

**MINUTES**

**UTAH  
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION  
COUNSELOR  
LICENSING BOARD MEETING**

**January 22, 2014**

**Room 464 4th Floor – 2:00 P.M.  
Heber M. Wells Building  
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

**CONVENED:** 2:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNED:** 2:39 p.m.

**Bureau Manager:  
Board Secretary:**

Debra Hobbins, DNP, APRN, LSUDC  
Shirlene Kimball

**Conducting:**

Russell Thelin

**Board Members Present:**

Joel Jolley  
Russell Thelin  
Douglas Roberts  
Julio Rodriguez

**Board Members Excused:**

Julie Smart, Ph.D.

**TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION**

**DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:**  
December 7, 2011 Minutes:

Mr. Jolley made a motion to approve the December 7, 2011 minutes as written. Mr. Thelin seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor of the motion

Environmental Scan:

Mr. Roberts reported that the United States Senate is considering a bill that will move vocational rehabilitation services from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor. Mr. Thelin stated that moving vocational rehabilitation services from the Department of Education to the Department of Labor downgrades the profession. Individuals who provide rehabilitation services are concerned that a move would impact quality and outcomes. Mr. Thelin stated that the Department of Labor tends to be an exchange, where the Department of Education assists in providing clinical intervention rather than simply going to the market to get a job. Mr. Thelin stated Senator Hatch is a member of the Committee where this bill is discussed.

Rule change:

Mr. Thelin indicated that the standard for obtaining the LVRC in Utah is that an individual must show they have passed the CRC examination. Mr. Thelin indicated that this implies that Utah's standard for qualifications to obtain the LVRC includes the national CRC standard. However, renewal of the LVRC license does not require that the CRC has been maintained. Mr. Thelin stated this has resulted in several individuals electing to obtain the CRC at the front end in order to obtain the LVRC license, and then letting their CRC certification lapse. Mr. Thelin stated he feels that the national certification is not being held as the standard for LVRC in Utah. Mr. Thelin proposed a rule change that makes holding the CRC and maintaining CRC certification a requirement for licensure as well as renewal. He indicated he would like to see added to each renewal a qualifying question that the individual has a current CRC certification.

Dr. Hobbins indicated that other professions require certification for initial licensure and for renewal. Mr. Thelin stated this is a national standard and we need to revise the rules. Mr. Roberts stated the intent was to have both licensure and current certification. Dr. Hobbins submitted to the Board proposed language to the rule, which reads: each applicant for renewal shall comply with the following continuing competence requirements: be currently certified by CRC; complete blank hours of continuing education, and completed blank hours of licensed practice. Mr. Roberts stated the CRC requires 100 continuing education credits in the five-year certification period. He indicated they require 20 hours of continuing education per year. Dr. Hobbins indicated she put in practice hours and questioned whether Board members feel it is important to practice a certain number of hours in a renewal period. Mr. Rodriguez stated he never thought about it. Mr. Douglas indicated there is a shortage of licensed vocational rehabilitation counselors and retired individuals are hired if a facility struggles with filling positions. Mr. Thelin stated he does not see the work hours as the issue, but requires the CRC certification and is it being maintained. Mr. Rodriguez stated the certification is offered twice a year. For renewal, require current CRC certification by 03/31/2015.

R156-78-301b: Strike number (1). Rewrite to read: (1) applicants for licensure who apply on or after January 1, 2011 must verify completion of experience under the supervision of an LVRC. (2) A maximum of 2,000 hours of supervised experience during any one-year period may be credited toward the 4,000 hour supervised experience requirements.

R156-78-303 Renewal Cycle add number (2) to read: in accordance with subsection 58-78-302(1)(f), each applicant for renewal shall comply with the following continuing competency requirements: (a) be currently certified by CRC as of March 31, 2015 (b) complete 20 hours of continuing education per year

R156-78-302d: Examination requirements: pass the CRC Examination and hold a current CRC certification.

Mr. Rodriguez made a motion to accept the wording as proposed. Mr. Roberts seconded the motion. All Board members voted in favor of the motion.

Review Surrender document for Douglas Robert Edwards:

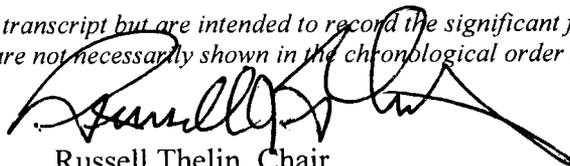
Mr. Thelin stated that this validates the need for licensure because there is a mechanism to protect the public, and is especially important for those professions working with individuals with disabilities. Dr. Hobbins stated that once an individual has been disciplined by the Division, that information remains on the website forever. Mr. Rodriguez stated criminal records can be expunged and it is sad that if a person completes probation, it cannot be taken off the web site.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting is scheduled for May 14, 2014 at 2:00 p.m.

*Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.*

5/14/14  
Date Approved

  
Russell Thelin, Chair  
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Licensing Board

5/14/14  
Date Approved

  
Debra Hobbins, Bureau Manager, Division of  
Occupational & Professional Licensing