

**RULES COMMITTEE OF THE GEORGIA COMPOSITE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
COUNSELORS, SOCIAL WORKERS AND MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**
Committee Meeting Minutes – June 30, 2016

The Rules Committee of the Georgia Composite Board of Professional Counselors, Social Workers and Marriage and Family Therapists met Thursday, June 30, 2016 at 237 Coliseum Drive, Macon, Georgia with the following members present:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Steve Livingston, Chair
Kathryn Klock-Powell, MFT, Vice-Chair
Bonnie Barker, LPC
Endsley Real, CSW

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF PRESENT:

Brig Zimmerman, Executive Director, HC 1

ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE:

Betsy Cohen, Esq., AAG

The sitting committee meeting of the Board was called to order at 10:00 a.m.

Agenda: Approved as presented

Rule Amendments Discussion:

- Rule 135-9-.01. Requirements - DRAFT

(1) Definitions:

(a) Synchronous means.....

(b) Asynchronous means.....

(c) Independent Study means.....

(d) Core Hours mean.....

(e) Related Hours mean.....

(f) Graduate Coursework means.....

(g) Academic Hours mean.....

(h) Core hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. PC core hours must reflect PC content, SW core hours must reflect SW content and MFT core hours must reflect MFT content.

(i) Related hours mean continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing or Psychology.

(j).....

(k).....

(4 2) Thirty five (35) clock hours of continuing education are required biennially to renew each license.

(a) When the license is initially issued during the second year of the renewal period on or after October 1st of the odd numbered year the continuing education requirements are deemed, by the Board, to impose an undue hardship upon the licensee, therefore, no continuing education is required for that initial, first renewal of the license.

(a) At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements specified in the Board Rules, Chapter 135-9.

(b) Initial licensure applies to the APC, AMFT, LPC, MFT, MSW, or CSW license issued by the Georgia Composite Licensure Board. Master Social Worker and Associate (APC, AMFT) level licenses issued are considered the individuals initially issued Georgia license for the purposes this rule.

(2 3) A minimum of five (5) of the thirty-five (35) hours shall be specifically designated as continuing education in professional ethics relating to any of the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, or Marriage and Family Therapy. Ethics hours ~~may~~ shall be obtained from any of the sources listed in paragraphs (5) and (6) (a)–(d) below. Continuing education hours in professional ethics cannot be obtained through independent study, or online Independent study is defined in paragraph (7) below synchronous activities only.

(3 4) Of the remaining thirty (30) hours, a minimum of fifteen (15) shall be core hours and not more than fifteen (15) shall be related hours.

(4-5) A maximum of ten (10) hours of continuing education may be obtained ~~online~~ asynchronously for each two-year renewal period.

(5 6) Core hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in the specialty in which the license is held; e.g. PC core hours must reflect PC content, SW core hours must reflect SW content and MFT core hours must reflect MFT content. Core hours may be obtained through ~~graduate level education, conferences, workshops, seminars, or on-line~~ synchronous or asynchronous courses activities approved for continuing education by organizations authorized

to offer continuing education credit. Such activities shall be sponsored, co-sponsored or approved by:

(a) ~~a~~ A professional association in the specialty in which the license is held; or

(b) An academic department in the specialty in which the license is held:

1. Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialty in which the license is held and when the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board. Graduate level coursework listed on the transcript as "independent studies" must be well documented in order to be accepted by the Composite Board. Documentation can include, but is not limited to, a contract signed by the instructor of record.

2. One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent to fifteen (15) hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education, up to a maximum of twenty hours, or

(c) ~~a~~ A licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialty in which the license is held. If the board is a composite board, the activity must be specifically approved for continuing education in the specialty in which the license is held.

~~(6 7) Related hours are continuing education hours acquired in activities in a specialty other than the one in which the license is held or in the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, or Pastoral Counseling.~~ Related hours may be obtained from:

(a) ~~a~~ Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by professional associations in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions for Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, ~~Pastoral Counseling~~, or allied health specialties, or

(b) ~~a~~ Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, or Psychology, ~~or Pastoral Counseling~~.

1. Graduate level coursework will meet continuing education requirements only when offered by an academic department in the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatry Nursing, or Psychology, ~~or Pastoral Counseling~~ and the department is in an education institution accredited by a body acceptable to the Board.

2. One (1) academic semester hour of graduate level coursework shall be equivalent of fifteen (15) clock hours of continuing education, and an one (1) academic quarter hour of course credit shall be equivalent to ten (10) clock hours of continuing education; or

(c) ~~a~~Activities sponsored, co-sponsored, or approved by a licensing or certification board in another jurisdiction which regulates the specialties of Professional Counseling, Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy or the allied professions of Psychiatry, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychology, ~~or Pastoral Counseling~~; or

(d) ~~a~~Activities sponsored by federal, state, or local government agencies, public school systems and licensed hospitals; or

~~(7 8) Independent Study is limited to five (5) hours in activities such as: teaching a course, presenting a lecture, or conducting a workshop for the first time; listening to audiotapes; viewing videotapes; reading books or articles which may contain exit quizzes; editing or writing professional books or articles; and conducting professional research. The licensee shall submit an affidavit attesting to number of hours of independent study completed. No more than five (5) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study. Ethics or Core hours may not be obtained through independent study, or online. Core hours may not be obtained through independent study.~~

(8 9) The professional association, academic department, licensing or certification board, state, or local government agency, public school system or licensed hospital that sponsors, co-sponsors or approves the continuing education activity shall certify the number of clock hours of education content in each activity.

~~(9-10)~~ A Standards Committee may, in its discretion, accept continuing education hours obtained from sources substantially similar to those listed in ~~(5 6)~~ and ~~(67)~~ above.

~~(1011)~~ No more than twenty (20) hours of continuing education shall be from any one continuing education or academic coursework, workshop, or presentation. This limit does not apply to professional conferences which offer multiple presentations.

~~(1112)~~ Any continuing education hour may be applied towards the renewal of a license in more than one specialty, provided that the continuing education hour meets the requirements set out in ~~(5 6)~~ or ~~(67)~~ above.

~~(1213)~~ Continuing education hours earned in professional ethics exceeding the five required for renewal may be applied to meet requirements for core or related hours when they meet the requirements set out in ~~(5 6)~~ or ~~(67)~~ above.

(13) If, at the Board's request, a licensee completes a peer review of an alleged violation of the law or the Board's Rules, the licensee shall satisfy the five (5) hours of continuing education required in professional ethics. Such a review must be submitted as a written report to the Board.

~~(14) When the license is initially issued during the second year of the renewal period after October 1 of the odd numbered year the continuing education requirements are deemed, by the Board, to impose an undue hardship upon the licensee: therefore, no continuing education is required for renewal. At the next renewal cycle the licensee must comply with all continuing education requirements specified in the Board Rules, Chapter 135-9.~~

***** *DRAFT* *****

Following discussion, the rules committee decided to adjourn today's sitting committee meeting but will continue to work on the above draft of proposed amendments, changes, additions to rule 135-9-.01 Requirements,

In addition, Mr. Livingston requested that the rules committee schedule another conference call meeting following the July 8, 2016 scheduled Board meeting for beginning discussion of how SB 319, now signed into law as Act 377 effective April 26, 2016, will affect this rule (135-9-.01) and others.

With no additional Board business requiring discussion, the sitting committee of the Board voted to adjourn today's meeting at 11:31 a.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: July 8, 2016