

FINAL
THE VIRGINIA BOARD OF SOCIAL WORK
CREDENTIALS COMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

The Credentials Committee of the Virginia Board of Social Work convened at 10:05 a.m. on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, Virginia. Catherine Moore called the meeting to order.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Catherine Moore
David Boehm
Yvonne Haynes
Arthur Mayer

STAFF PRESENT:

Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director
Catherine Chappell, Dep. Exec Director – Licensing
Sarah Georgen, Administrative Assistant
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst

CALL TO ORDER:

Ms. Moore welcomed the Committee members and called the meeting to order. Ms. Brown stated that the April 15, 2011 Board meeting had been cancelled because there had been no anticipated essential business matters to be addressed. However, since that decision to cancel the meeting had been made, several Petitions for Rule-making had been received, which would require timely Board consideration. The Credentials Committee members suggested a Board meeting date of June 24, 2011. Ms. Brown agreed to follow up with other Board members in order to establish a quorum for the possible June meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

The minutes from the January 21, 2011 Credentials Committee meeting were approved as written.

**DISCUSSION OF INTENSIVE IN-HOME AND THERAPEUTIC DAY
TREATMENT SERVICES:**

Ms. Chappell conveyed staff concerns relating to registrations of supervision and applications in which supervision was either proposed or had been completed in intensive in-home and/or therapeutic day treatment settings. The Board previously discussed the

perceived trend that many MSW supervisees were attempting to register supervision contracts to work in settings which do not appear to require the clinical experience needed for licensure. Many of the job duties for the intensive in-home and therapeutic day treatment settings appear administrative or supervisory and do not seem to provide an opportunity for a case load where clinical social work services could be provided. She asked the Committee to provide direction to staff so that the requests could be evaluated and processed in an expeditious manner.

Mr. Boehm commented that the addition of an intermediate level of licensure, such as an "LMSW", might be an appropriate level license for use in settings such as intensive in-home and/or therapeutic day treatment settings, whereby individuals would provide administrative as well as a small amount of clinical support while under supervision. In response, the Committee recommended that the Board consider implementation of an "LMSW" level license as an additional licensure category.

Ms. Yeatts advised that any additional license type would require a legislative change and would need to be proposed to the Governor's office in early August in order to be considered in the next legislative session. In the meantime, the Committee agreed that a comprehensive review of clinical duties for each registration and application must continue to be made. If the duties do not appear appropriate, the registration or application would be denied and the applicant would be encouraged to seek a position where a clinical caseload could be maintained, pursue Licensed Social Worker (LSW), or request an informal conference

The Committee also discussed the implementation of a six month supervisory report, to include an evaluation of the clinical work performed while under supervision as well as a summary of client and supervision hours, in an effort to expedite decisions and to ensure protection of the public. Supervisors would be encouraged to submit this information to the Board in a sealed envelope every six months for review by the Credentials Reviewer. The Committee requested that the Regulatory Committee draft a guidance document in order to delineate the information needed in the periodic reports to ensure that the supervised experience conforms to professional standards.

The Committee also agreed that many registrations of supervision did not contain sufficient information for any decision to be rendered and that because the registration form was a contract between the supervisor and the MSW supervisee, the registration form must be resubmitted with complete information.

DISCUSSION ON CLINICAL COURSE OF STUDY:

Ms. Brown advised that she had been contacted by two of Virginia's graduate social work programs in response to the recent regulatory change to clarify "clinical course of study". She noted that the four Virginia programs had been invited to a discussion with the Board in January 2008, and that only two programs (Virginia Commonwealth University and George Mason University) had been represented. The meeting resulted in

the development of a guidance document as well as proposed regulatory changes to clearly define the coursework and practicum requirements necessary for licensure. Such changes were incorporated into the Board's regulations effective March 2, 2011.

Concerns from two graduate programs have arisen regarding the required twelve (12) hours of explanatory theory as well as practicum hours and qualification of supervisors during the practicum. The Committee agreed that the schools should be invited to the next board meeting to participate in further discussion.

The Committee discussed whether the new regulations applied immediately to applicants or to graduate curriculum as of March 2, 2011. The Petitions for Rule-making would be considered at the next meeting but correspondence would be drafted to advise that the rulemaking process will be at least a two year process. With respect to insufficient practica hours, Regulation 18VAC140-20-49.C. addressed this concern by allowing individuals to obtain an equivalent number of hours of supervised practice in clinical social work services as part of the supervised experience to make up for the deficiency.

CLOSED SESSION:

Art Mayer moved that the Committee convene in Closed Meeting pursuant to Section 2.2-3711(4) in accordance with Section 2.2-3704(A) and 54.1-108 of the Code of Virginia to discuss applications for licensure. He moved that Howard Casway, Evelyn Brown, Catherine Chappell, and Sarah Georgen, attend the Closed Meeting because their presence in the Closed Meeting was deemed necessary and would aid the Committee in its deliberations.

OPEN SESSION:

Mr. Mayer moved that pursuant to Section 2.2-3712 of the Code of Virginia that the Committee heard, discussed or considered only those public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements under the Freedom of Information Act and only such public business matters as identified in her motion by which the closed meeting was convened.

DISCUSSION:

The Committee considered sixty nine (69) licensure requests relating to supervision and education requirements.

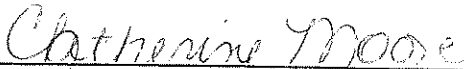
DECISION:


The Credentials Committee made the following determinations:

1. Applicants would be provided two credentials reviews and review by the Credentials Committee. After that, if the application is denied, the applicant will be informed of such denial and, as required by law, would be informed of the applicant's right to have an informal conference with a panel of members of the Board.
2. Applicants must resubmit the registration form with detail on supervision to be provided and clinical duties to be performed and then signed by both supervisor and supervisee.
3. Clarification of supervision hours was requested on thirty six (36) files.
4. The Committee denied five (5) requests to register supervision, and five (5) applications.
5. Three (3) applications were approved for examination and eighteen (18) requests to register supervision were approved.
6. With respect to two (2) requests to waive supervision requirements, two (2) were denied.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Credentials Committee Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.


Catherine Moore, Chair


Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director