

Minutes
Arkansas Psychology Board
101 East Capitol, Suite 415
Board Meeting
October 20, 2006

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Steve Shry, Chair, at 9:00 a.m.

Board Members present: Dr. Joe Alford, Dr. Betty Davis, Dr. Russell Dixon, Ms. Jane English, Dr. Sabra Hassel, Mr. Dwight Sowell, and Mr. Dwight Sperry.

Staff Members present: Mr. James Ammel, Ms. Amy Ford, Ms. Janet Welsh, and Ms. Rebecca Wright.

Meeting Agenda

Dr. Shry presented the agenda. Ms. Jane English made a motion to approve the agenda. Mr. Dwight Sperry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Minutes

Dr. Shry presented the September 22, 2006 minutes. Mr. Dwight Sowell made a motion to approve the minutes. Ms. English seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

COMPLAINT COMMITTEE REPORT

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

Complaint #06-06 Action: The matter that instigated the filing of the Complaint involved the eventual enrollment of the child into summer therapeutic day-camp against dad's wishes toward the end of one of his visitation periods and after mother sought and obtained an emergency ex parte order directing immediate return of child by dad to her before his visitation was to conclude. [Camp was to start 6/12/06; dad by court order had visitation the first two weeks in June; the ex parte emergency order was sought and awarded on 6/13/06; and the court rescinded its emergency order on 6/15/06, returning the parties to the custody/visitation positions they were in from prior orders.] Upon obtaining the rescinding order, Complainant demanded of staff numerous times that his child be returned from camp and turned over to him, but Respondent directed that that not be done, complying with agency policy that children are not to be released to any adult other than the one that brought the child.

Although Respondent alleges having contacted attorneys for both parents during this dueling-court-order dispute, a copy of the court order was not obtained until after camp was over for the day. Even of more significance in the Committee's opinion, however, was the fact that

Respondent apparently never requested to see the order pertaining to who had legal and/or physical custody of the child and, instead, either erroneously assumed the mother had sole legal custody or did not understand the legal ramifications of a joint custody arrangement (see the quoted portion of Respondents' Response hereinabove). Prudent investigation of the actual facts by requesting to see court custodial orders prior to crisis development possibly could have avoided some of the escalation in Complainant's agitation. Having failed to do so and/or having failed to seek legal explanation of the ramifications of a joint custody arrangement if such was not understood, it does appear that there is probable cause for finding that a violation of ethical Standard 3.04 (Avoiding Harm) has been committed by Respondent. On the other hand, as the bulk of Complainant's Complaint and displeasure involves the primary therapist's involvement and not actions on the part of the Respondent, the Screening committee is recommending that an appropriate sanction might be issuance of a "Letter of Caution" to Respondent, as incorporated into a Consent Order resolution, and seeks the Board's authorization to pursue that means of resolution with Respondent.

Ms. Amy Ford, Assistant Attorney General, stated that the letter would actually be a "Letter of Reprimand". This is not a reportable action. However, because it is incorporated into a Consent Order resolution, if the letter is rejected, then the matter could go to a hearing. If a violation is found and a sanction incurred, that would be a reportable action. Dr. Russell Dixon called the question. The motion passed unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS

Newsletter Articles

Ms. Janet Welsh, Executive Director, requested newsletter articles be submitted by 11/1/2006.

Pre-Doctoral Internship: A. Stillwell

Dr. Suzanne Throesch corresponded with the Board on 8/28/2006 requesting pre-approval of a pre-doctoral internship for Angela Stillwell. Dr. Throesch recognized that there would be only one supervising psychologist on site. The Board requested more information at the 9/22/2006 teleconference meeting.

Angela Stillwell requested pre-approval of her pre-doctoral internship on 10/6/2006. However, the internship site does not have two Psychologists to supervise the intern. This violates Rules and Regulations § 5.4. F. (2) (c). Dr. Sabra Hassel made a motion to not accept the proposed internship. The internship does not meet the standards of the Arkansas Psychology Board's Rules and Regulations. Ms. English seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS

Provisional License Extension

Amber Waite requested a provisional license extension. This request is for a second extension. Dr. Hassel made a motion to deny the request stating that this would be her second provisional license extension. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. Mr. Sperry voted nay. The motion passed.

Robert Doneski requested a provisional license extension due to a supervisor change and having a lapse in being supervised. Also, the post-doctorate year began at a different time than the provisional license. Dr. Dixon made a motion to grant the request. Dr. Betty Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Post-Doctoral Extension

Dong Xie requested an extension to continue his post-doctoral experience. He has been working since fall 2005 and is still accruing his 2000 hours as required by Rules and Regulations § 5.4. F. (2). Mr. Sowell made a motion to grant the request. Ms. English seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Supervisory Status

Maria Cortes requested supervisory status. She provided background experience and a transcript showing graduate coursework on supervision. Mr. Sowell made a motion to approve Dr. Cortes. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Unsupervised Practice as a Psychological Examiner

Robert Crouch would like to perform intelligence tests for the purpose of psycho-educational evaluation and diagnosis. Discussion followed. This type of work does not require supervision. Ms. English made a motion to approve Mr. Crouch's request to perform this type of work without supervision. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

ASPPB Expenses for Silent Auction

Ms. Welsh provided the Board the expenses and items that will be given to the ASPPB Silent Auction for approval. The funds from the Silent Auction will go towards the support of ASPPB. Ms. English made a motion to approve the expenses. Mr. Sperry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Election of Officers for 2007

Dr. Davis nominated Mr. Sowell for Chair. Mr. Sperry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Dixon nominated Dr. Bettye Hoffman for Secretary. Mr. Sperry seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Dr. Hassel nominated Dr. Joe Alford for Treasurer. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

The Board recessed at 10:29 a.m. for oral examinations.

The Board reconvened at 1:50 p.m.

ADJOURN

Dr. Alford made a motion to adjourn. Dr. Dixon seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned.