

MINUTES

**UTAH
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
BOARD MEETING**

September 23, 2008

**Room 402 – 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

CONVENED: 9:09 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 12:20 P.M.

Bureau Manager:

Rich Oborn

Board Secretary:

Lee Avery

Board Members Present:

Richard Nielsen, Ph. D., Acting Chairperson

Jean N. Soderquist, Ph. D.

Scot M. Allgood

Board Members Excused:

Karen Feinauer

Lanae Valentine, Ph. D., resigned

Guests:

Deborah Wheeler, Vice President Academic Affairs of
Argosy University

DOPL Staff Present:

F. David Stanley, Division Director

Kent Barnes, Compliance Manager

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

MINUTES:

The minutes from the June 13, 2008 were reviewed. Dr. Nielsen motioned to approve the minutes with changes, seconded by Mr. Allgood. The motion carried unanimously.

Swear in a new Board Member

Dr. Allgood was sworn in as the new Board Member.

Elect a new Chairperson

Dr. Soderquist nominated Dr. Nielsen for Board Chairperson, seconded by Dr. Allgood. The motion carried unanimously.

Kent Barnes, Compliance Manager

Mr. Barnes reviewed the probation report and forms

with the Board. Mr. Barnes noted that this Board has two (2) probationers at this time.

Discussion:

The Board discussed the differences between a Stipulation and Order and a Memorandum of Understanding.

#1. Linda Helquist is a new probationer and is in compliance with her stipulation. Mr. Barnes reviewed the charges listed in the stipulation with the Board.

APPOINTMENTS:

Linda Helquist, New Probation Interview

Ms. Helquist presented herself to the Board. Dr. Soderquist conducted the interview. Ms. Helquist stated that she provided mental health therapy to a client diagnosing the client with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and depression. Ms. Helquist stated that she developed a dual relationship with the client. Ms. Helquist talked about how she tried to help the client and crossed boundaries. Ms. Helquist stated she has been a therapist for twenty-one (21) years. She has a private practice in an office building with several other therapists. Ms. Helquist stated she consulted with her peers. Ms. Helquist stated that she has done a lot of soul searching, talking with her peers, and recognizes where she went wrong. Ms. Helquist stated that she has not taken any formal ethics courses since her violation. The Board noted Ms. Helquist must complete (10) pre-approved continuing education hours on ethics, values, boundaries, and transference and counter transference within eight (8) months. Ms. Helquist proposed that the Board approve a four (4) credit hour continuing education course. American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) accredits this course. After a brief discussion, Dr. Allgood motioned to accept these four (4) continuing education hours, seconded by Dr. Nielsen. The motion carried unanimously. The Board reminded Ms. Helquist that she needs to submit one (1) five hundred (500) word essay for each course she takes. The essays are due within thirty (30) days of each course. Dr. Allgood motioned to accept Dr. Eric Yelsa to complete Ms. Helquist's psychological evaluation, seconded by Dr. Soderquist. The motion carried unanimously. Dr. Allgood motioned to accept John Larsen as Ms. Helquist's supervisor, seconded by

Dr. Nielsen. The motion carried unanimously. Mr. Larsen is an AAMFT approved supervisor. Ms. Helquist stated Mr. Larsen has reviewed her stipulation and they have established weekly meetings as required by her stipulation. **Ms. Helquist is in compliance with her probation.**

Darren Adamson, Application Review

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Mr. Adamson is applying to reinstate his license that has been expired more than two years. Mr. Oborn stated Mr. Adamson has not been recently employed at a mental health agency and has not yet submitted documentation verifying four thousand (4,000) hours of supervised experience. Mr. Adamson presented himself to the Board. The Board reviewed the letter submitted by Mr. Adamson regarding his education and work experience. Mr. Adamson practiced in Utah as a Marriage and Family Therapist for sixteen (16) years. He moved to New Mexico and then to Colorado. Subsequently he had an opportunity to become a campus director. He let his New Mexico and Utah Marriage and Family Therapist licenses expire. After talking with Mr. Adamson, the Board encouraged him to contact his previous supervisors to complete the supervision form. With this information, the Board may require only 1,500 hours of supervised experience, instead of the 4,000 hours as stated in Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Act Rules. The Board noted Mr. Adamson has completed the national exam. The Board advised Mr. Adamson he will need to have his Marriage and Family Therapist license current for two (2) years before he can supervise. The Board advised Mr. Adamson if he cannot document the twenty five hundred (2,500) supervised hours, then he will need to submit a letter to Mr. Oborn requesting an Intern license.

Olivia Rojas, Licensee Appointment

Mr. Oborn advised the Board that Ms. Rojas applied to reinstate her Marriage and Family Therapist license. Mr. Oborn stated he has issued Ms. Rojas a Marriage and Family Therapist Intern License. Ms. Rojas presented herself to the Board. Ms. Rojas stated she obtained her license in September 1985 and let it expire in August 1987. Ms. Rojas stated she went to Mexico to work on her dissertation for her Ph.D. and did not return. Mr. Rojas reviewed her work regarding

her humanitarian services in Mexico. Ms. Rojas stated she wanted to meet with the Board to review her specific situation and work history in hopes the Board would approve reinstatement of her Marriage and Family Therapist license without conditions. Ms. Rojas stated she has done therapy for friends and family here in Utah; however, she does not charge for this service. The Board advised Ms. Rojas the statute is written by Utah State Legislators and that neither the Division or Board has the authority to make exceptions, even with her exceptional background. Ms. Rojas expressed concern in not being able to obtain the supervised hours required. The Board stated Ms. Rojas could contact her local legislative representative and work with him/her and her association to change the statute. She could also contact a qualifying mental health agency or community service agency with a qualified supervisor to obtain her supervised hours. The Board suggested Ms. Rojas contact the following agencies for possible openings and supervision: The Center for Change, Centro de la Familia de Utah, Social Services, the Head Start program. The Board also suggested she contact the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) who sends employment notifications to its members. Ms. Rojas thanked the Board for meeting with her.

DISCUSSION:

Date and Time for Future Board Meetings

After a brief discussion, the Board noted the following dates would work best for the Board meetings:

December 11, 2008

March 19, 2009

June 11, 2009

September 10, 2009

December 10, 2009

Argosy University Marriage and Family
Therapy program

Discussed out of order on the Agenda.

Mr. Darren Adamson and Ms. Deborah Wheeler introduced themselves to the Board. Mr. Adamson gave Board members a packet containing the curriculum for Argosy University, Salt Lake City Campus. Mr. Adamson stated that currently the program is forty-eight (48) hours; however, they are prepared to change this to meet the sixty (60) hour

requirement if the Marriage and Family Practice Act Law changes. Mr. Adamson stated the program offers a Master of Arts in Marriage and Family Therapy. They have mirrored their program to satisfy license requirements. The first group of students started the program in September 2008. It is a two (2) year program. Mr. Adamson stated they will be seeking national accreditation as soon as they have worked out any problems. The grand opening is scheduled in November and Board members are invited to attend. Mr. Adamson stated the actual date of the grand opening has not been set yet and to contact the University.

Relationship Coaching

The Board briefly discussed concerns regarding individuals providing Marriage and Family Therapy and calling it Relationship Coaching. The Board noted this is a way to get around licensing in many states. The Board stated that the Utah Marriage and Family Therapist Practice Act Rules are very clear about licensure, regardless of what title you are using.

APPLICATIONS:

None at this time

CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

December 11, 2008

ADJOURN:

The Board adjourned at 12:20 P.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

December 11, 2008
Date Approved

(ss) Richard Nielsen
Richard Nielsen, Ph.D. Chairperson, Utah Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Board

October 16, 2008
Date Approved

(ss) Richard Oborn
Richard Oborn, Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing