

MINNESOTA BOARD OF BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AND THERAPY
TIERED LICENSURE WORKING GROUP
MEETING MINUTES
May 28, 2014; 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room A, Fourth Floor, 2829 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN

BBHT Committee Members Present: Judi Gordon, Marlae Cox-Kolek, Duane Reynolds

Staff Present: Samantha Strehlo, LADC Licensing Coordinator

Working Group Members Present: **Roy Kammer**, MSU-Mankato; **Naomi Ochsendorf**, MARRCH and MATD; **Dustin Chapman**, Fairview; **Therissa Libby**, Metropolitan State University

Working Group Members Absent: **Cindy Swan-Henderlite**, Minnesota Department of Human Services; **Ted Tessier**, MARRCH; **Liz Reid**, Turning Point; **Nelson Perez**, Century College; **Jonathan Lofgren**, Minneapolis Community and Technical College/Adler Graduate School/Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health; **Julie Rohovit**, University of Minnesota

Members of the Public Present: none

Duties of the Working Group:

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.

Judi Gordon, Chair of the Tiered Licensure Working Group, convened the meeting.

Duane Reynolds reviewed the draft tiered licensure structure developed at the March and April meetings (draft attached).

Chair Gordon asked if there should be a grandfathering period included when the tiered licensure legislation is drafted. The group agreed that it should. Ms. Strehlo commented that a grandfathering method for the associates and masters level licenses would need to be developed. This would include a method for temporary permit holders to convert to the associate level license and a method for current LADCs that have a Master's degree to convert to the master's level license. Nothing would change for those currently licensed (bachelor's level license), but any new requirements would not be put into place right away (would be effective in x number of years) to accommodate those already enrolled in school.

Mr. Chapman asked if there would be a limit to the number of associates level counselors a person could supervise. Ms. Strehlo discussed the plan for the report that will be submitted to the legislature. The plan is to report to the legislature that it is the Working Group's opinion that a tiered licensure system is needed in Minnesota. The draft tiered licensure structure will be presented in the report showing how a tiered licensure structure may look in the future. The report will also state that the process is still in the early stages, so legislation has not been drafted. Therefore, some of the small details have not yet been discussed and do not be decided at this time.

The Working Group discussed diversity issues. Ms. Cox- Kolek stated that she believes an associate level license will bring more diversity to the field. Mr. Reynolds stated that it will also help outstate Minnesota, because more counselors will be available in rural areas.

Chair Gordon reported that she, along with Board staff, will be presenting the draft report during a breakout session at the MARRCH conference in October 2014. She invited Working Group members to attend as well.

Ms. Strehlo asked the Board members of the Working Group if they thought scheduling a couple of meetings in outstate Minnesota would be helpful. They agreed that it would. Possible locations discussed include: Mankato, Rochester, Duluth, or St. Cloud.

A timeline for moving forward was discussed. Ms. Strehlo will look into the possibility of scheduling two outstate meetings this summer. Chair Gordon, Ms. Strehlo, and Ms. Rechtzigel will begin writing the final report. The full Working Group will meet next on Wednesday, September 24, 2014. The hope is a draft of the report for the legislature will be ready for the Working Group to review and discuss. If a draft of the report is ready, it will be presented at the MARRCH Conference in October.

Mr. Kammer mentioned that MNCASE would be meeting on September 24, 2014, and it may be helpful for Board staff to attend and discuss the final report.

The meeting adjourned at 11:15 am.