# New process for continuing education providers to renew Board approval

## Delinquency fee now in effect

If you are a continuing education (CE) provider, licensee, or registrant with the Board, recent regulation changes could affect you. On January 26, 2008, the Board of Behavioral Sciences adopted two sections in Title 16 of the California Code of Regulations (1887.75 and 1887.77) and amended two other sections (1816.7 and 1887.7) to create new policies relating to CE provider approval renewal.

*Important Note:* The new regulations apply only to approvals that expired after December 31, 2007. Any provider whose approval expired on or before December 31, 2007, must comply with the previous policy and regulations.

## What changed?

Any CE provider renewing an approval that expired after December 31, 2007, must now pay a delinquency fee of $100, in addition to the normal $200 renewal fee, if renewing within one year of approval expiration. For example, if a CE provider's approval expired on November 30, 2008, that provider could renew the approval by paying the $300 fee (renewal fee plus delinquency fee) and by submitting the CE provider renewal application with a letter of declaration postmarked no later than November 30, 2009. The letter of declaration should state either, "No courses were presented while the approval status was expired," or "All participants of courses offered during the expired approval period have been notified that the provider's approval status at the time of completion of the CE was expired. CE hours will not be disallowed by the Board if the provider renews within one year after its expiration."

Under previous policy, if a CE provider's approval expired, the provider had to submit a new CE provider application, and any classes the provider offered after expiration would be ineligible for credit toward licensees' and registrants' requirements. Now, the provider can avoid such a procedure as long as the provider submits the appropriate materials within a year of approval expiration. The current process benefits the Board and providers by eliminating redundant paperwork, streamlining the process of renewing an approval number, and providing protections to licensees and registrants.

## Information for licensees and registrants

Before taking any courses from CE providers, be sure the provider has a provider number from the Board. Approved CE providers will have a "PCE" number, and this number should be readily available on advertising materials. Once you have the "PCE" number, you can verify the provider's status using the Board's Online License Verification resource at **www.bbs.ca.gov/quick_links/weblookup.shtml.** Do not take courses from providers who do not have a current and active status with the Board.

## Want to stay updated on changes?

The best way to stay updated on any changes relating the Board's statutes and regulations is to sign up for the Board's free e-mail subscriber service. Sign up at **www.bbs.ca.gov/quick_links/subscribe.shtml.**

## Take note, you have less time to renew an expired license

In January 2008, new laws went into effect decreasing the amount of time a person can allow his or her license to remain expired before the Board cancels the expired license. Under the new laws, if a Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT), Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCS), or Licensed Educational Psychologist (LEP) fails to renew his or her license within three years of license expiration, the Board will cancel the expired license. Previous law required a licensee to renew an expired license within five years of expiration; the new law shortens this timeframe. This law change does not affect Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASW) or MFT Interns.

Once a license is cancelled, the former license holder will need to pass current licensing examination requirements, get fingerprinted, pay all examination-related fees, and pay the initial license application fee. In addition, no grounds should exist for the Board to revoke or suspend the new license.

**Change in time limit for renewing expired license**

Obtaining a new license once a person allows his or her previous license to expire represents a substantial investment of time and effort. If a licensee is planning on not practicing or planning to move to another state, the Board recommends the licensee take advantage of the "Inactive" license status as opposed to letting the license expire. An "Inactive" license renewal fee is approximately half the "Active" fee, does not require any continuing education, and a licensee can renew "Inactive" indefinitely without penalty, provided the person renews every two years prior to the expiration date of the inactive license. For more information on the "Inactive" license status, please review "Inactive License Renewal: Learn the Benefits and the Facts" from the Summer 2007 issue of the *BBS News* (available at **www.bbs.ca.gov/forms.shtml**).

## Tips for license and registration renewal

Missing a simple checkbox on your license or registration renewal form can delay processing. If the delay causes your license or registration to become delinquent, your ability to work may be at risk.

In August 2008, 11 percent of all renewals were incomplete. Most of them were missing a checked box or a signature. Follow these tips for a painless renewal process:

1. Read the renewal application thoroughly.
2. Review the application before you submit it. Be sure you checked the appropriate boxes and signed the form.
3. Make sure your check or money order is for the correct amount. The renewal application includes a list of fees.

The Board sends renewal reminders about 120 days before a license or registration expires. However, you are responsible for renewing on time, even if you don't get the

reminder. Registration Renewal Applications and License Renewal Applications are posted in the “Forms and Publications” section of the Board’s Web site (www.bbs.ca.gov/forms.shtml). The Board suggests you renew your license or registration 60 days before it expires.

Remember: Review completely and renew early for a painless renewal process.

## New Committee Formed

**The Board Recently Announced The Formation Of A New Committee**

The LCSW Education Committee is reviewing the current curriculum and education requirements for LCSWs in California. This committee consists of LCSW Board member Renee Lonner (chair), LCSW Board member Joan Walmsley, and public member Donna DiGiorgio. This committee, which works closely with California accredited schools of social work and professional associations, has held three meeting and is currently gathering information.

For future meeting dates and past meeting minutes, go to: www.bbs.ca.gov/bd_activity/bd_mtgs.shtml

## Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention: Every Californian is Part of the Solution

The statistics about suicide are alarming. Suicide is the tenth leading cause of death in California. Every year approximately 3,300 Californians lose their lives to suicide; more suicide deaths are reported in our State than deaths caused by homicides. On average, nine Californians die by suicide every day. Suicide and suicidal behaviors occur among all age groups and across all socioeconomic, racial, and ethnic backgrounds.

The causes of suicide are complex and include an array of biological, psychological, social, environmental, and cultural risk factors. Too often there is lack of coordination between service systems and providers and a lack of knowledge about how to recognize the warning signs of suicide. And for far too long, suicide has been viewed as a taboo subject. Fear of stigma and discrimination surrounding suicide can be so pervasive that it often deters people from seeking help.

Traditionally, suicide has been considered primarily a concern of the mental health system, largely due to the connection between mental illnesses, such as depression, and the elevated risk of suicide. However, in 2001, the President’s New Freedom Commission called for a change that would place mental health into the context of the broader public health system. The transformed system would provide quality care for those in need, but it would also promote resiliency, recovery, and health.

In response to this change and in combination with other events, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger in 2006 charged the California Department of Mental Health with the development of the California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention. The Department of Mental Health embarked upon this work in partnership with the Suicide Prevention Plan Advisory Committee composed of mental health experts, advocates, providers,

researchers, and representatives from various nonprofit and government agencies. The Advisory Committee also included other important voices—survivors of suicide attempts and suicide loss.

The plan is built upon the vision that a full range of strategies, starting from prevention and early intervention, should be targeted to Californians of all ages, from children and youth to adults and older adults. To effectively reduce suicides and suicidal behavior, communities need prevention services to promote health and address problems long before they become acute, as well as a coordinated system of services to effectively respond to crisis situations.

The plan serves as a blueprint for action at the local and state levels. The plan is intended to guide the work of policymakers, program managers, providers, funders, and others in bringing systems together to better coordinate their efforts and to enhance needed prevention, intervention, and postvention services.

**The plan consists of four major parts.**

• Part 1 presents information about suicide's impact and magnitude from different sources and different perspectives.
• Part 2 describes successful and promising strategies, practices, and polices that have been used to prevent suicide.
• Part 3 provides the Advisory Committee's recommended actions to reduce suicide deaths and the incidence of suicidal behaviors in California. Many of the recommendations require a long-term effort; others can be implemented immediately.
• Part 4 lists the next steps for local and State action.

Suicide prevention must be a priority in our State. While many challenges lie ahead in carrying out this work, tremendous opportunities also exist. With thousands of lives at stake each year, every Californian needs to be part of the solution.

Based on the *Draft California Strategic Plan on Suicide Prevention: Every California is Part of the Solution*, California Department of Mental Health, April 4, 2008. The Plan and more information can be found at **www.dmh.ca.gov** (go to the "Prop 63" tab and then select the link to "Prevention and Early Intervention").

## The benefits to designation as a Mental Health Professional Shortage Area

The California Department of Mental Health has been working with the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to increase the number of federally designated Mental Health Professional Shortage Areas (MHPSA) in California. Designation as a MHPSA provides a geographic area, population group, or facility with access to a number of federal benefits designed to bring mental health professionals to shortage areas and improve the distribution of such professionals.

**The purpose of a Mental HPSA designation is:**

• To assure that mental health services are available and accessible to underserved populations.

• To assist in the retention and recruitment of mental health providers in designated areas.
• To assist in the determination of unusually high mental health needs.

Benefits include student loan repayment, scholarships and scholar placement programs, visa waiver programs, direct provider resources, and a drug discount program. A booklet with a partial listing and description of potential federal benefits for which a designated Mental HPSA may apply is available at **www.dmh.ca.gov/Prop_63/MHSA/Workforce_Education_and_Training/default.asp**. For more information, go to **http://bhpr.hrsa.gov/shortage/mental.htm**.

For more information on obtaining assistance in the designation process, contact Inna Tysoe at the state Department of Mental Health at inna.tysoe@dmh.ca.gov.

## New Web page – Reports and research

In November 2008, the Board created a new "Reports and Research" Web page. The page will provide summary reports and datasets for the Board's previous and future research projects. The datasets are free to use. If you plan on using them for your own research purposes, please keep the Board informed of your results. You can contact the Board via e-mail at bbswebmaster@bbs.ca.gov.

Sign up for the Board's e-mail subscriber list at www.bbs.ca.gov/quick_links/subscribe.shtml to be updated when future studies and datasets are posted to the Web site.

## Upcoming outreach events

February 6, 2009 | MFT Educators Forum, Philips Graduate Institute, Pasadena, CA

March 8, 2009 | National Association of Social Workers Student Lobby Days, Sacramento, CA

March 12-14, 2009 | California Association of School Psychologists Annual Conference, Riverside, CA

February 13, 2009 | CSU, Chico, LCSW School Presentation, Chico, CA

April 30-May 3, 2009 | California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists Annual Conference, San Jose, CA

In addition to outreach presentations, many resources and materials are available to help students, registrants, and supervisors understand the Board licensing process, including videos, experience calculators, and examination study guides.

Please visit: www.bbs.ca.gov/app-reg/index.shtml to access these resources.

## Update on BPPVE-approved schools

The Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education Reform Act of 1989 (Act), including the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE), became inoperative on July 1, 2007, and the Act itself was repealed on January 1, 2008. The Department of Consumer Affairs has worked to encourage schools to voluntarily agree to comply with the law as it existed on June 30, 2007. More information about this can be found at **www.bppve.ca.gov**.

Recently, the Governor signed Assembly Bill 1897 to address the sunset of the BPPVE. This bill does two things:

1. Extends the Board's ability to accept degrees from schools that had a valid approval to operate from the BPPVE as of June 30, 2007, if the degree is conferred by July 1, 2010.

2. Permits the Board to accept qualifying degrees from schools accredited by any of the following regional accrediting bodies, regardless of BPPVE approval status:

• Northwest Association of Secondary and Higher Schools
• Middle States Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
• New England Association of Schools and Colleges
• North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools
• Southern Association of Colleges and Schools

The Board's ability to accept degrees conferred by schools accredited by any of the above regional accrediting bodies takes effect January 1, 2009, and will not expire.

**Here are answers to some common questions about the new law:**

Q: What does the passage of AB 1897 mean for a person attending a school formerly approved by the BPPVE whose degree was or will be conferred on or after July 1, 2007?

A: Your degree will be accepted for Marriage and Family Therapist (MFT) Intern registration and MFT licensure if your school's BPPVE approval was still in effect on June 30, 2007; if your degree was or will be conferred on or before July 1, 2010; and if your degree meets all other qualifications. Your degree will also be accepted for MFT Intern registration and MFT licensure if your school was accredited by one of the regional accrediting bodies mentioned above.

Q: What does this mean for prospective students considering entering an MFT program?

A: The provisions in AB 1897 relating to BPPVE approvals expire on July 1, 2010. If you are considering entering a degree program at a non-accredited school, we strongly suggest thatyou monitor the progress of reform legislation and the Board's regulation proposal. The Board cannot advise you on whether to enroll in any program (including those affected by the elimination of the BPPVE). However, the Board is committed to providing you with information that can help you make an informed decision. For details on this and related legislation, contact your school or check for updates on the BPPVE Web site, **www.bppve.ca.gov**.

Q: What is the Board of Behavioral Sciences doing to address this issue?

A: The Board sponsored Assembly Bill 1897 as mentioned above. In addition, the Board proposed a regulation that would permit applicants for MFT licensure and MFT Intern registration who obtain a degree from a BPPVE-approved school between January 1, 2009, and June 30, 2012, to continue to qualify, as long as the school held an approval to operate as of June 30, 2007. The public comment period for this regulation ended on September 13, 2008, and the Board voted on October 10, 2008 to approve the rulemaking file and directed staff to submit the file to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL) for approval. The OAL recently approved the regulation, and it will take effect on February 27, 2009. For more information on this regulation see **www.bbs.ca.gov/bd_activity/reg_pending.shtml**.

# Mental health services play a vital role in benefits to crime victims

**From the California Victim Compensation Program**

Crime often strikes without warning. An unexpected death by violence, a shooting, a sexual assault, child molestation, or domestic violence complicates the healing process for victims, survivors, and family members. Crime can leave families emotionally, physically, and financially devastated.

The California Victim Compensation and Government Claims Board helps crime victims and their loved ones access resources to cope with the aftermath of violent crime. Every year, thousands of people turn to the Victim Compensation Program for help with paying the cost of mental health treatment. The Victim Compensation Program provides reimbursement for services provided by licensed mental health professionals, including psychiatrists, psychologists, clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and others.

**Working with the program**

If you are a mental health practitioner providing services to a victim of violent crime, you may want to consider referring your client to an advocate at your local victim assistance center for help with the program's application process. In most counties, victim advocates are part of the District Attorney's Office. Advocates can connect crime victims with a host of other services in addition to compensation. Applications are available at **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov.**

If you are working with a client who has already applied for compensation from the program, it is easy to submit bills. The following tips will help providers get their bills paid efficiently.

• Include your client's application number on each bill. If your client does not know their application number, they can call (800) 777-9229, or their local victim advocate, for help.

• With the first bill submitted to the program, it helps to include verification of your licensure and a completed IRS Form W-9.

• All bills must be submitted on HFCA (CMS 1500) forms. Required information includes treatment diagnostic codes, your license number, and your Federal tax identification number.

Recent program enhancements have made it easier for practitioners to work with the program. Therapists continue to be required to complete a treatment plan after the fifth session. In most cases, practitioners are no longer required to submit the treatment plan. The practitioner must maintain the treatment plan with the client's records.

Most eligible clients can access up to 30 or 40 sessions initially, depending on the type of crime and their relationship to the victim. Practitioners may submit an additional treatment plan to request approval for additional sessions. For more information on rates, forms, session limits, claim limits and procedures for requesting authorization for additional treatment, go to the Service Provider section of **www.victimcompensation.ca.gov.**

To request a presentation on the program for your professional association or other group, submit the online Provider Information Forum Registration form available on the Web site. The program has a consulting psychologist and marriage and family therapist on staff who help professionals who provide services to victims of crime.

Not all crime victims qualify for compensation. For example, the program cannot cover an applicant's expenses if the applicant is on felony probation, on parole, in jail, or in prison. Applicants also must cooperate with law enforcement and with the program.

California has been a leader in providing services to victims of violent crime for more than 40 years. It was the first state to establish a Victim Compensation Program in 1965. The program has since paid nearly $1.8 billion to help victims of crime. During the 2007-08 fiscal year, the program paid out $19 million to cover mental health treatment for crime victims.

In addition to mental health treatment costs, the program can also pay for services such as medical and dental care, funeral and burial expenses, rehabilitation, income and support loss, and relocation. The program is not funded by taxpayer dollars. Instead, it is funded by fines, fees, and penalties paid by State and Federal criminal offenders.

The California Victim Compensation Program invites you to share this information with your colleagues. The more practitioners who are aware of the program, the more victims will be able to find quality mental health services.

## Enforcement disciplinary actions – July 1, 2007, to June 30, 2008

**Alabran, David Wayne**
MFC 39175; Case No. MF-2007-26
San Juan Capistrano, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; sexual misconduct; gross negligence.

From on or about January 2001 to April 2006, respondent saw Client A and her husband for individual and joint marriage counseling. During multiple individual therapy sessions with Client A from on or about December 2004 or January 2005 to on or about April 3 or 4, 2006, respondent engaged in inappropriate touching and sexual misconduct with Client A.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked. Must pay cost recovery of $1,659 prior to issuance of new or reinstated license. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Aleru, Caleb Ola**
ASW 16190; Case No. AS-2007-299
Fresno, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; conviction of a substantially related crime; abusing alcoholic beverages.

On January 17, 2007, in the Superior Court, County of Fresno, respondent was convicted for a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(b) (driving under the influence of alcohol). Respondent has multiple prior convictions for driving under the influence of alcohol.

**Decision:** Registration revoked. Must pay cost recovery of $2,172.50. Effective 3/27/2008.

**Alexander-Weston, Patricia**
MFC 17998; Case No. MF-2006-712
Soquel, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence/incompetence; causing harm to a patient.

The accusation alleged that from 2001 until approximately March 2005, respondent provided mental health services to Client A. On one occasion during the aforementioned time period, respondent allegedly offered to hire Client A to weed her garden and clean her home. On another occasion during the aforementioned time period, respondent allegedly asked if Client A would like to order art supplies with her so as to share shipping and mailing charges. On or about February 2005, respondent, with Client A's consent, allegedly removed several items from Client A's studio, including several items that she was not asked to take. The Accusation alleged that respondent subsequently lost or damaged some of the items and, in addition, the Accusation alleged that the respondent shredded all of Client A's journals.

**Decision:** By stipulation, surrender of license. Must pay cost recovery of $1,500 prior to issuance of new license. Effective 10/07/07.

**Belczak, Karah Ann**
ASW 18124; Case No. AS-2005-961
Tustin, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Conviction of a substantially related crime.

On April 13, 2006, respondent pled guilty to, and was convicted of, a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(b), driving under the influence of alcohol. Respondent also had one prior Vehicle Code section 23152(b) conviction from 2002.

**Decision:** By stipulation, surrender of registration. Must pay cost recovery in the amount of $1,817 before issuance of a new registration number or license. Effective 10/07/2007.

**Chernoff, Sharon Marsha**
LCS 12215; Case No. D1-2006-308
Coalinga, CA

**Alleged grounds for revocation of probation:** Failure to participate in ongoing psychotherapy; failure to comply with supervised practice; failure to submit a timely plan and complete coursework; failure to submit quarterly reports; failure to pay cost recovery; failure to comply with probation program.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license surrendered. Must pay cost recovery of $3,501 prior to issuance of a new license. Effective 6/27/2008.

**Riggs, Jr., William Davisson**
MFC 33474; Case No. MF-2006-280
Orinda, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence/ incompetence; causing harm to patient; sexual relations with patient; dangerous use of alcohol.

The accusation alleged that from February 2005 until August 2005, respondent allegedly had a sexual relationship with a client, cohabitated with client, and gave several gifts to the client. During this period respondent allegedly asserted to client and to various co-workers that the client was respondent's son. Respondent allegedly was abusing alcohol during this period and allegedly stated that this alcohol abuse impaired his judgment.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license surrendered. Must pay cost recovery of $13,229 prior to issuance of a new or reinstated license. Effective 6/27/2008.

**Conroy, Dayle**
LCS 19107; Case No. LC-2006-758
Fresno, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; conviction of a substantially related crime.

On April 18, 2006, respondent was criminally convicted, in the Fresno County Superior Court, in the case entitled, The People of the State of California v. Dayle Louise Conroy, Case No. F06900824-4, for violation of Penal Code section 69 [resisting executive officer]. On April 18, 2006, respondent was criminally convicted, in the Fresno County Superior Court, in the case entitled, The People of the State of California v. Dayle Louise Conroy, Case No. 06902241-9, for violation of Penal Code section 422, [criminal threats].

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions include but not limited to education in law and ethics, psychological evaluation, ongoing psychotherapy, supervised practice, education in the area of alcohol/drug abuse, rehabilitation program, abstain from use of alcohol and controlled substances, and submit to biological fluid testing. Effective 3/27/2008.

**Cooksey, Michael**
MFC 21293; Case No. MF-2006-263
Atascadero, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Conviction of a substantially related crime; unprofessional conduct; sexual misconduct; emotional harm to patient; failure to maintain confidentiality; inconsistent records; substantially related dishonest acts; gross negligence.

On or about July 2003, respondent began treating client. On or about Thanksgiving 2003, respondent gave client his phone number, began visiting the client at the client's home, and conversing with the client on the telephone. Respondent informed client of what to say to the client's psychiatrist in order to get medications. Respondent instructed client to not tell the psychiatrist about the relationship between client and himself. On or about December 10, 2003, client met with respondent for therapy. On or before the end of December 2003, respondent and client began an intimate relationship. The last intimate encounter occurred on or about January 2005. On or about August 1, 2006, in San Luis Obispo County Superior Court, respondent was convicted on a plea of nolo contendere of violating Business and Professions Code 729(a) (sexual exploitation of a client), a misdemeanor.

**Decision:** By default, license revoked. Effective 10/7/2007.

**Davies, Susan Gittleman**
LCS 9757; Case No. LC-2003-936
Torrance, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; failure to properly maintain records.

On multiple days starting on or about July 24, 2002, to on or about March 11,2003, respondent committed multiple acts of improper record keeping with respect to records relating to the treatment of a patient paid by Medicare.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation for 35 months. Terms and conditions of probation include but are not limited to education in record keeping/billing and law and ethics, reimbursement of probation program, monitored billing system, and monitor billing system audit. Must pay cost recovery of $2,000. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Deraad, Becky Ann**
IMF 55888; Case No. AP-2006-560
Newbury Park, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; conviction of substantially related crimes; dishonesty, fraud, or deceit.

From on or about July 20, 1998, to December 16, 2004, respondent was convicted on four separate occasions for violations of the Penal Code. These violations are all misdemeanors and include three violations of Penal Code section 484(a) (petty theft) and one violation of Penal Code section 243(e)(1) (battery).

**Decision:** By stipulation registration issued, immediately revoked, stayed, registration placed on probation for three years. Terms and conditions include but are not limited to education in law and ethics, supervised practice, psychotherapy, and reimbursement of the probation program. Effective 1/19/2008.

**Feakes, Ann Cummings** (aka Ann Cummings Sanburg)
LCS 16820; Case No. LC-2006-107
Lexington, MA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Conviction of a substantially related crime; unprofessional conduct.

On or about August 5, 2005, respondent was convicted on her plea of nolo contendere for violating Health and Safety Code section 11351 (possession of narcotic/ controlled substance for sale), a felony.

**Decision:** By default, licensed revoked. Effective 10/07/07.

**Feldman, Janel Yoon**
IMF 44092; Case No. IM-2007-970
Simi Valley, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Convictions of substantially related crimes; drug usage endangering self and others.

On May 3, 2007, in the Superior Court of California for the County of Ventura, respondent was convicted on pleas of guilty to the following: two felony counts of violating Health and Safety Code section 11350(a) (possession of a controlled substance); a felony count of violating Health and Safety Code section 11377 (possession of a controlled substance); a misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 273a(b) (child endangerment); and a misdemeanor count of violating Penal Code section 273g (committing lewd practices in front of a minor).

**Decision:** By default, registration revoked. Effective 6/27/2008.

**Feoktistova, Larisa V.**
IMF 42749; Case No. IM-2004-282
San Francisco, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; conviction of a substantially related crime; impairment affecting competency.

On or about June 8, 2005, in San Francisco Superior Court, respondent was convicted of having committed a violation of Penal Code section 236 (false imprisonment). On or about May 12, 2005, respondent stated in a declaration that she suffers from a debilitating illness that prevents her from managing her affairs.

**Decision:** By stipulation, voluntary surrender of registration. Must pay cost recovery of $5,000 prior to issuance of any new registration or license. Effective 6/6/2008.

**Ferrari, Margaret Jean**
IMF 43686; IM-2006-88
Santa Ana, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Conviction of a substantially related crime; unprofessional conduct; dangerous administration or use of controlled substance and alcohol.

On or about July 21, 2005, respondent was stopped by the Brea Police department on suspicion of driving under the influence. Respondent had a measurable blood alcohol content and tested positive for multiple controlled substances. On or about September 14, 2006, respondent was convicted in Orange County Superior Court on a plea of guilty to misdemeanor reckless driving, a violation of Vehicle Code section 23103.

**Decision:** Registration revoked, ordered to pay cost recovery of $4,700.50. Effective 11/14/2007.

**Ferreiro, Claudia Marisa (**aka Marisa Benedetto**)**
IMF 55748; Case No. AP-2006-1070
Glendale, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; denial of licensure.

The Board issued a Decision and Order (Case No. AP-2003-784, OAH No. L2003090136), effective December 30, 2004, denying respondent's November 25, 2002, application for licensure. The denial was made based upon a violation where the respondent engaged in the practice of marriage and family therapy without being licensed or exempt from licensure. On or about June 26, 2006, the Board of Behavioral Sciences received an application for registration as an MFT Intern from Claudia Marisa Ferreiro.

**Decision:** By stipulation, registration issued, immediately revoked, stayed, registration placed on probation for four years. Terms and conditions include but are not limited to supervised practice and reimbursement of probation program. Effective 1/19/2008.

**Fisk, David Adams**
LCSW 5414; Case No. LC-2005-130
Long Beach, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence/ incompetence; reckless emotional harm.

The accusation alleged that on or about June 9, 2004, respondent led two group sessions in which a particular client participated. It was further alleged that respondent committed acts toward this client that fall below the standard of conduct of the profession and exhibited lack of judgment and inability to maintain clear and appropriate boundaries with a vulnerable client. Such alleged actions include physical contact with a client,

failing to assess a client's vulnerability, making advances, physical or otherwise, toward a client so as to lead the client to believe the advances were sexual in nature, soliciting a client for treatment knowing the patient was in the care of another professional, jeopardizing the integrity of a group by singling out a client in favoritism to cause a potential for damage to the other group members, and pursuing a dual relationship.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked. Must pay cost recovery of $12,114 prior to issuance of new or reinstated license. Effective 1/19/2008.

**Gerace, George William**
IMF 44025; Case No. IM-2006-116
Marina Del Rey, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence/ incompetence; reckless emotional harm; sexual relations with a client.

The first amended accusation alleged that from in or about November 2002, to December 10, 2003, respondent treated client in his capacity as an MFT Trainee and later an MFT Intern. On or about December 13, 2003, respondent allegedly entered into a sexual relationship with this client. Respondent allegedly continued to have a personal, sexual relationship with the client between December 2003 and July 2004, and August 2004 and February 2005, when the relationship allegedly ended.

**Decision:** By stipulation, surrender of registration. Must pay cost recovery of $6,124.50 prior to issuance of a new registration or license. Effective 6/6/2008.

**Hicks, J Thomas**
MFC 11764; Case No. MF-2004-292
Pacific Grove, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; commission of substantially related dishonest acts; gross negligence.

The circumstances and actions relating to this disciplinary action are lengthy and not conducive to summary. Information relating to this disciplinary action is available by querying the "Online License Verification" section of the Board's Web site (see above mentioned name and license number).

**Decision:** License revoked, stayed, placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions include but not limited to 90 days suspended license, and education in law and ethics. Must pay cost recovery of $22,283.92. Effective 10/12/2007.

**Hill, Wendy Rae**
MFC 7063; Case No. MF-2006-136
Encinitas, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence.

The accusation alleged that from April 19, 2005-May 2, 2005, respondent treated a client. This client allegedly offered the services of a medical facility at which the client worked to respondent at no charge. Respondent allegedly accepted this offer and

received laser cosmetic treatment at client's place of work on two occasions. At some point in April 2005, the respondent and the client allegedly decided to terminate therapy so that they could have a personal relationship, with respondent being a mentor and mother figure for the client. This relationship allegedly included, among other things, shopping together, sharing meals, gift exchanges, cards, e-mail exchanges, and one or two overnight stays at respondent's home.

**Decision:** By stipulation, surrender of license. Must pay cost recovery of $15,000 prior to issuance of new license. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Holakouee, Farhang**
MFC 31760; Case No. MF-2007-262
Beverly Hills, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; supervision conduct violating Board law.

In October 2003, respondent supervised an MFT Intern (Amethyst B. Kianipur). While supervising the MFT Intern, respondent knew that beginning in or about October 2003 and for at least a year thereafter, a client paid his supervisee directly for services. The client was never advised that this was inappropriate.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation for three years. Terms and condition include but not limited to 30 days suspended practice, reimbursement of probation program, and education in law and ethics. Must pay $1,066.50 cost recovery. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Holmes, Christopher Ivey**
IMF 34521 and IMF 51626; Case No.
AP-2006-957
San Francisco, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Fraud; misrepresentation as to registration status; altered/ fictitious license; Photostat or duplicate of license; dishonesty; unprofessional conduct.

In or about November 2004, respondent provided a forged and/or altered MFT Intern registration to his employer. In or about November 2005, respondent provided a forged and/or altered MFT Intern registration to his employer. Respondent continued to work for an employer that required an MFT Intern registration number while his was expired.

**Decision:** By default, registration revoked. Effective 6/6/2008.

**Karoub, Lila**
MFC 36460; Case No. MF 2004-645
Del Mar, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Conviction of a substantially related crime, misrepresentation as to the type or status of a license or registration held; multiple violations of unprofessional conduct statute.

In or about 2002, respondent entered into an arrangement with her two physician brothers, both practicing out of Michigan, whereby they would refer patients to her for mental health therapy that she would do via telephone and/or e-mail from California. Respondent paid her brothers a 50 percent referral fee. Following a loss of health care coverage, respondent arranged for one brother to place her under his health care plan as if she was an employee, when in fact she was not. On multiple occurrences from in or about 2003 to in or about 2005, respondent billed the insurance companies of multiple patients for services not rendered to them. After the commencement of this disciplinary action, respondent provided to her attorney and to the Board a purported entire patient file without obtaining a release from the patient. In at least 2002, respondent's business card referred to '"doclila" without identifying the type of license held. In 2003 and 2004, respondent advertised as a "doclila" without revealing she was an MFT. On January 8, 2007, in San Diego County Superior Court, respondent pled guilty to a violation of Penal Code section 487(a) (grand theft) and Penal Code section 550(b)(1) (presenting, or causing to be presented, an insurance claim, knowing it was false or misleading as to a material of fact).

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions include but are not limited to 60 days suspended practice, supervised practice, restricted practice, education in business management and law and ethics, complete a record keeping course, obtain services of independent billing system monitoring service, participate in ongoing psychotherapy, abstain from controlled substances, and submit to biological fluid testing. Must pay cost recovery of $24,000. Effective 7/8/2007.

**Kianipur, Amethyst B.**
MFC 43522; Case No. MF-2006-738
Corona Del Mar, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; violation of Board law; violation of Board Law re: gaining experience and supervision for MFT Licensure.

In October 2003, respondent was an MFT Intern working under the supervision of an MFT (Farhang Holakouee). In or about October 2003, respondent treated a client at the office of her supervisor and was paid directly by the client for her services. Respondent never informed client of her status as an unlicensed MFT Intern under the supervision of a licensed mental health professional.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions include but not limited to 30 days suspended practice, reimbursement of probation program, and education in law and ethics. Must pay cost recovery of $2,291. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Massarsky, Bruce Elliot**
LCS 12000; Case No. LC-2005-594
Hayward, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence/incompetence; causing reckless emotional harm to clients; misrepresentation as to the type or status of a license or registration held; failure to maintain patient confidentiality.

Respondent provided conjoint therapy and individual therapy to a husband and wife. Conjoint therapy for the husband and wife began around August 2001. The husband's individual therapy began in or around July 2001 and concluded in or around January 2005. The wife's individual therapy began shortly thereafter August 2001 and terminated in or around March 2004. Throughout the treatment of the husband and wife, respondent gave each long, discomforting hugs while he was cognizant of both client's boundary and "touch" issues. On or around April 24, 2004, respondent wrote a three-page letter in support of the husband during court proceedings that revealed intimate details of the couple's treatment reported by both partners. The wife never authorized respondent to reveal such information. Following the end of the therapeutic relationship with the wife, respondent repeatedly called her, and on or around July 11, 2004, sent her a letter in which respondent critiqued and condemned wife's behavior. Following the end of his therapeutic relationship with the husband, respondent made numerous calls to the husband, alternately offering support and threatening legal action. Following the complaint to the Board, respondent left the wife a voice mail message, and in a letter dated January 23, 2005, threatened legal action and demanded an apology.

**Decision:** License revoked, stayed, placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions including but not limited to 30 days suspended practice, supervised practice, education in boundaries and client confidentiality, education in law and ethics, and restricted practice (limited to one member of a couple as an individual client). Must pay cost recovery in the amount of $15,598. Effective 6/27/2008.

**McClure, III, Samuel Grant**
IMF 45352; Case No. IM-2006-127
Cotati, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence/incompetence; causing patient harm; acting beyond scope of competence; failure to keep records.

On or about December 9, 2004, respondent went to the hotel room of a client, who was a member of an anger management group conducted by respondent at a mental health agency. Respondent did not consult with staff members of his agency prior to the visit, and instructed client to not tell anyone about the visit, nor did respondent tell any staff member at the agency about the visit. On or about June 2005 client informed a staff member of the agency about the visit. Respondent was placed on administrative leave and instructed not to contact the client. On or about July 10, 2005, respondent called client at the client's residence in an attempt to get their "stories straight" about what occurred on December 9, 2004.

**Decision:** By stipulation, registration surrendered. Cost recovery of $7,620.50 prior to issuance of a new registration or license. Effective 1/19/2008.

**Mussman, Lisa Marie (**AKA Lisa Marie Sinkovich**)**
IMF 44572; Case No. IM-2006-574

**Grounds for denial of application:** Accumulation of Intern hours at a prohibited work setting; commission of unlawful act substantially related to the qualifications of a registered Intern.

On November 25, 2003, respondent was expressly advised in writing by the Board that she could not obtain hours of experience in a private practice work setting. Between approximately January 5, 2004, and through approximately November 12, 2005, respondent performed therapeutic services in a private practice setting. Respondent submitted hours of work experience obtained at the private practice work setting with her application for MFT licensure. The hours do not count, and without them, the respondent has insufficient experience to qualify for licensure.

**Decision:** Application denied. Effective 3/27/2008.

**Roland, Samuel J**.
MFC 28061; Case No. MF-2006-520
Palo Alto, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; sexual abuse or misconduct of patients; gross negligence; emotional harm to client; sexual exploitation.

The first amended accusation alleged that on or about November 23, 2005, respondent's colleague and office-mate found in an office they shared a journal containing explicit references to sexual conduct between the respondent and several of his clients. In the journal, the respondent allegedly described these encounters as "abusive," "disrespectful," and "unsafe." These allegedly included references to several adult and minor clients. Respondent's colleague and another therapist allegedly confronted the respondent regarding the journal prior to a session with a client at the shared office. Respondent allegedly acknowledged the journal was his and vacated the office. During three therapy sessions on or about February 13 and 20, 2006, respondent allegedly inappropriately touched himself over his clothing during the sessions. On or about April 27, 2006, respondent allegedly sexually assaulted a female client during a therapy session. The client allegedly later reported the incident to the Palo Alto police.

**Decision:** By stipulation, surrender of license. Must pay cost recovery of $19,746.13 prior to issuance of a new license. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Rubel, Christopher S.**
MFC 1885; Case No. MF-2005-586
Claremont, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence or incompetence; intentionally or recklessly causing emotional harm.

From on or about November 2001 to in and about November 2002, respondent had weekly therapy sessions with client. During one session, client told respondent that client loved him, and the respondent said he loved the client. Respondent visited the client at home, paid some of the client's bills, loaned money to the client, gave the client various gifts, and took the client and the client's children on an airplane ride. Respondent continued to speak with the client from time to time until December 2004.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, license placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions include but are not limited to 60 days suspension of license and supervised practice and education in the area of maintaining professional boundaries. Must pay cost recovery of $4,500. Effective 3/27/2008.

**Saxton, Joyce**
MFC 36906; Case No. MF-2005-834
Visalia, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; engaging in sexual relations with a client; failure to maintain confidentiality.

The accusation alleged that from on or about November 1997 to on or about November 1999, respondent rendered therapy to client. On or about March 3, 1998, during a therapy session, client and respondent allegedly verbally declared romantic feelings towards each other. In therapy sessions after March 3, 1998, respondent allegedly touched client's body in a sexual manner. Respondent and client allegedly mutually agreed to terminate their patient-therapist relationship on or around November 8, 1999. Respondent and client allegedly went on a date on December 1, 1999, and continued to meet and see each other romantically until April 2003. Also, during approximately May 1998, respondent allegedly rendered therapy to another client (Client B). During sessions with Client B, respondent allegedly would repeatedly mention the client with whom she was romantically involved.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license surrendered. Must pay cost recovery of $10,000 prior to application for a new license or registration. Effective 3/27/2008.

**Smith, Donald Kenneth**
MFC 13577 and LEP 738; Case No.
D1-2001-312
Orange, CA

**Alleged grounds for discipline:** Disciplinary action imposed by the Board of Psychology; unprofessional conduct by an LEP which has endangered public health safety or welfare.

The accusation alleged that the Board of Psychology imposed formal discipline on his psychologist license, including revocation, stayed, with imposition of probation on terms and conditions, based upon acts of gross negligence and repeated negligent acts.

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation until 10/06/2011. Terms and conditions include but are not limited to compliance with the Board of Psychology's disciplinary order. Must pay cost recovery of $3,238.50. Effective 11/28/2007.

**Thomas, Dana Lynn**
MFC 35710; Case No. MF-2007-749
Folsom, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Conviction of a substantially related crime; use of alcohol or drugs in a manner dangerous to self or others.

On or about April 13, 2006, in Sacramento Superior Court, respondent was convicted on her plea of nolo contendere to a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(a) (driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug, or under the combined

influence of an alcoholic beverage and any drug). On or about May 11, 2007, in Sacramento Superior Court, respondent was convicted on her plea of nolo contendere to a violation of Vehicle Code section 23152(a) (driving under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or any drug or under the combined influence of an alcoholic beverage and any drug).

**Decision:** By stipulation, license revoked, stayed, placed on probation for four years. Terms and conditions include but not limited to suspension of practice for 60 days, psychological evaluation, ongoing psychotherapy, supervised practice, education in the areas of drugs and alcohol, rehabilitation program, abstain from alcohol and controlled substances, submit to biological fluid testing, and reimbursement of probation program. Must pay cost recovery of $3,002. Effective 6/6/2008.

**Thorson, Virginia Lee**
IMF 44147; Case No. IM-2006-1048
Ojai, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Unprofessional conduct; gross negligence or incompetence; dishonest, fraudulent act.

On or about December 29, 2005, respondent filed a declaration with the Ventura County Superior Court regarding the psychological status and custody of a 15-year old male. Respondent's declaration stated that she was rendering the opinion as an MFT Intern and as a clinician. Respondent provided this recommendation without evaluating the child professionally.

**Decision:** By stipulation, surrender of registration. Must pay cost recovery in the amount of $1,556 prior to the issuance of a new registration or license. Effective 10/07/07.

**Withers, Jennifer Naomi**
MFC 45588; Case No. IM-2004-597
and AP-2006-616
Los Angeles, CA

**Grounds for discipline:** Misrepresentation of license; obtained remuneration from clients.

On or about August 1, 2002, through February 25, 2004, respondent provided therapy sessions to clients without a valid MFT Intern registration. From on or about 1996 until 2002, respondent paid a rental fee as an independent contractor to treat patients at a counseling center. From on or about 1996 until 2004 respondent received payment from clients for performing the practice of marriage and family therapy.

**Decision:** By stipulation license issued, immediately revoked, stayed, placed on probation for five years. Terms and conditions include but not limited to supervised practice, reimbursement of probation program, physical evaluation, and education in law and ethics. Must pay cost recovery of $5,000. Effective 3/27/2008.

## Statutes and Regulations available by request

Did you know the Board will mail you a copy of the Statutes and Regulations at no charge? The updated 2009 version will be available shortly. If you are interested in receiving a copy, e-mail your request to: bbswebmaster@bbs.ca.gov or by mail to:

Board of Behavioral
Sciences,
1625 N. Market Blvd., S-200,
Sacramento CA 95834.

## Regulatory proposals

For more information and updates on the Board's regulatory proposals, visit www.bbs.ca.gov/bd_activity/law-reg.shtml. The adoption of all regulations is contingent upon approval by the Office of Administrative Law.

*Add Title 16 CCR Section 1832.5 – Interim Recognition of Degrees from Institutions Approved by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education*

This proposal would permit the Board to recognize applicants for MFT licensure and MFT Intern registration who obtain a degree from a Bureau for Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education (BPPVE) approved school between January 1, 2009, and June 30, 2012, as long as the school held an approval to operate as of June 30, 2007. This proposal is expected to be approved by the Board on October 11, 2008; however, it must also be approved by the Department of Consumer Affairs and the Office of Administrative Law before it can become law.

**The following proposals have been approved by the Board and are expected to begin the formal regulatory process in 2009:**

*Title 16, CCR Section 1887.2, Exceptions to Continuing Education Requirements*

This regulation sets forth CE exception criteria for MFT and LCSW license renewals. This proposal amends the language in order to clarify and better facilitate the request for exception from the CE requirement process.

*Title 16, CCR Sections 1887, 1887.2, 1887.3, and 1887.7, Minor Clean-Up of Continuing Education Regulations*

This proposal makes minor clean-up amendments to continuing education regulations.

## Legislative update | Board-sponsored bills

For more information see California's Legislative Counsel Web site at www.leginfo.ca.gov, or contact your professional association.

**The following bill was signed into law September 28, 2008, and is effective January 1, 2009:**

*AB 1897 (Emmerson) Acceptance of degrees conferred by schools approved by the Bureau of Private Postsecondary and Vocational Education*

This bill allows the Board to accept degrees for MFT Intern registration or for MFT licensure from schools accredited by regional accrediting bodies that are equivalent to Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC); and from schools that were approved by BPPVE (as of June 30, 2007) through December 11, 2011.

**The following bills were vetoed by the Governor in 2008:**

*SB 1218 (Correa) MFT Educational Requirements*

This bill would have made a number of changes relating to the education requireements of MFTs, including:

• Permitting MFT Interns to gain a portion of the required supervision via teleconferencing.

•Allowing applicants to count experience for performing “client-centered advocacy” activities toward licensure as a MFT.

• Requiring applicants for MFT licensure to submit W-2 forms and verification of volunteer employment for each setting in which the applicant gained experience; Increasing the graduate degree’s total unit requirement from 48 to 60 semester units (72 to 90 quarter units).

• Increasing the practicum by three semester units and 75 face-to-face counseling and client centered advocacy hours.

• Providing more flexibility in the degree program by requiring fewer specific hours or units for particular coursework, allowing for innovation in curriculum design.

• Deleting the requirement that an applicant licensed as a MFT for less than two years in another state complete 250 hours of experience in California as an intern prior to applying for licensure.

*SB 1779 (Committee on Business, Professions and Economic Development) Omnibus Bill*

This proposal would have made several substantive and non-substantive changes to the statutes relating to the Board, including:

• Prohibiting the Board from publishing on the Internet for more than five years the final determination of a citation and fine of $1,500 or less against a registrant or licensee.

• Adding the title of “Marriage and Family Therapist Act” to MFT licensing law.

• Making a technical change to language relating to eligibility for out-of-state LCSW applicants that clarified that an applicant must currently hold a valid license from another state at the time of application.

• Clarifying that hours of experience gained more than six years prior to the date of application for MFT examination eligibility cannot be counted toward the experience requirements.

• Adding to the provisions of unprofessional conduct for all licensees the act of subverting or attempting to subvert any licensing examination or the administration of an examination.

• Deleting the following language from the unprofessional conduct statutes: Conviction of more than one misdemeanor or any felony involving the use, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances or any combination thereof.

• Adding to the unprofessional conduct statute for LEPs failure to comply with telemedicine statute.

• Permitting ASWs to gain up to 30 hours of direct supervisor contact via videoconferencing and allowing group supervision to be provided in one-hour increments, as long as both increments (full two hours) are provided in the same week as the experience claimed.

• Repealing code sections containing obsolete language.

## Other legislation

**The following bill was signed into law and went into effect June 23, 2008:**

*SB 797 (Ridley-Thomas) Unprofessional Conduct; Statute of Limitations*

This bill permits the Board to discipline a licensee or deny a license for certain sexual acts with a minor that occurred prior to the person being licensed. Currently, when a complaint is received regarding a person who is not yet registered or licensed with the Board, the Board can investigate and deny a registration or license, if warranted. However when a complaint is received regarding conduct prior to licensure after a person becomes licensed, the Board cannot take any action. This legislation corrects this problem in cases where sexual misconduct with a minor is alleged, and only when there is corroborating evidence. This bill also creates a different statute of limitations for these types of complaints, and requires the Board to file an accusation within three years. Chapter 33, Statutes of 2008.

**The following bills were signed into law and were effective January 1,2009:**

*SB 164 (Smyth) Immunity for Marriage and Family Therapy Schools*

This bill provides a qualified immunity for persons who communicate with a marriage and family therapy school, when the communication is intended to aid in the evaluation of the qualifications, fitness, character or insurability of the healing arts practitioner. Chapter 23, Statutes of 2008.

*AB 1922 (Hernandez) Peer Review*

This bill adds MFTs and LCSWs to the list of healing arts practitioners defined as 'licentiates" under the peer review statutes relating to notice of final proposed action. Chapter 25, Statutes of 2008.

*SB 963 (Ridley-Thomas) Oversight of DCA Boards and Bureaus*

Current law allows the Board to become inoperative July 1, 2009. This bill extends the Board inoperative date to January 1, 2011. Chapter 385, Statutes of 2008.

**The following bills were vetoed by the Governor in 2008:**

*AB 239 (DeSaulnier) Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Counselors*

This bill provided for the regulation and licensure of alcoholism and drug abuse counselors by the Board. The Board did not take a position on this legislation during its discussion of the bill on May 30, 2008, but instead tabled the discussion until the next meeting.

*AB 1887 (Beall) Mental Health Parity*

This bill required health care service plan contracts which provided hospital, medical, or surgical coverage, and health insurance policies issued, amended or renewed on or after January 1, 2009, to provide coverage for the diagnosis and treatment of mental illness of a person of any age under the terms and conditions applied to other medical conditions. At its meeting on May 30, 2008, the Board adopted the position of "support" on this bill.

*AB 2543 (Berg) Geriatric and Gerontology Workforce Expansion Act*

This bill established the California Geriatric Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists Loan Assistance Program of 2008. This program would have provided loan assistance to MFTs, LCSWs, ACSWs, and MFT Interns who provide geriatric service in California. Funds for the loan repayment program would have been derived from a $10 surcharge added to licensure issuance and renewal fees. At its meeting on May 30, 2008, the Board adopted the position of "support" on this bill.

*SB 823 (Perata) Private, Postsecondary and Vocational Education*

This bill would have created a new regulatory structure and a new bureau within the Department of Consumer Affairs to regulate private postsecondary education.

**The following bills failed passage in the Legislature during the 2008-2009 legislative session:**

*AB 1486 (Calderon) Licensed Professional Counselors*

This bill provided for the licensure and regulation of Professional Counselors by the Board. The Board adopted a position of "support" on this bill. This bill was held in Senate Appropriations Committee.

*AB 1925 (Eng) License Suspension for Unpaid Tax Liabilities*

This bill allowed the Franchise Tax Board (FTB) to suspend a license issued by the Board if the licensee has failed to pay taxes for which a notice of state tax lien has been recorded by the county recorder's office. The Board adopted a position of "oppose unless amended" at its meeting on May 30, 2008. The Board asked the author to amend the bill to allow the licensing entity that issued the license (the Board) to suspend the license of an individual with outstanding tax liabilities. This bill was held in Senate Revenue and Taxation Committee.

## Senate Joint Resolution 19 – Notification on Consequences of Participating in Torture

This measure would request all relevant California agencies to notify California-licensed health professionals about their professional obligations under international law relating to torture and the treatment of detainees, as specified, and to also notify those professionals that those who participate in coercive or enhanced interrogation, torture, or other forms of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment may be subject to prosecution.

The measure would request that those health professionals report abusive interrogation practices to the appropriate authorities, as specified.

In addition, the measure would request the United States Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency to remove all California-licensed health professionals from participating in prisoner and detainee interrogations, as specified.

To read more about the Senate Joint Resolution 19, click on the following link: http://leginfo.ca.gov/pub/07-08/bill/sen/sb_0001-0050/sjr_19_bill_20080818_chaptered.pdf