

**DRAFT MINUTES  
BOARD OF COUNSELING  
EDUCATIONAL SUMMIT AD-HOC COMMITTEE MEETING  
APRIL 9, 2010**

- TIME & PLACE:** The meeting was called to order at 10:12 a.m. on Friday, April 9, 2010, in Board Room 2 at the Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, Richmond, VA.
- PRESIDING:** Donnie Conner, Ph.D., Chair
- BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Charles McAdams, Ed.D.  
William Scott, Ph.D.  
Linda Seeman, Ph.D.
- STAFF PRESENT:** Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director  
Howard Casway, Senior Assistant Attorney General  
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst  
Patricia Larimer, Deputy Executive Director  
Diana L. Pollick, Operations & Compliance Manager
- VIRGINIA COUNSELOR EDUCATORS:** Dr. Spencer Baker, Counseling Program Coordinator, Hampton University  
Alice Berman, Director, VCU Department of Rehabilitation Counseling  
Dr. Curtis Blakely, Professor, Norfolk State University  
Dr. Sylinda Gilchrist-Banks, Professor, Norfolk State University  
Dr. Carol Chaffin, South University Counseling Program Director  
Dr. Linda Leitch-Alford, Professor, Eastern Mennonite University  
Dr. Monica Megiven, Director, George Washington School of Education  
Dr. Steven Nielsen, Director, Lynchburg Clinical Counseling Program  
Dr. Mandy Perryman, Program Director, Lynchburg Counseling Program  
Dr. Renee Staton, Director, James Madison Counseling Program  
Dr. William Sterner, Marymount University
- WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:** Dr. Conner welcomed the Ad-Hoc Committee members and asked all Board members and staff, as well as the Committee members to introduce themselves.
- OVERVIEW OF THE BOARD OF COUNSELING:**
- **Role of Board Members: Linda K. Seeman, Ph.D.**  
Dr. Seeman gave an overview of the Board's authority emphasizing that the primary responsibility of the Board was to protect the public. Dr. Seeman also explained the role of the Regulatory, Credentials, Discipline and Continuing Education committees. The Standards of Practice were also reviewed.

- **Role of Board Staff: Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director**  
Ms. Brown stated that the primary role of Board staff was to provide support to the Board and Board committees through licensure application processing, facilitating regulatory and policy processes, as well as, disciplinary processes. She further reported that managing contracts and budgets was a staff responsibility, as well as, receiving complaints and responding to the public with professional customer service.
- **Role of Board Counsel: Howard Casway, Sr. Assistant Attorney General:** Mr. Casway presented a power point presentation which covered the Virginia Administrative Process Act and included definitions in the Virginia Code §2.2-4001. Mr. Casway also explained the disciplinary processes for informal fact finding conferences and formal hearings.

**DISCUSSION  
TOPICS:**

**Counseling Degree & Coursework Requirements: Charles McAdams, Ph.D. :** Dr. McAdams began his presentation by sharing the history of application reviews and regulatory changes that affected the educational requirements for licensure by eliminating the acceptance of degrees that are not “counseling” degrees. Dr. McAdams shared the unofficial form he uses to assist in determining if a degree is in “counseling” or another field. He also discussed the Guidance Document that has been developed regarding this issue, and also addressed the “Degree Program Requirements” set forth in Regulation 18VAC115-20-49. Dr. McAdams stated that it is the Board’s intent to clearly determine that degree programs satisfy the “expressed intent to prepare counselors.” The Committee discussed the need to have clearly stated criteria that degree programs must include graduate “counseling” programs as set forth in 18VAC115-20-49 and endorsed the criteria currently being applied by the Board as listed in the Guidance Document and expanded in Dr. McAdams form.

The committee members discussed the importance of “counselor identity” and also the ACA Code of Ethics. Concern was raised that all programs are not designed to reflect CACREP program standards. After some discussion it was the consensus of the Committee that CACREP guidelines are not the only focus, but that a “sequence” of academic study should also be included and that a “patchwork” of coursework does not make a “program”. It was also the consensus of the Committee of the that the Board should not require that all applicants come from a CACREP program.

**Supervised Internship Requirements: Charles McAdams, Ph.D.**  
Dr. McAdams shared with the Committee a problem the Board is currently facing with some students having internships that do not meet

the minimum 600 hour internship requirement set forth in Regulation

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18VAC115-20-51. He explained that historically applicants with less than the 600 required internship hours could acquire additional residency hours to make up their hour internship shortages. However, the Board has developed a Guidance Document to allow the post degree residency to include extra hours to satisfy the shortage of required internship hours until December 31, 2010, and then all applicants will be required to have the minimum 600 hour internship with no exceptions. He then asked members to discuss how they saw the differences between the graduate level internship and the post-graduate residency. After much discussion it was decided that the internship offered an opportunity for a learning experience with a faculty advisor who can represent the professional identity and a site supervisor who can represent the reality of the problems, with intensive clinical supervision. Discussion followed with several members expressing concern about the elimination by most counseling programs allowing students to enroll for internship purposes only, due to legal liability concerns of the academic institutions. Other issues discussed were if programs had to provide longer internships more faculty would be needed, and that some programs are not structured to include a 600 hour internship. Lastly, the discussion included concerns for those students who had completed all the requirements except the internship requirement, and who had no options available to secure the remaining internship hours. It was the consensus of the Committee that a 600 hour internship was a minimum number of hours to get full exposure to the field and that the 600 hours should not be reduced. However, a means to accommodate those with internship shortages should be considered. Options such as developing Certificate Programs with internships were discussed.

**QUESTIONS  
& ANSWERS:**

A “Question & Answer” discussion yielded many more topics of topics of interest to the Committee. One area was other coursework that should be added to the core content criteria in 18VAC115-20-51 – Educational Requirements. The session ended with the members of the Committee commending the Board for its commitment to these difficult issues. It was also noted by the Committee that the educational institutions need to bring recommendations for Regulatory change to the Board rather than the Board bringing them to the institutions.

**CLOSURE:**

Dr. Conner asked the Committee members to share their thoughts about the meeting. It was the opinion of all that it was very informative and allowed opportunity for educators and Board members to come together to discuss the important issues that affect both. It was suggested that another Ad-Hoc Educational Summit meeting be scheduled in the Fall of 2010.

**ADJOURN:** The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.

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Donnie Conner, Ph.D., Chair

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Evelyn B. Brown, Executive Director