

MINNESOTA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THERAPY
TIERED LICENSURE WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES

April 12, 2013; 11:00 a.m.

Conference Room A, Fourth Floor, 2829 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN

BBHT Committee Members Present: Judi Gordon, Duane Reynolds, and Mary McGowan (by phone)

Other BBHT Board Members Present: Freddie Davis-English and Kristen Piper

Staff Present: Samantha Strehlo, LADC Licensing Coordinator

Members of the Public Present: Jonathan Lofgren, Minneapolis Community and Technical College/Adler Graduate School/Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health; Richard Kotasek, Century College; Julie Rohovit, University of Minnesota; Ted Tessier, Century College/Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health; Ann Becher-Ingwalson, University of Minnesota; Rebecca Lund, CLUES; Charlie Mishek, Minnesota Department of Human Services; Jenine Koziolk, Fountain Centers/ Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health; Naomi Ochsendorf, Adolescent Treatment Center of Winnebago; and Nelson Perez, CLUES

Judi Gordon, Chair of the Tiered Licensure Working Group Committee, explained the purpose of the tiered licensure study legislation. The Committee was created to evaluate the feasibility of tiered licensure in Minnesota. Chair Gordon read directly from the legislation:

Sec. 43. REPORT; BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THERAPY.

(a) The Board of Behavioral Health and Therapy shall convene a working group to evaluate the feasibility of a tiered licensure system for alcohol and drug counselors in Minnesota. This evaluation shall include proposed scopes of practice for each tier, specific degree and other education and examination requirements for each tier, the clinical settings in which each tier of practitioner would be utilized, and any other issues the board deems necessary.

(b) Members of the working group shall include, but not be limited to, members of the board, licensed alcohol and drug counselors, alcohol and drug counselor temporary permit holders, faculty members from two- and four-year education programs, professional organizations, and employers.

(c) The board shall present its written report, including any proposed legislation, to the chairs and ranking minority members of the legislative committees with jurisdiction over health and human services no later than December 15, 2015.

(d) The working group is not subject to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes, section 15.059.

Charlie Mishek asked if the Board can submit the report earlier than the due date of December 15, 2015. Chair Gordon stated that her goal was to have the report completed by September of

2014. Ms. Strehlo pointed out that Chair Gordon's goal date may be changed as we go through the process. The Committee may find that they can complete the study and report early, or they may need to use all the time allotted by the legislature.

The Committee outlined the groups they wanted to be represented as part of the Tiered Licensure Working Group. The following was decided:

- 1 temporary permit holder
- 2 from professional organizations
- 2 employers
- 4 from educational programs (2 from two year programs and 2 from four year programs)
- 1 from the Minnesota Department of Human Services

Chair Gordon pointed out that her hope for those serving on the Tiered Licensure Working Group was that they could think globally, not just about how changes would affect themselves or their agencies.

The Committee discussed a regular meeting time for the Working Group. It was decided that the Working Group would meet the 4th Wednesday of every month at 10:00 a.m.

Kristen Piper reminded everyone that the Board is here to protect the public and the Working Group would have to keep this in mind. Ms. Piper also noted that the Working Group may want to consider involving the Minnesota Association for Children's Mental Health at some point, as they had interest in LPC/LPCC legislation in the past.

Chair Gordon called for a break. She requested that all the members of the public attending the meeting meet in their respective groups to decide who should serve on the Working Group.

The meeting resumed and the group discussed who should be appointed to the Working Group. The choices were as follows:

- Temporary permit holder: there were no permit holders at the meeting and no temporary permit holders have contacted the Board office expressing interest in serving on the Working Group. Jonathan Lofgren stated that he may be able to find some interested permit holders. He will bring a name to the next Working Group meeting.
- Minnesota Department of Human Services: Charlie Mishek
- Professional Associations: Ted Tessier (MARRCH) and Naomi Ochsendorf (MARRCH and MATD)
- Employers: Dustin Chapman (Fairview) and Liz Reid (Turning Point)
 - Jenine Kozliek nominated Larry Blair from Fountain Centers. There was some discussion among those in attendance regarding representation from someone working with a smaller agency. Jonathan Lofgren nominated Liz Reid from Turning Point and proceeded to contact her to see if she was interested. She confirmed that she would like to serve on the Committee.
- Education Programs: Nelson Perez (Century College), Val Swanson (Ridgewater College), Roy Kammer (Minnesota State University-Mankato), Julie Rohovit

(University of Minnesota), and Jonathan Lofgren (Minneapolis Community and Technical College and Adler Graduate School)

The members of the public were reminded that even if they were not selected to be members of the Working Group, all meetings will be open to the public and they are welcome to participate in the process.

Chair Gordon assigned the first task to Board staff and members of the Working Group. Chair Gordon asked Samantha Strehlo to compile statistical data on LADCs for the next meeting. The first task for the Working Group members is to collect data from other states including: licensure requirements, what tiers they have (if any), scopes of practice, continuing education requirements, etc. Chair Gordon will divide the states up and assign a group of states to each Working Group member. Chair Gordon will also develop a spreadsheet and send it to all Working Group members. The spreadsheet will list the information the Committee wants to gather, so all Working Group members will be collecting the same data. Julie Rohovit recommended the website www.attcnetwork.org as a resource. Samantha Strehlo also suggested not relying on websites alone, but calling the individual states to obtain the most accurate and current information.

Samantha Strehlo asked if the Working Group should just focus on states that require licensure, or if states that have certification should be included as well. Chair Gordon suggested that certification states be included as they may have some helpful data and information.

Julie Rohovit suggested that the Working Group focus only on states that require licensure, as most of those states have been through the legislative process and could give information about their process of moving to a tiered licensure structure and may be able to point out areas where they were successful and areas that caused them trouble.

Jonathan Lofgren pointed out that some states are certification states, but state law requires them to have the certification to practice.

Samantha Strehlo asked the Working Group if they felt they would be able to complete the assignment by the next meeting on May 22, 2013. No one from the Working Group objected.

Ann Becher-Ingwalson asked if 3rd party payors should also be represented on the group. The Committee did not feel it was necessary at this time. Bill Payne stated that the Working Group should keep reimbursement in mind.

Naomi Ochsendorf reported that she will not be able to attend the next meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 12:32 p.m.

The next meeting will be Wednesday, May 22, 2013 at 10:00 a.m. in Conference Room C.