



RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

STEVEN H. HILFINGER
DIRECTOR

MICHIGAN BOARD OF PSYCHOLOGY MEETING OF APRIL 21, 2011

APPROVED MINUTES

In accordance with the Open Meetings Act, 1976 PA 267, as amended, the Michigan Board of Psychology met in regular session on April 21, 2011 in the Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Upper Level Conference Center, Conference Room 4, Lansing, Michigan.

CALL TO ORDER

Dane Ver Merris, EdD, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:34 a.m.

Members Present: Dane Ver Merris, EdD, Chairperson
Alan Warbelow, LLP, Vice Chairperson
Julie Cowie, Public Member
Robert Hack, MA, LLP
James Reed, PhD

Members Absent: Roberta Toll, PhD
Monica Navarro, Public Member

Staff Present: Starla Walter, Board Secretary, Health Regulatory Division
Rae Ramsdell, Director, Health Regulatory Division
Danielle Burk, Analyst, Health Regulatory Division
Desmond Mitchell, Policy Analyst, Health Regulatory Division
Kevin Cox, Assistant Attorney General

Others Present: Samantha Lederman
Lauren Levinson
Kevin Keenan - MiSPP
Jeff Andert - MPA
Elisha Johnson, MPA

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION by Reed, seconded by Hack, to approve the minutes of the February 17, 2011 meeting as presented.

MOTION PREVAILED

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOTION by Warbelow, seconded by Hack, to approve the agenda as presented.

MOTION PREVAILED

OLD BUSINESS

Administrative Rules for CPD

Ver Merris reported that the rules committee is working diligently and clarifying a number of issues that remain from the previous rules draft. Ver Merris stated that the committee is working through a draft from a previous meeting and is close to finalizing. Once the draft has been finalized, it will be presented at that next Board meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairperson's Report

Ver Merris reported that there are two public vacancies on the Board due to term expirations on December 31, 2010. Ver Merris added that both he and Flores work for the same non-profit organization, and they have been advised that their employer would like for them to serve on different Boards. For that reason, Flores will not be seeking reappointment to the Board. Ramsdell does not know if Gualdoni will be reappointed.

ASPPB

Ver Merris reported that no Board member had attended the ASPPB meeting. Ver Merris stated that one issue that was discussed at the meeting was the licensing of Behavioral Analysts. Ver Merris stated that this has not yet been an issue in Michigan but has been in other States. The Board holds the opinion that Behavioral Analysts should not be allowed to practice unless licensed because behavior analysis is statutorily defined as falling within the scope of practice of a psychologist.

Department Update

Ramsdell reported that the Bureau of Health Professions will no longer be under the Department of Community Health. The new department name will be the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA) and that all regulatory functions will be in this agency. The Department should be in place by the end of April 2011.

Ramsdell stated that Melanie Brim, Director of Bureau of Health Professions, has been offered and accepted the position of Deputy Director of Health Policy and Planning. Ramsdell has assumed the role of acting Director until the position has been filled.

Board Secretary

Ramsdell stated that Starla Walter, Board Secretary, has accepted a promotion. Ramsdell stated that the Board Secretary position has been posted and asked the Board members to contact Laurie VanBeelen with questions or concerns.

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS

Kirtis Thomas, LLP, LPC – Petition for Reinstatement

MOTION by Cowie, seconded by Warbelow, to accept the Proposal for Decision and deny the Petition for Reinstatement in the matter of Kirtis Thomas, LLP, LPC.

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was held: Yeas: Warbelow, Cowie, Reed, Hack, Ver Merris

MOTION PREVAILED

Michael Abramsky, PhD – Request for Reconsideration

MOTION by Warbelow, seconded by Cowie, to accept the Circuit Court's Order and grant Reinstatement in the matter of Michael Abramsky, PhD.

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was held: Yeas: Cowie, Warbelow, Reed, Hack, Ver Merris

MOTION PREVAILED

MOTION by Warbelow, seconded by Cowie, to grant Petitioner a limited license for a period of three (3) years with concurrent probation in the matter of Michael Abramsky, PhD, under the following terms and conditions:

- A. Petitioner shall practice under the general supervision of a Board-approved psychologist:

- i. During the first year of general supervision, Petitioner shall only practice forensic psychology, and shall not provide evaluations or treatment to female clients. The supervising psychologist shall submit quarterly reports to the Department.
 - ii. During the second year of general supervision, Petitioner may evaluate and/or treat female patients, provided that Petitioner's Board-approved treating therapist endorses Petitioner as safe to treat female patients, and only in the presence of a Board-approved female chaperone. The supervising psychologist shall submit bi-annual reports to the Department.
 - iii. During the third year of general supervision, Petitioner may evaluate and/or treat female patients without a female chaperone present, provided that Petitioner's treating therapist endorses Petitioner as safe to treat female patients without a chaperone present. Supervising psychologist shall submit bi-annual reports to the Department.
- B. Petitioner may petition for reclassification of the limited license at the end of the limitation period. The petition for reclassification shall include a reflection summary expressing Petitioner's comprehension of treatment boundaries and a psychologist's role in maintaining such boundaries.
- C. During the period of probation, Petitioner shall treat with a Board-approved therapist. The therapist shall possess experience treating mental health professionals who have violated boundaries. Petitioner's therapist shall submit quarterly reports advising of Petitioner's progress. In the event Petitioner's therapist determines Petitioner no longer requires therapy, the therapist shall submit a discharge summary to the Department.
- D. During the first year of probation, Petitioner shall successfully complete a minimum of twelve (12) hours of Board-approved continuing education offered by the American Psychological Association Insurance Trust in the area of legal and ethical risks and risk management in psychological practice. Petitioner shall be automatically discharged from probation upon successful completion.

Petitioner must petition to have his license reclassified after successful completion of the period of limitation.

Discussion followed.

A roll call vote was held: Yeas: Warbelow, Hack, Reed, Cowie, Ver Merris

MOTION PREVAILED

PUBLIC COMMENT

Dr. Abramsky addressed the Board stating that he has practiced for 30 years and has taken extensive courses and feels that the Board's recent decision regarding the restrictions placed on him is unduly unwarranted. The Board thanked Dr. Abramsky for his comments.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The next regularly scheduled meeting will be held on June 16, 2011 at 9:30 a.m. in the Ottawa Building, 611 West Ottawa Street, Upper Level Conference Center, Conference Room 3, Lansing, Michigan.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Hack, seconded by Reed, to adjourn the meeting at 10:40 a.m.

MOTION PREVAILED



Dane Ver Merris, Ed.D., Chairperson

4-16-2011

Date Minutes Approved



Starla Walter, Board Secretary

May 2, 2011

Date Minutes Prepared