

MINUTES
UTAH
VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION
COUNSELOR
LICENSING BOARD MEETING

September 25, 2013

Room 403 4th Floor – 2:00 P.M.
Heber M. Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111

CONVENED: 2:10 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 3:05

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Debra Hobbins, DNP, APRN, LSUDC
Shirlene Kimball
Boyce Barnes

Division Staff:

Susan Higgs, Compliance Specialist

Conducting:

Julie Smart, Ph.D.

Board Members Present:

Julie Smart, Ph.D.
Julio Rodriguez

Board Members Excused:

Joel Jolley
Russell Thelin
Douglas Roberts

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Introduction of Dr. Hobbins,
Bureau Manager

Dr. Hobbins reported the Division made several changes last March and rearranged the professions under each Bureau Manager. She indicated Mr. Oborn was re-assigned to the pharmacy profession. Board members welcomed Dr. Hobbins.

Oath of Office administered to Julio
Rodriguez:

Dr. Hobbins administered the Oath of Office to Julio Rodriguez. Mr. Rodriguez was welcomed as a member of the Board.

December 7, 2011 Minutes:

The December 7, 2011 minutes were tabled until a quorum is present.

Susan Higgs,
Compliance report:

Ms. Higgs introduced herself and reviewed with Board members the Stipulation and Orders for Renee Scheering and Maren Alitagtag.

Ms. Higgs reported Ms. Scheering received a public reprimand and is required to complete four hours of continuing education focusing on ethics. Ms. Scheering submitted for approval two courses for continuing education. Board members accepted the continuing education courses.

Maren Alitagtag also received a public reprimand but did not need to complete additional requirements.

Mr. Rodriguez questioned if the Board is aware of a public reprimand prior to the issuance of the reprimand. Ms. Higgs stated that complaints and investigations are not public and the Board would not be aware of a reprimand. Dr. Hobbins indicated that if an individual were placed on probation, the Board would monitor the probation. Dr. Hobbins also indicated if there is an issue regarding an application, or questions regarding rule, the issue would be placed on the agenda.

Environmental Scan:

Dr. Smart explained to Division staff that individuals licensed in Utah as LVRC's have received the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification (CRCC). The certification is issued to an individual who has appropriate education, passed the CRC examination and documented supervised practice. Dr. Smart stated that approximately two years ago the CRCC made changes regarding educational requirements. She indicated that initially, an individual was required to have a master's degree from a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor-accredited program and Utah State University is the only accredited program in Utah. Individuals with a master's degree in social work, mental health counseling, etc., had to go back to school and receive a new master's degree in rehabilitation counseling if they wanted to be licensed and work as a Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor. An individual could not sit for the CRC examination if they did not have a masters' degree in rehabilitation counseling. The CRCC then developed a pathway to allow an individual with one of the thirteen related master's degrees (including social work) to sit for the CRC examination if they completed eight additional courses from an accredited rehabilitation counselor program. This change has expanded the pool of future employees because there were only 120

master's degree programs in rehabilitation counseling in the nation. At the same time, there were social workers who were angry they could not find jobs, for example, individuals who graduated with a master's degree in social work from BYU that did not meet the job requirements for work at Deseret Industries. This path helped solved both problems. Mr. Rodriguez stated he heard that this meant that the Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor profession was being phased out. Dr. Smart stated the Federal Government is thinking of taking the Rehabilitation Services Administration (RSA) out of the Department of Education and placing it in the Department of Labor. She indicated there are people who are saying that if this happens, it is the end of the state/federal LVRC program.

Dr. Smart and Mr. Rodriguez both shared with Division staff their current positions. Dr. Smart indicated she is employed at Utah State University and Mr. Rodriguez is employed with Workers Compensation Fund.

Open and Public Meetings Act Training:

Dr. Hobbins reviewed with Board members the Open and Public Meetings Act.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be scheduled for January 22, 2014, 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.

Date Approved

1/22/14

(ss)  (CHAIR) fn.
Julie Smart, Acting Chair
Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor Licensing Board

1/22/14
Date Approved

(ss) 
Debra Hobbins, Bureau Manager, Division of
Occupational & Professional Licensing