



Counselor, Social Worker & Marriage and Family Therapist Board

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STATE OF OHIO COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

THURSDAY JANUARY 19, 2006

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Susan Huss at 9:00 a.m.

Members Present were: Dr. Randi Cohen, Dr. Susan Huss, Dr. Victoria Kress White, Mr. Jan White and Mr. Joseph Williams.

Staff present: Ms. Rena Elliott and Mr. James Rough.

Guest present: Dr. Robert Wilson, University of Cincinnati.

1. Discussion of the agenda ensued.
2. Dr. Huss introduced and welcomed Dr. Wilson to the meeting. Dr. Huss acknowledged that it is commendable that organizations and other affiliations attend board meetings.
3. Committee began to discuss examination changes. The committee discussed at the end of three years, if exam is changed, that the board should evaluate the examination (research). Questions that need to be researched and send out RFP's. This is to defend the decision of the board if the examination changes.

The meeting then adjourned only to convene at 10:00 a.m. for an Examination Meeting in the One Columbus Building.

COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE EXAMINATION MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Susan Huss at 10:00 a.m.

Members Present were: Dr. Randi Cohen, Dr. Susan Norris Huss, Dr. Victoria Kress White, Mr. Jan White and Mr. Joseph Williams.

Staff present: Ms. Rena Elliott and Mr. James Rough.

Guest present: Cecile Brennan, Ursuline College, Dana Levitt, Ohio Counseling Association, Susan Sears, Kristy Smith, Lobbyist, Ohio Counseling Association, Carolyn Towner, Lobbyist, Ohio Counseling Association, Steve Rainey, Ohio Association for Counselor Ed. & Sup., Lynne Guillot Miller, Ohio Association for Coun. Ed. & Superv.

Dr. Huss began the meeting by asking individuals who had a response to the 1/4/06 memo to state their questions or concerns.

-Dr. Susan Sears made comment to the correspondence that was sent regarding testing dates. The National Academy for Clinical Mental Health Counselors provided the first examination used by the Ohio board.

-Dr. Robert Wilson presented OMHCA concerns regarding the exams. OMHCA believes that an entry level examination which assesses mastery of counseling general knowledge and rudimentary clinical knowledge such as the PCLE-GK or the NCE is both necessary and sufficient for entry level licensure as a professional counselor (PC). An entry level professional counselor should be expected to demonstrate mastery of the general knowledge required of a professional counselor and understanding of rudimentary clinical knowledge. The BOARD has a legal obligation to insure that its decision making procedure minimizes the risk of "false positive decisions". We believe the PCLE-GK serves this function. However, we believe that requiring simultaneous passage of the PCLE-CK not only is not necessary, it is an impediment to accuracy in BOARD decision making as it increases the risk of "false negative decisions".

Per the NBCC PCLE-CK items were drawn from the ECCP which is an advanced clinical certification examination designed "to assess a counselor's ability to apply diagnostic, treatment, evaluation, and professional practice knowledge and experience to counseling cases typically encountered by mental health counselors." This advanced certification test is given only given to CCMHC seekers after they have completed both a 60 semester hour clinical master's degree and two years of supervised clinical experience.

BOARD statistics show that the PCLE-GK yields a 93% pass rate but the PCLE-CK only yields a 67%; about 31% of examinees who pass the PCLE-GK are not granted the entry level (PC) license because they failed the PCLE-CK. We believe this is an unacceptably high "false negative decision" rate.

Dr. Sears stated that counselor programs were not preparing students adequately. She was concerned about how the decision to change the exams was made. She stated that the PCLE meets the board's job analysis. She felt if we are not in compliance with the law then we need to select the two best exams – in which case we should use the PCLE and a second exam, perhaps an exam on laws and rules and code of ethics.

Dr. Wilson asked if the PCLE was one or two exams as the PCLE CK & GK are based on separate job analyses that are conceptually different. They are scored with separate rules and could be given at different times without error. In OMCHA's view this constitutes two separate exams.

Dr. Sears asked if NBCC followed Ohio's job analysis and if so then the test should not be in error.

Dr. Cohen asked how the educators could be doing a poor job if candidates were doing an excellent job on the GK.

Dr. Sears stated they should do well on the CK since they have thirty hours of diagnosis and treatment as part of coursework. She further stated that in her opinion the NCE was a minimal exam and not an appropriate licensure exam. She wanted information on the job analysis and validity to be provided.

Dr. Wilson stated that the PCLE could be replaced by the NCE as it is a separate exam and candidates would have the time to complete it at one sitting. The NCE has a very high homogeneity, is recommended by the AASCB and NOCA found that the NCE met its standards for psychometric soundness. NBCC asserts it has plans to conduct IRT modeling of NCE items.

Dr. Sears provided information from the Anastasi/ Macmillan "Psychological Testing 5th Edition" regarding the use of selection procedures which have not been validated. This is a quote regarding the validity studies that it "has been determined and will be made available to the user"..."validity studies not conducted by the user."

Dr. Sears commented that the NCE appears to be more for a certification. She also stated that NBCC needs to be more accurate in the information that is presented to the public. Dr. Sears requested that Ohio be provided information on the validity of the examination as well as the job analysis and it be disseminated to the counselor education programs.

Dana Levitt stated that Ohio has been a leader in the counseling profession and that we should not just jump on board. She would like Ohio to maintain its leadership.

Dr. Huss stated we could set other criteria to keep the bar high. She asked if a second tier examination provided additional public protection.

Dr. Levitt stated OACES was okay with this due to the legal requirement.

Dr. Wilson stated the PCLE does meet the law if separated into separate exams as we need a clinical exam to meet the legal requirement. Dr. Wilson stated that OMHCA supports using the NCMHCE as the second examination and the NCE as the first examination. He stated the NCMHCE was a much more broadly used exam and that NBCC was investing effort and resources in continuing to improve it. The NCMHCE used a simulation approach with an item homogeneity of 94% which is exceptional. The NCMHCE has its own empirically guided time limit for completion—ample time for a respondent to complete the test (PCLE examinees complain of running out of time to complete the PCLE-CK). The NCMHCE is endorsed by AASCB as the test of choice for assessing counselor clinical knowledge and skill. NBCC asserts it has plans to conduct IRT modeling of NCMHCE items which is the best method of determining test bias.

Dr. Sears asked if the PCLE was valid why not then use it with a jurisprudence exam or maybe the NCMHCE.

Dr. Levitt liked the fact that the NCMHCE had existing prep material.

Dr. Wilson stated that the NCE and NCMHCE were criterion referenced test which were validated using content validity.

Dr. Huss stated that the committee would discuss the information provided and would possibly make the decision at this month's meeting or wait until March if members felt uncomfortable making the decision. Dr. Huss thanked everyone for addressing their comments/concerns and stated that the board is open to the public during all meetings and encourage all associations/individuals to attend board meetings.

Meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

Meeting reconvened at 1:00 p.m.

The Committee reviewed and approved 47 PC's applications and 30 PCC's applications.

The Committee reviewed all continuing education applications that were provided.

The Committee discussed whether they felt they had enough information to make the decision on the examination issue. All members agreed that they did and would wait until Friday to make any motions.

Mr. Williams moved to adjourn seconded by Dr. Cohen. Motion carried.

COUNSELOR PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS COMMITTEE MINUTES

FRIDAY JANUARY 20, 2006

Meeting was called to order by: Dr. Susan Norris Huss at 8:30 a.m.

Members present were: Dr. Randi Cohen, Dr. Susan Norris Huss, Dr. Victoria Kress White, Mr. Jan White and Mr. Joseph Williams.

Staff present: Ms. Rena Elliott, Mr. William Hegarty, Ms. Tracey Hosom, Ms. Patricia Miller and Mr. James Rough.

Guest present: Mr. Glennon Karr, Atty.

1. DISCUSSION OF AGENDA: Mr. White moved to accept the agenda with modifications, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.

2. APPROVAL OF November 18, 2005, MINUTES: Mr. White moved to accept the minutes, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.

3. APPROVAL LIST FOR PC AND PCC APPLICATIONS:

Mr. Thomas Whiteman (PC) – Mr. Whiteman is requesting his PCC license. The supervisor for Mr. Whiteman supported licensure as a PCC and then withdrew his recommendation stating Mr. Whiteman stared at clients inappropriately. Counseling at the Center for Marital and Sexual Health for one year was completed, after six months there were still concerns but after one year the supervisor is recommending licensure as a PCC. Mr. Karr stated the Center for Marital and Sexual Health is a good center. Discussion took place. Mr. White moved to accept the recommendation from the Center's evaluation and enter into a consent agreement to license Mr. Whiteman as a PCC with continued counseling, supervision for two years and a report from the counseling center every four months, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.

Ms. Angelia Dussia – Ms. Dussia is applying for her PC. Ms. Dussia underwent intensive out-patient therapy and remains in a twelve step program. Mr. White moved to license Ms. Dussia, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.

Mr. Shawn Honnerlaw – Mr. Honnerlaw was found guilty of a DUI ten years ago and had his license suspended for six months with driving privileges to attend counseling. Mr. White moved to license Mr. Honnerlaw, Dr. Cohen seconded. Mr. Williams abstained. Carried.

Mr. White moved to accept the PC licensure candidate list with the addition of Ms. Angelia Dussia and Mr. Shawn Honnerlaw, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried. Mr. White moved to accept the PCC licensure candidate list, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.

4. APPROVAL OF LIST FOR INTENT TO DENY, PC, PCC: None

5. TESTING UPDATE:

Dr. Cohen moved to accept the two tier NCE (National Counselor Exam) for the first tier test and the NCMHCE(National Counsel Mental Health Clinical Exam) for the second tier starting March 1, 2006, and in conjunction you must be licensed as a PC to take the NCMHCE, Dr. White Kress seconded. Carried.

Mr. Rough will re-write the rule and send to the Board Members for review and will need the responses back quickly.

The Board is requesting the testing contract be reviewed by Mr. Rough with approval from Dr. Huss. The contract should include a request for an annual statistics report from NBCC. Annual validity and consistency reports

will be requested. The computer examination site situation is under control. Also want penalties to be imposed if the contract is not adhered to. Dr. White Kress will run a testing from her school.

6. INVESTIGATIVE REPORT BY MR. HEGARTY:

Mr. Hegarty reported:

- 1.) **Mr. Dennis Bliss** – This case will be discussed at the March Board meeting, objection by the opposing council to be reviewed with the hearing officer's report.
- 2.) Explained the process of investigations for the new Board Member.
- 3.) Distributed cases reviewed by Dr. Huss to be closed. (See Attached)
- 4.) Mr. Rough will provide Mr. Hegarty with a list of contacts for Counseling Education programs, Ohio Counseling Association and OACES in order to send a letter explaining the role of the counselor in child custody cases.
- 5.) A back-up hearing officer is needed if Ms. Shamansky is unavailable. Mr. Jack D. Aurora's resume was reviewed. Mr. White moved to accept Mr. Aurora as a hearing officer, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.
- 6.) A Counselor denial hearing is anticipated in March.
- 7.) Dr. Cohen had questions about the ten days to file an objection in a hearing officer report, if extensions can be granted and if a licensee can continue to practice. Mr. Hegarty explained about a continuance on licensees with cases or charges filed against them and gave a brief overall of cases and outcomes over the years. Dr. White Kress asked what a denial case is and Mr. Hegarty explained licensure denial and the process and various reasons for such a denial.
- 8.) Dr. Norris Huss thanked Mr. Hegarty for his and his staff's thorough investigations.

7. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT BY MR. JAMES ROUGH:

Mr. Rough reported:

- 1.) Distributed draft of rules for the examination, the CPSC reviewed the draft and made changes. Discussion took place, Dr. Huss is requesting the rules reflect that only PC's be allowed to take the PCC exam and that the requirements to be a PCC are listed. Some of the items listed in the rules were no longer applicable and were removed.
- 2.) Rule 4757-13-01 was sent out to the Committee for review.
- 3.) Mr. Rough needs to meet with Dr. Huss regarding six files. These files are out for scanning and will be reviewed by Dr. Huss for approval as of January 20, 2006 or given temporary licenses until the March meeting.

- 4.) The Governor's ethic's training for new board members must be attended by all new Board Members so Dr. Cohen and Dr. White Kress need to attend.

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT REPORT BY MS. ELLIOTT:

Ms. Elliott reported:

- 1.) Thanked the Board for sending her to the AASCB conference, it was very informative regarding the code of ethics, portability, supervision, testing and more.
- 2.) Since November, forty-eight candidates took the exam, thirty passed and eighteen failed. Since December, forty-seven candidates took the exam, thirty-three first time candidates, twenty-one passed and twelve failed, fourteen were repeaters, eight passed and six failed.

9. HEARING OFFICER REPORT: None

10. OLD BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Mohican Retreat** -Discussion of the topics for the April 20 and 21 Mohican retreat will be supervision, faculty of schools, continuing education and the school program approval forms and process.
- 2.) Ms. Elliott will supply the Committee with current forms that need to be revised.
- 3.) Dr. Cohen reported the AASCB conference went well and that it was informative to hear from other states, but Ohio is way ahead on everything but supervision. Encouraged Board Members to continue to attend the conference. Dr. Huss also felt it was a good conference. Discussion took place.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1.) **Ms. Christine Mazik** – Graduated from University of Pittsburgh, Psychology Education, transcripts now reflect her degree as Counseling Psychology. The CPSC requested Ms. Elliott send a letter with a check sheet and request Ms. Mazik include a course description as back up for the check sheet.
- 2.) **Remediation Plans**
 - a.) **Mr. Phil Boley** – Submitted a tentative remediation plan, wants approval before taking one semester hour of counseling 550 at Malone College to receive his clinical internship. Mr. White moved to approve Mr. Boley's request, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.
 - b.) **Ms. Susan Driskell** – Requesting an exception to take the exam with no remediation plan after failing the exam

four times. Mr. White moved to deny Ms. Driskell's request and she must develop a remediation plan, Dr. White Kress seconded. Carried.

- c.) **Ms. Olena Ferguson** – Mr. White moved to approve Ms. Ferguson's remediation plan, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.
- d.) **Ms. Cynthia Murphy** – Failed the exam three times and requested to attend the Ohio PCLE Review Workshop for her remediation. Mr. White approved her request but she must take the review workshop for the exam she will be taking, Dr. White Kress seconded. Carried.
- e.) **Mr. Vernon Prince** – Failed the exam three times, did not have a remediation plan pre-approved. Dr. Cohen moved for Mr. Prince to be investigated as it appears he is practicing without a license, Mr. White seconded. Carried. Mr. White moved to deny his remediation plan since it was not pre-approved, Mr. Williams seconded. Carried.
- f.) **Ms. Christie Smith** – Mr. White moved to approve Ms. Smith's remediation plan, Mr. Williams seconded. Carried.

3.) **Correspondence**

- a.) **Ms. Kelly M. O'Shea** – The CPSC is requesting additional information; who is her supervisor in North Carolina, are they able to diagnose and treat and what is the scope of practice for a LPC in North Carolina? Dr. Cohen moved to request this information, Mr. White seconded. Carried
- b.) **Ms. Maggie M. Muennich** – Mr. White moved to deny Ms. Muennich's request to reject her test results and allow her to retest without cost, and to also deny her request to be grandfathered, Dr. Cohen seconded. Carried.
- c.) **Ms. Deborah K. Bucher** – Dr. Cohen moved to request documentation of who her supervisor is and documentation of her supervised hours, Mr. White seconded. Carried.
- d.) **Ms. Laura Kruthoffer** – Dr. White Kress moved to deny Ms. Kruthoffer's request to be supervised by a PC, Mr. Williams seconded. Carried.
- e.) **Xavier University** – Dr. Cohen moved to have a letter sent to Xavier University with a copy of supervision requirements for clinical training, Mr. White seconded. Carried.
- f.) **Ms. Ekaterina Kotova** – Requested to have clinical experience accepted towards PCC license as eligibility

- prior to receiving her PC license. Mr. White moved to deny her request, Dr. White Kress seconded. Carried.
- g.) **Mr. Daniel A. Tousley** – Mr. White moved to deny Mr. Tousley’s request to have no remediation plan, as the laws and rules require such, Dr. White Kress seconded. Carried.
 - h.) **Ms. Silvana Volpe** – Ms. Volpe took the PCLE exam and passed the general knowledge but failed the clinical portion, and is requesting the Board accept her scores. Dr. White Kress moved to deny Ms. Volpe’s request, Mr. White seconded. Carried.

4.) **Transcript Reviews**

- a.) **Ms. Stephanie Heck** – Applicant has a master’s degree in Psychology, not a counseling degree, denied.
- b.) **Mr. Ronald DeLong** – Requesting course descriptions from Mr. DeLong.
- c.) **Ms. Karis Fitch** – Reviewed transcripts and responded to her questions about licensure requirements. Degree in Counseling Psychology.
- d.) **Ms. Vivian Hochmanovich** – Documentation needed on supervised clinical experience.
- e.) **Ms. Emily Ott** – Send check list.
- f.) **Mr. John Ware** – Send check list.

Dr. Norris Huss asked if any of the Board Members had comments.

Dr. Cohen – Welcomed Dr. White Kress to the Board and expressed her pride to be a part of the Board.

Mr. White – Welcomed Dr. White Kress to the Board, and expressed he was glad to be a part of the Board. He recognized the good job Dr. Huss did as Committee Chair and expressed the appreciation and admiration he had for the staff.

Dr. Huss – Expressed her appreciation to everyone, and was glad things had slowed down so a more thorough job could be done and the Committee had an opportunity for comments. Also she feels this is a great Board.

12. ADJOURNED

Dr. Cohen moved, Mr. White seconded. Carried.
(11:40 AM)

Dr. Susan Norris Huss
Chairperson

