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Application Review Committee

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MINUTES OF TELEPHONIC MEETING

*August 31, 2010
7:30 a.m.*

1400 West Washington
Suite #235
Phoenix, AZ 85007

1. CALL TO ORDER

The regular session of the Arizona State Board of Psychologist Examiners Application Review Committee was called to order by Dr. Mellott at 7:34 a.m. on August 31, 2010. No Executive Sessions were held.

2. ROLL CALL

Committee Members Participating by Telephone

Ramona N. Mellott, Ph.D. - Chairperson
John P. DiBacco, Ph.D.

Staff Present

Meghan B. Hinckley – Deputy Director

3. DISCUSSION/DECISION REGARDING APPROVAL OF APPLICANTS – Dr. Mellott

Requesting Approval for Examination & Licensure

Lia Clemente, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Clemente's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Clemente's application forward to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP and licensure.

Stuart Friedman, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Friedman's application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Friedman's application forward to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP and licensure.

James Sanders, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Sanders' application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Sanders' application forward to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP and licensure.

Courtney Schuneman-Patel, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Schuneman-Patel's application. Upon review, the Committee noted that Dr. Schuneman-Patel calculated she worked 24 hours per week for approximately 48 weeks, totaling 1137 supervised experience hours at her practicum experience at **Jewish Child & Family Services**. Based upon a 24 hour work week, she should have received 1.2 hours of individual face-to-face supervision, totaling 57 hours for the entire supervised experience. Dr. Schuneman-Patel calculated she received only 46 hours of individual supervision, which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(E)(4)(c). Similarly, Dr. Schuneman-Patel worked 24 hours per week for approximately 50 weeks, totaling 1195 supervised experience hours at a second practicum experience for **Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center Behavioral Health Services**. Dr. Schuneman-Patel should have received 1.2 hours of individual face-to-face supervision, for a total of 60 hours for the entire supervised experience. Dr. Schuneman-Patel calculated a total of 49 hours of individual supervision, which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(E)(4)(c). Also on the Pre-Internship Supervision Verification form, Dr. Schuneman-Patel's supervisor indicated that the experience was supervised by a licensed psychologist 50% of the time and by a licensed mental health professional 50% of the time, which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(E)(4)(d). Dr. Schuneman-Patel indicated on her Postdoctoral Supervised Professional Experience Verification form that she worked a total of 36 hours per week for 27 weeks, totaling 972 supervised postdoctoral experience hours. Based upon a 36 hour work week, she should have received 1.8 hours of individual face-to-face supervision, totaling at least 49 hours for the entire supervised experience. Dr. Schuneman-Patel's supervisor calculated she only received 27 hours of individual supervision, which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(G)(5). Lastly, the Committee noted that Dr. Schuneman-Patel's postdoctoral supervisor, Dr. Foster's, original date of licensure was 09/2008 and her Postdoctoral Professional Psychology Experience began 11/2009. Based upon this information, Dr. Foster was not licensed a full two years prior to supervising her postdoctoral experience which does not fulfill the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(G)(1). The Committee recommended sending Dr. Schuneman-Patel a Request for Additional Information and Documentation regarding the deficiencies in her application.

Sonja Sollenberger, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Sollenberger's re-application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Sollenberger's application forward to the full Board for review and approval to take the EPPP and licensure.

Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to move the applications of Lia Clemente, Psy.D., Stuart Friedman, Ph.D., James Sanders, Psy.D., and Sonja Sollenberger, Ph.D. to the full Board for review and approval to sit for the EPPP and licensure upon the receipt of a passing score on the exam. The motion carried (2-0).

Dr. DiBacco then made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to issue Courtney Schuneman-Patel a Request for Additional Information and Documentation requesting clarification of her supervised experience hours and verification forms as discussed.

Requesting Approval by Waiver

Robert Cohen, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Cohen’s application and subsequent submissions. Upon review of the application, the Committee noted that transcripts received from Virginia Commonwealth University indicated Dr. Cohen was enrolled in and passed *PSYC 671: Readings & Research: Ethics*. However, the syllabus submitted by Dr. Cohen was entitled *PSYC 675: Ethics*. While Dr. Cohen did submit an accompanying cover letter with the explanation of the discrepancy in the course titles, the Committee requested Dr. Cohen submit a signed letter from the teaching professor of his course that attested to the fact that the course content listed on the syllabus from *PSY 675* was indeed the content covered in the *PSYC 671*, listed on the graduate school transcripts. In addition, the Committee noted that Dr. Cohen still need to complete and pass the EPPP, and therefore needed to be move to the category, Requesting Approval for Exam & Licensure on the next agenda.

Roberta Falke, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Falke’s application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Falke’s application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated license fee.

Amanda J. Ragonesi, Psy.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Ragonesi’s application. Upon review, the Committee noted that the materials submitted were complete and fulfilled the requirements of statutes and rules. It was the consensus of the Committee to move Dr. Ragonesi’s application forward to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon receipt of the pro-rated license fee.

Thomas Sheriff, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Sheriff’s application and subsequent submissions. Upon review, the Committee noted that the issue of whether Dr. Sheriff’s doctoral degree in Personality Psychology with an emphasis in Experimental Psychology fulfills the requirements of A.R.S. § 32-2071(A)(2) and (A)(3) regarding “an applied psychology degree” was scheduled to be discussed at the September 2, 2010 Board meeting. The Committee reviewed Dr. Sheriff’s completed Core Content area portion of his application and noted that he was deficient three semester units, or the equivalent, in the Scientific and Professional Ethics core content area. Additionally, Dr. Sheriff still must complete and pass the EPPP, and the Committee requested that he be moved to the Requesting Exam & Licensure category on the next agenda. The Committee requested that Board staff send Dr. Sheriff a Final Request for Additional Information and Documentation (FRAID) for the three semester credit deficiency in Ethics only after a decision is rendered by the Board regarding his graduate degree from Baylor.

Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to move the applications of Dr. Roberts Falke, Ph.D. and Dr. Amanda Ragonesi, Psy.D. to the full Board for review and approval of licensure upon the receipt of the pro-rated licensing fee. The motion included that Robert Cohen, Ph.D. be issued an SRAID letter for the discrepancy in his application previously discussed at this meeting. The motion carried (2-0).

Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to issue Dr. Sheriff an FRAID letter for his deficiency in the Ethics core content area, pending the Board’s decision on his graduate psychology degree from Baylor in Personality Psychology. The motion included that Dr. Sheriff’s application be moved to the Requesting Exam & Licensure category on further agendas. The motion carried (2-0).

Requesting Approval for Licensure by Credential

Thomas Golden, Ph.D. – Committee members proceeded with a substantive review of Dr. Golden's application. Upon review of the application, the Committee noted that Dr. Golden reported an investigation against his New Jersey Psychologist License that remains ongoing at this time.

Dr. Mellott requested that Ms. Galvin, the Board's attorney, join by telephone in order to help Committee members review this application. Ms. Galvin joined the meeting, via telephone, at 8:33 a.m. Dr. Mellott inquired what the Committee's options were regarding this application given that Dr. Golden's investigation in New Jersey was ongoing. Ms Galvin noted that the Committee could recommend approval of the license and forward it to the full Board with the stipulation, which would be stated in Dr. Golden's approval letter from the Board, that he keep the Board informed every 90 days or until the matter is resolved, the status of the investigation in New Jersey. Ms. Galvin left the meeting at 8:39 a.m.

It was the consensus of the Committee to recommend Dr. Golden's application move forward for review and approval of licensure to the Board with the stipulation outline that he must provide the Board with the outcome of the investigation in progress in New Jersey approximately every 90 days until its resolution. In addition, The Committee directed Board staff to contact the New Jersey Board regarding the status of the case.

Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, that Dr. Golden's application be forwarded to the full Board for approval with the stipulation that he keep the Board apprised of the outcome of the New Jersey complaint. The motion carried (2-0).

4. SCHEDULE NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING

Dr. Mellott noted that the next Committee meeting should be scheduled for September 28, 2010, at 7:30 a.m. Dr. DiBacco concurred and noted that his schedule was amenable to that meeting time.

5. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Committee, Dr. DiBacco made a motion, seconded by Dr. Mellott, to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 a.m.

Ramona N. Mellott, Ph.D. - Chairperson
Application Review Committee