

Minutes
Arkansas Psychology Board
101 East Capitol, Suite 415
Board Room
November 7, 2003

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. John Stephen Holt, Chair, at 9:15 a.m.

Board Members present: Dr. E.O. Ballard, Dr. Betty Davis, Dr. Russell Dixon, Mr. Larry Lawrence, Dr. Stephen Shry, Mr. Dwight L. Sowell, and Dr. Michael Wyrick.

Staff Members present: Mr. James Ammel, Mr. Asheton Carter, Ms. Janet Welsh, and Ms. Rebecca Wright.

Guests present: Dr. Robert Doyle, Ms. Elizabeth Glenn, Ms. Stacie Potratz, and Mr. Wilson Howe.

Meeting Agenda

Dr. Holt presented the agenda. Dr. Russell Dixon made a motion to approve the agenda. Dr. Steve Shry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Dr. Holt presented the September 19, 2003 minutes. Dr. Dixon requested a correction on page 3 of the minutes to state that he was absent from the discussion and therefore abstained. Dr. Betty Davis requested a correction on page 2 of the minutes of two misspellings. Dr. Michael Wyrick moved to accept the minutes with corrections. Dr. Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Psychologically Healthy Arkansas Month

Dr. Doyle informed the Board that Governor Huckabee declared October as Psychologically Healthy Arkansas month. The goal is to bring psychological health into the workplace. Dr. Doyle will write a short article for the Board's newsletter.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

Mr. James Ammel presented the action item complaint reports with a motion to accept case recommendations.

Complaint #03-06: It is important to note that the examination in issue was not of the neutral, court-ordered variety. Accordingly, there was no ethical obligation on the Respondent to discuss the exam procedures or the results with an adversarial party

reperesented by legal counsel [or even to return phone calls from that third party (which alleged calls Respondent does not recall having received) who was not his client]. There was similarly no ethical obligation to release a report to the Complainants; their own attorney should have had recourse to legal "discovery" means to obtain such (there is no indication that Respondent failed to comply with any court order to provide a report to Complainants or their attorney). The Complainants were not the Respondent's clients. There does not appear to be anything ethically deficient in the evaluation procedures utilized or the interpretations and opinions provided either in the evaluation report or in Respondent's testimony. In summary, the Screening Committee could discern no ethical violation involved in this matter and recommends that this case be closed with a finding of no violation. Dr. Holt and Dr. Shry recused themselves due to conflict of interest. The motion passed.

Complaint #03-07: With no witnesses to the alleged events, the Screening Committee believes it would be unlikely to be able to marshal provable substantiation of the Complainant's allegations of unprofessional conduct or discernible violations of ethical standards inferred from those allegations. On the other hand, it was concerned with the initial (primary) Axis I Schizophrenia diagnosis as being not seemingly supported by any data or factual basis. Accordingly, even though proof of the Complainant's allegations, and the resulting potential violations if the allegations were true, is not foreseeable and no action is recommended pertaining to those issues, the diagnosis issue does raise a potential 7.02(a) violation (forensic assessments needing appropriate substantiation for the findings). The events and actions in question occurred under the current Board's regulations effective 3/03 but under the prior APA ethics version (before the 7/03 adoption of the most current version). The Screening Committee is recommending that any ethical violation issue conceivably raised by the Complainant be dismissed as not sustainable but makes no recommendation as to the potential diagnostic 7.02 violation and seeks the guidance of the Board as to action to pursue, if any. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Additional Office Space

Ms. Janet Welsh stated that the room adjacent to the office would provide more space that could be beneficial to the Board. A price of \$12 per square foot was quoted by Ann Laidlaw of the Arkansas Building Authority. The Board asked Ms. Welsh to ask for a lower price of \$6 per square foot. Ms. Welsh stated that Ann Laidlaw made a counter offer to reduce the rate to \$8 per square foot until 6/30/2005, excluding improvements. The rate would then go up to \$12 per square foot. Dr. Dixon made a motion to table the issue to allow more negotiation time. Mr. Dwight Sowell seconded the motion. Mr. Larry Lawrence amended the motion to consider the \$8 per square foot with no new door included. The amendment passed with one nay by Mr. Sowell. Dr. E.O. Ballard seconded the original motion with the amendment. The motion passed with one nay by Mr. Sowell.

Pacifica University

Mr. Wilson Howe addressed the Board concerning Pacifica University. He is working for his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and would like his curricula from Pacifica University to be accepted by the Board. Mr. Howe stated that Pacifica University is not a distance learning institution. Classes meet in person one time a month for three days and one week in the summer. Pacifica University is a graduate school only. It is not APA accredited but the University is in the process of being accredited. It is regionally accredited by The Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the accrediting body in the California area. Dr. Wyrick stated that an application would have to be reviewed to determine if Mr. Howe is eligible to be licensed. Dr. Shry made a motion to table the acceptance of Pacifica University's curricula. Dr. Ballard seconded the motion and called the question. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Holt asked Dr. Wyrick to look further into Pacifica University and to make a report.

NEW BUSINESS

National Register: Information Correction

Corrections were sent to the National Register the day of the September Board meeting. The corrections have been received.

Report of the ASPPB Annual Meeting

All of the attendees stated that Dr. Dixon gave a great presentation and his presentation was an excellent summary of what is happening in Arkansas. Each said that the meeting went very well.

Dr. Holt stated that the number of Arkansans taking the EPPP is dropping off. However, licensed counselors are on the rise. There is an increase for psychological services yet mental health centers are trying to save financially by not hiring psychologists.

Joint Health Committee Interim Study

Dr. Holt stated that the first Joint Health Committee Interim Study meeting would be held November 14, 2003. Representative Bradford requested two appointees of the Board to attend. Dr. Holt appointed Dr. Davis and Dr. Dixon. Dr. Shry made a motion to accept the appointees. Dr. Wyrick seconded the motion. Mr. Sowell made an amendment to add a third appointee. There was no second. The motion failed. Dr. Dixon amended the motion to state that the appointees will represent the interest and wishes of the Board as a whole. Dr. Ballard called the question. Mr. Lawrence seconded the amended motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Marcela Johnston: Request for Approval of Supervisor Status

Mr. Sowell made a motion to approve Dr. Johnston for supervisory status. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. Dr. Ballard called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Mark Clark: Request for Board approval of Postgraduate School Neuropsychology Program

Dr. Dixon made a motion that a sub-committee be formed to evaluate this item and to report it to the Board. Dr. Ballard seconded the motion. Mr. Sowell was not present to vote. The motion passed.

Dr. Holt asked for volunteers for the sub-committee. Dr. Dixon and Mr. Lawrence volunteered. Dr. Shry made a motion to accept the volunteers. Dr. Davis seconded the motion. Dr. Ballard called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Approval of Board Meeting Dates for Calendar Year 2004

The following meeting dates have been set for 2004:

January 16 (Oral Exams)

February 20

March 19

April 16 (Oral Exams)

May 21

Mr. Sowell made a motion to accept the meeting dates. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers for 2004

Dr. Wyrick nominated Dr. Dixon as Chair. Dr. Ballard seconded the motion. Mr. Lawrence called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Wyrick nominated Mr. Lawrence as Secretary. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Sowell nominated Dr. Wyrick to continue as Treasurer. Dr. Shry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Ballard nominated Dr. Shry and Mr. Sowell as co-chairs of the Continuing Education Committee. Dr. Ballard seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Oral Exam Questions

Dr. Shry suggested considering reworking questions on oral exams. He had concerns that applicants already knew the questions before their oral exams. Dr. Dixon made a motion that each Board member who was a Psychologist or Psychological Examiner submit one question per meeting for oral exams, beginning with the December meeting. Dr. Shry seconded the motion. Dr. Ballard called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

ADJOURN

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.