

**TENNESSEE BOARD FOR PROFESSIONAL COUNSELORS,
MARITAL & FAMILY THERAPISTS, AND
CLINICAL PASTORAL THERAPISTS MINUTES
SPECIAL TELECONFERENCE**

DATE: February 12, 2016

TIME: 10:00 A.M.

LOCATION: Health Related Boards Conference Center
Poplar Room, 665 Mainstream Drive
Nashville, TN 37243

BOARD MEMBERS

PRESENT: Susan Hammonds-White, Ed.D LPC, President
Kimberly D. Speakman, LPC
Howard Nelson, Ph.D., LPC
Jennifer I. Little, Citizen Member

BOARD MEMBERS

ABSENT: Bradley Bull, Ph.D., LMFT

STAFF PRESENT: Todd Pinckley, Advisory Attorney
Rosemarie Otto, HRB Director
LaTonya Shelton, ASA III
James Hill, Board Administrator

A special telephonic meeting of the Tennessee Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists was called to order at 10:00 A.M. in the Poplar room, Metro Center Complex, 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, TN 37423.

The necessary number of Board members joined the teleconference and a quorum was established. Board for Professional Counselors, Martial and Family Therapists, and Clinical Pastoral Therapists chair, Dr. Susan Hammonds-White, called the meeting to order.

Ms. Rosemarie Otto made opening remarks to the Board and provided an overview of the requirements for a special meeting by teleconference. All requirements were satisfied for a discussion to take place on whether the Board wishes to express their support or opposition to this legislation and whether to authorize board representation to express the board's views at the House Health Subcommittee on February 16, 2016.

Dr. Susan Hammonds-White opened the meeting for discussion surrounding HB 1840 (Senate Bill 1556). This issue with the legislation was brought in relation to the ACA Ethical Code standard A.11.b. Values Within Termination and Referral. This is a standard that asks counselors to be very careful in thinking about referrals; if counselors refer only on the basis of their own difference with an individual's way of being, life style, race, gender and religion then counselors will be considered by the ACA code of ethics to be going against what counselors do. The amendment to the legislation prohibits the Board from taking any action against an individual that violates that specific piece of the ethical code.

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson to allow members of the Board to speak before the Legislature and voice their opposition to this the proposed bill. The motion carried.

Dr. Hammonds-White and Ms. Speakman plan to attend the meeting and Dr. Nelson is a possible attendee.

Ms. Speakman made a motion, seconded by Ms. Little to allow Dr. Hammonds-White and Ms. Speakman to write individual letters that each outline the issues and incorporate some amendatory suggestions into the letters so that the subcommittee will have an idea of what the amendatory language would look like. The motion carried.

With no other Board business to conduct, Ms. little made a motion, seconded by Dr. Nelson, to adjourn at 10:30 a.m. The motion carried.

Adopted by the Board for Professional Counselors, Marital and Family Therapist, Clinical Pastoral Therapist on this the 4th day of March, 2014.