

# ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MARYLAND BOARD OF EXAMINERS OF PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS AND THERAPISTS

2008

The Maryland Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists functions under Health Occupations Article, Title 17, Annotated Code of Maryland. The State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists (the "Board") is the licensing and certifying authority of professional counselors; marriage and family therapists and alcohol and drug counselors in the State of Maryland. The Board is mandated to regulate the practice of professional counseling and therapy in Maryland by licensing and certifying qualified counselors and therapists, promulgating regulations for the practice of professional counseling and therapy, verifying credentials, issuing licenses and certificates, establishing requirements for and verifying completion of continuing education hours, investigating complaints based on alleged violations of regulations and statutes, formal and informal disciplining of licensees and certificate holders, creating committees as deemed appropriate to advise the Board, and submitting an annual report to the Governor and Secretary.

This report covers the activity of the Maryland State Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists for the period ending December 31, 2008.

## MEETING

During the year, the Board held 10 formal meetings and monthly committee meetings.

## OFFICERS AND MEMBERS

The Board consists of nine members and one alcohol and drug counselor advisor member: Dr. Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Chairperson, Dr. Deborah Haskins, Vice-Chairperson; Mr. Paul Duncan, Consumer Member and Secretary; Ms. Cindy Shaw-Wilson, Ms. Sonja Williams; Mr. Richard Hann; Ms. Carol A. Deel; Mr. Allen Twigg; Ms. Tina Young, Consumer Member and Ms. Patricia Weathersbee who serves as alcohol and drug counselor advisor. All of the members are licensed or certified with the exception of Mr. Duncan and Ms. Young who are consumer (public) members of the Board.

## COMMITTEES

1. Credentials: Dr. Deborah Haskins, Chairperson; Mr. Paul Duncan; Ms. Carol A. Deel and Mr. Allen Twigg
2. Ethics: Dr. Lisa Jackson-Cherry, Chairperson; Ms. Patricia Weathersbee and Ms. Tina Young
3. Regulations/ Legislation: Mr. Richard Hann, Chairperson; Ms. Sonja Williams, Co-Chairperson and Ms. Cindy Shaw-Wilson.

## BOARD MEMBERS

<u>NAME</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Dr. Lisa Jackson-Cherry, LCPC	June 2012
Ms. Carol A. Deel, LCPC, LCMFT	June 2009
Ms. Cindy Shaw-Wilson, LCADC	June 2009
Ms. Patricia Weathersbee, CAC-AD	June 2009
Dr. Deborah Haskins, LCPC	June 2010
Ms. Sonja Williams, LCMFT	June 2010
Mr. Richard Hann, LCPC	June 2010
Mr. Allen Twigg, LCPC	June 2012
Mr. Paul Duncan, Consumer	June 2009
Ms. Tina Young, Consumer	June 2012

## STAFF

The staff consists of Aileen Taylor- Program Manager, Anna Sullivan- Professional Counselor and Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Coordinator; Janice Isaac, Alcohol and Drug Counselor Licensure Coordinator; Star Anderson, Office Clerk; Howard F. Kenney, Jr., Investigator, Sangetta Sarkar, Information Technology and Noreen Rubin, Board Counsel.

## COMPLAINTS

The Board received 36 complaints from the public in 2008, which resulted in 19 investigations. All public disciplinary orders are posted on the Board's website at [www.dhmh.state.md.us/bopc](http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/bopc)

## LEGISLATION

**SB-882 Certified Professional Counselor- Associate and Supervised Counselors – Alcohol and Drug - Qualifications** – This bill authorizes the Board to waive the post degree supervision requirement for an alcohol and drug counselor if the applicant has 5 years of supervised clinical work experience under the supervision of a board approved alcohol and drug supervisor. **SB-882 – Adopted – Effective Date October 1, 2008.**

**HB 459 – Sunset Extension and Revisions** – This law extends the termination date for the Board until July 1, 2019. Uncodified language was added requiring the Board to report to the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee and House Health and Government Operations Committee on or before October 1, 2010 about the following recommendations:

- A. Provide the results of the Board’s review of the certification structure for alcohol and drug counselors to determine whether the current three-tiered makeup is of continued benefit to the profession and the public, including any proposed alternatives to the current structure.
- B. Evaluate the current revenue structure to determine levels necessary to reach a reasonable fund balance by the end of fiscal year 2011.

In addition, the statute was redrafted for clarity; organization and accuracy and included the following substantive changes:

- A. The statute was amended under Section 17-202 to increase the size of the board to 13 members to include five licensed clinical professional counselors, licensed under 17-304; three licensed marriage and family therapists, licensed under 17-303 and three licensed clinical alcohol and drug counselor members, licensed under 17-302 and two consumer members
- B. The professional distinction made in the statute among the professional counselor members was repealed.
- C. The Alcohol and Drug Advisor position was eliminated – effective June 30, 2009
- D. The grandfathering provisions were repealed.
- E. Certification for prospective marriage and family therapists and professional counselors was repealed, while authorizing currently certified marriage and family therapists and professional counselors to renew certification and to continue practicing nonclinical counseling and therapy.
- F. The Board, in conjunction with DHMH should work with the Governor’s Office to ensure the nominations for board vacancies are considered within a reasonable time frame. **HB 459 adopted – effective date October 1, 2008.**

**HB 494 – Licensed Counselors and Therapists – Appraisal Activities – Training Requirement –**

This bill repealed the requirement that the Board of Examiners of Psychologists and the Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists jointly approve certain training for licensed counselors and therapists to perform advanced assessment tests; authorized licensed counselors and therapists to use certain instruments in their practice after completing certain specialized psychological training.

**Enrolled – Effective Date October 1, 2008**

**REGULATIONS**

COMAR 10.58.07 – Alcohol and Drug Out of State Regulations

COMAR 10.58.01 – Professional Counselor Therapy – Out of State Regulations

COMAR 10.58.08 – Marriage and Family Therapy Out of State Regulations (amendments)

COMAR 10.58.06 – Advance Testing (on going)

COMAR 10.58.01 – Professional Counselor Supervision – (on going)

**FINANCES**

The Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists is 100% special funded. Revenues are exclusively generated by the licensing and certification fees. No other State money may be used to support the operations of the Board.

The Board generated \$426,027 in revenues on 2008. Carryover funds from FY 2007 totaled \$405,682; FY 08 expenditures totaled \$530,581.

**NEW APPLICATIONS RECEIVED**

Alcohol and Drug Certifications	158
Alcohol and Drug Clinical Licenses	15
Alcohol and Drug Graduate Licenses	4
Alcohol and Drug Trainees	288
Clinical Marriage and Family Therapy	3
Graduate Marriage and Family Therapy	22
Clinical Professional Counselor License	150
Graduate Professional Counselor License	154

## **NEW LICENSEES AND CERTIFICATES**

A&D Certificates	86
LCADC	6
LGADC	2
LCMFT	16
LGMFT	17
CPC	1
LCPC	189
LGPC	122

## **RENEWALS**

Alcohol and Drug	724
Marriage and Family Therapy	97
Professional Counselor	1,145

## **REINSTATEMENTS**

Alcohol and Drug	195
Marriage and Family Therapy	2
Professional Counselors	57

## **Active Licenses/Certificates**

- Clinical Marriage and Family Therapists – 193
- Clinical Professional Counselors – 2,357
- Clinical Alcohol and Drug Counselors – 367
- Certified Alcohol and Drug Counselors 1,418
  
- Active Alcohol and Drug Trainees - 753

### **ON-LINE RENEWAL**

The Board offered licensees the opportunity for the on-line renewal to certificate holders and licensees with an expiration date of December 31, 2008 and January 31, 2009. All licensee and certificate holders were encouraged to renew on-line as it expedites the process and allows for a credit card payment.