

GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
Teleconference Meeting Minutes – November 09, 2016

The Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists met by telephone on Wednesday, November 09, 2016 at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Livingston, MFT, Chair
Ben Marion, CSW/MFT
Kathryn Klock-Powell, MFT, Vice-Chair
Karen Warren-Rosas, MSW
Endsley Real, CSW
Tommy Black, LPC
Jack Perryman, LPC

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Gerri Ann Robbins, MFT
Bonnie Barker, LPC

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC 1
Amanda Allen, Licensing Supervisor

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Betsy Cohen, Esq., AAG

Steve Livingston, Chair, established a quorum of the Board was present and called the Board meeting to order at 2:27 p.m.

Agenda: Approved

Board Rule Discussion

- Proposed New Chapter 135-12 Testing and Assessments, New Rule 135-12-.01 testing and Assessments (SB319/Act 377)

Ms. Real motioned, Ms. Warren-Rosas seconded, and the Board voted to enter into Executive Session in accordance with O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2(k) (1) (2), O.C.G.A. § 50-14-2(1), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-2-(k) (4), O.C.G.A. § 43-1-19 (h) (2) & (4) to receive and review information from the Board's legal counsel, Assistant Attorney General B. Cohen, pertaining to the AG's office Memo of Statutory Authority. Voting in favor of the motion were those present who included Board members: Livingston, Klock-Powell, Real, Warren-Rosas, Marion, Black and Perryman.

At the conclusion of Executive Session on Wednesday, November 9, 2016, Mr. Livingston declared the meeting to be "open" pursuant to the Open and Public Meeting Act O.C.G.A. § 50-14-1 et seq.

Chapter 135-12 Testing and Assessments

135-12-.01 Testing and Assessments

(1) No one licensed under O.C.G.A. § 43-10A shall have the authority to practice psychology, as defined in O.C.G.A. §43-39-1, unless that individual is also licensed to practice psychology under O.C.G.A. Title 43, Chapter 39

(2) Persons licensed as Professional Counselors may:

(a) use assessment instruments to evaluate emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, behavioral or affective;

- (b) administer and interpret educational and vocational assessment instruments;
- (c) administer and interpret any other assessments or tests which he or she is qualified to employ by virtue of his or her education, training or experience.
- (3) Persons licensed as Social Workers may:
 - (a) use assessment instruments to provide psychosocial evaluations;
 - (b) use assessment instruments to provide in-depth analyses and determinations of the nature and status of emotional, cognitive, mental, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions.
- (4) Persons licensed as Marriage and Family Therapists may:
 - (a) use assessment instruments to evaluate emotional and mental problems and conditions, whether cognitive, affective or behavioral;
 - (b) use assessment instruments that evaluate marital and family functioning.
- (5) The use of these testing and assessment instruments may include, but is not limited to, administering and interpreting educational and vocational tests; functional assessments; interest inventories; tests that evaluate marital and family functioning; and mental health symptom screening and assessment instruments that evaluate emotional, mental, behavioral, and interpersonal problems or conditions including substance abuse, health, and disability, provided that the use of these assessment instruments does not include rendering a diagnosis of a mental and nervous disorder or illness, including but not limited to organic brain disorders, brain damage, or other neuropsychological conditions. Examples of testing and assessment instruments include, but are not limited to, the following:
 - (a) Adolescent Substance Abuse Subtle Screening Inventory;
 - (b) Beck Depression Inventory;
 - (c) Beck Anxiety Inventory;
 - (d) Prepare-Enrich;
 - (e) Myers Briggs;
 - (f) Dyadic Adjustment Scale;
 - (g) Parenting Stress Index;
 - (h) Marital Satisfaction Inventory;
 - (i) Patient Health Questionnaire – 9;
 - (j) Drug Use Disorder Identification Test;
 - (k) Columbia Suicide Severity Rating Scale;
 - (l) Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory; and,
 - (m) Violence Risk Appraisal Guide.
- (6) On or before January 1, 2018, any person licensed under O.C.G.A. § 43-10A working with people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse shall complete, and demonstrate completion of, a curriculum of education relating to diagnosing. A graduate level course in psychopathology consisting of a minimum of three (3) semester credit hours, which are equivalent to forty-five (45) clock hours, from a regionally accredited university shall satisfy this requirement. As of July 1, 2016, persons licensed under this chapter with at least ten (10) years of experience as a professional counselor, clinical social worker, or marriage and family therapist working with people with mental illness, developmental disabilities, or substance abuse and in good standing with the Board are exempt from this requirement.
- (7) Those completing this graduate level course by January 1, 2018, may submit up to twenty (20) hours (core) of the course, pursuant to Board Rule 135-9-(6)(b), as continuing education towards the required thirty-five (35) hours for renewal of the professional license for the licensure cycle ending September 30, 2018.

Authority: O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1- 24, 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-7, 43-1 0A-11, 43-10A-12, 43-10A-13, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-22.

Mr. Black motioned, Ms. Warren-Rosas seconded and the Board voted to post the proposed new rule chapter and new rule for the required minimum of thirty days, with a public rules hearing to be held on Wednesday, December 14, 2016 during the Boards scheduled meeting. None opposed, motion carried.

Ms. Real motioned, and Ms. Warren-Rosas seconded and the Board voted that the formulation and adoption of this new rule chapter and rule does not impose excessive regulatory cost on any licensee and any cost to comply with the proposed new rule chapter and rule cannot be reduced by a less expensive alternative that fully accomplishes the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1- 24, 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-7, 43-1 0A-11, 43-10A-12, 43-10A-13, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-22. None opposed, motion carried.

Additionally, the Board voted that it is not legal or feasible to meet the objectives of O.C.G.A. §§ 43-1- 24, 43-1-25, 43-10A-3, 43-10A-5, 43-10A-6, 43-10A-7, 43-1 0A-11, 43-10A-12, 43-10A-13, 43-10A-16, and 43-10A-22 to adopt or implement differing actions for businesses as listed in O.C.G.A. § 50-13-4(3)(A), (B), (C), and (D). The formulation and adoption of this new rule chapter and rule will impact every licensee in the same manner and each licensee is independently licensed in the field of Professional Counselors, Social Workers, and Marriage and Family Therapists. None opposed, motion carried.

With no additional Board business requiring discussion, Mr. Black motioned, Ms. Real seconded, and the Board voted to adjourn today's meeting at 2:38 p.m.

Minutes recorded, reviewed and edited by:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC 1

Steve Livingston

Chair

Brig Zimmerman

Executive Director HC1

These minutes were approved on: **December 14, 2016**