

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

October 23, 2013; 10:00 a.m.

Conference Room C, Third Floor, 2829 University Avenue SE, Minneapolis, MN

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

Staff Present: Kari Rechtzigel, Executive Director; Samantha Strehlo, LADC Licensing Coordinator

Working Group Members Present: **Cindy Swan-Henderlite**, Minnesota Department of Human Services; **Roy Kammer**, MSU-Mankato; **Naomi Ochsendorf**, MARRCH and MATD; **Dustin Chapman**, Fairview; **Ted Tessier**, MARRCH; **Therissa Libby**, Metropolitan State University; **Jonathan Lofgren**, Minneapolis Community and Technical College/Adler Graduate School/Minnesota Association of Resources for Recovery and Chemical Health; **Julie Rohovit**, University of Minnesota

Working Group Members Absent: **Liz Reid**, Turning Point; **Nelson Perez**, Century College

Members of the Public Present: Scott Brownlee, University of Minnesota student; Bonnie Freeland, Minnesota Certification Board

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.

The minutes from the September 25, 2013 meeting were reviewed by the Working Group.

Chair Gordon announced that Minnesota Recovery Connection was now nationally accredited. This led the Working Group into a discussion about recovery coaches and peer specialists. The idea of requiring a license or certification for recovery coaches and/or peer specialists was discussed. Ms. Rechtzigel reminded the group that any new license/registration needs to go through the Council of Health Boards for approval. Mr. Reynolds also pointed out that the IC&RC is creating a peer specialist certification. Ms. Libby suggested that a subgroup be put together to gather information about peer specialists and recovery coaches. Mr. Chapman and Mr. Kammer volunteered to be part of the subgroup.

The Working Group then began discussing tiered licensure. Ms. Ochsendorf stated that it would make the most sense to start with national standards that are already in use. For example, NAADAC, IC&RC, and SAMHSA. Ms. Cox-Kolek mentioned that she is in favor of looking at creating an alcohol and drug counseling add-on for those who have a current mental health license (social work, psychology, professional counseling, etc).

Chair Gordon suggested that a subgroup be created to start drafting scopes of practice for a tiered license. Ms. Swan-Henderlite, Mr. Kammer, Ms. Ochsendorf, Ms. Libby, Mr. Lofgren, and Ms. Rohovit volunteered to be part of the subgroup. Ms. Rohovit suggested that the subgroup first look at scopes, then move to looking at the requirements for each tier (degree, education, etc.).

Ms. Rechtzigel asked the Working Group to think about what is wrong with the alcohol and drug counseling licensure system we have now, if anything. Ms. Strehlo also mentioned that the purpose of licensure is to protect the public. Ms. Rechtzigel stated that the tiered licensure report to the legislature needs to be looked at as a strategic plan for the field.

The Working Group decided that Board staff and members would write a preamble for the report to the legislature. From there, the subgroups could begin their work.

The next meeting date was scheduled for January 22, 2014, at 10:00 AM. The subgroups planned to meet before this meeting date and have information to present to the entire Working Group on January 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 am.