinical experience. She thought that it might simplify things by taking out the average of five patient/client contact hours per week and thereby lessening the requirement. She indicated that the Association would support such a change.

Shari Twidwell from the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) indicated that she has been in contact with the California Society for Clinical Social Workers and neither of the groups have a problem with the change.

Phyllis Rately from San Bernardino County Behavioral Health stated that the scenario in her workplace is that many of the clinic supervisors who, although they have contact daily with clients, do not carry a client caseload. She thought that the interpretation was that a supervisor must carry a caseload.

Ms. Mehl stated that the Board looks at a supervisor's responsibility and oversight of an intern's caseload as client contact since they are directly responsible for the client. Ms. Mehl then suggested that staff would draft language to further clarify this in the regulation. She then asked that the public submit written comments to the Board office before the next meeting in November.

Linda Howard stated that she appreciated the interpretation that Ms. Mehl explained. She then went on to say that the suggestions in the letters submitted by the California Mental Health Directors Association were much too limiting and would not benefit everyone.

4. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE AMENDMENTS TO THE CALIFORNIA CODE OF REGULATIONS SECTIONS 1807.2 AND 1810.

Sheri Twidwell from NASW explained that they would like to offer alcoholism and other chemical substance dependency training but the regulation currently only allows this training to be taken at an educational institution. The meeting materials included a draft incorporating the Association's suggestion. Within the drafting process, staff realized that the Human Sexuality training had been amended to broaden the entities who can offer the training and determined that the Child Abuse training should be amended also to allow all three additional requirements for licensure to be offered by similar entities.

SUSAN ULEVITCH MOVED, KAREN PINES SECONDED, AND THE COMMITTEE CONCURRED TO ADOPT THE DRAFT LANGUAGE.

5. EXAMINATION STATISTICS

The current statistics were included in the meeting materials. David Fox, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and examination preparatory course owner and operator, expressed his concerns about the written examination pass rates. He also commented on his concerns regarding the clinical simulations that are currently being tested within the Marriage and Family Therapist written examination.

Ms. Ulevitch mentioned that she thought the current 70% pass rate for first time takers on the most recent written examination was very high for a standardized examination.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 10:00 a.m.