

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
DIVISION OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS
GENETIC COUNSELING ADVISORY COMMITTEE
140 E. Front Street, Trenton , NJ
2nd Floor Conference Room One

**PUBLIC SESSION MINUTES
OCTOBER 1, 2010**

A meeting of the New Jersey Genetic Counseling Advisory Committee (G.C.A.C.) was held on October 1, 2010 at the Board of Medical Examiners' Office, located at 140 East Front St., 2nd Floor Conference Room , Trenton , NJ. The meeting commenced at 10:00 am.

Primary purpose of the meeting was to begin the development of the Regulatory scheme for Genetic Counseling .

I. ROLL CALL :

Present:

Elena Ashkinadze, M.S. (Chair);
Erynn Gordon-Fishman, M.S., CGC (Vice-Chair)
Kathleen Barnes, M.S., CGC (Secretary)
Allan Fisher, M.D.

Also Present :

Sandra Dick , Senior D.A.G.
Deborah Shane-Held , Regulatory Analyst
Ian Orr, Executive Director, G.C.A.C.
William Roeder* , Executive Director, Bd..of Medical Examiners
(* Part time attendance)

II. MINUTES :

(i) Discussion of Definitions:

The Committee reviewed “definitions relative to genetic counselors” as described in N.J.S.A. 45:9-37.113 , and discussed the necessity/appropriateness to further clarify any terms in the regulations.

a) – “**Genetic Counseling**” It was agreed that the scope of genetic counseling as defined in N.J.S.A. 45:9-37.113 is appropriate . (Discussion was held re **whether or not** the scope of practice for genetic counselors should include **authorization to “order tests.”** It was agreed that such authorization would be a very controversial issue at this time and such authorization **should not be included** in proposed regulations. Authority for “identifying, coordinating, interpreting, and explaining genetic laboratory test and other diagnostic studies” is considered by the Committee to be reasonably inclusive of the role.)

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II. MINUTES (Cont'd) :

(i) Discussion of Definitions (Cont'd) :

a) – **“Genetic Counseling”** Within the definition of “genetic counseling” as written in N.J.S.A. 45:9-37.113 , the Committee considered it appropriate, for clarification , to further define the meaning of **“genetic conditions.”** It was proposed that ‘genetic conditions’ be defined as

“Genetic conditions may include chromosome abnormalities, single gene disorders, complex conditions, conditions due to genetic variants, gene environment interactions epigenetics, and issues related to pharmacogenomics.”

b)– **“Supervision”** Under the definition of ‘supervision’ , the Committee considered it appropriate to further define conditions of **“direct review” and “ supervisor.”**

It is proposed that the **‘supervisor’** must be :

- a) a New Jersey licensed genetic counselor, or...
- b) a New Jersey licensed physician , Board Certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics , or...
- c) a PhD , Certified by the American Board of Medical Genetics

c)–**“Direct review”** ... it is proposed that the direct review requires that the “ Supervisor must be immediately available in person or by electronic means and be limited to supervise a maximum of 4 supervises at any given time. The Supervisor must co-sign on all consultation summaries prior to release . The Supervisor must conduct face to face reviews with supervises at a minimum of 1 hour every 2 weeks.

d) **Section 45:9-37.118** : ... The Committee noted that the reference to **“equivalent”** (degree) in **45:9-37.118 (3)** will need to be defined . The regulatory language will read something such as : .. **“An applicant , to be eligible , must have graduated with a master’s degree or higher in genetic counseling including -(degree A, degree B, or degree C, etc), from an institution accredited by American Board of Genetic Counseling (A.B.G.C.) or its successor(s) or assigns.”**

– The Committee agreed to delay more detailed discussion re. **45:9:37.118 (4)** to a subsequent meeting . However, it was briefly discussed that the **“satisfaction of experience proficiencies”** (ie. for an applicant to qualify for licensure) should be further defined to require that an

II. MINUTES (Cont'd) :

d) Section 45:9-37.118 (cont'd)

applicant.... “ must demonstrate completion of a minimum of 1000 hours of work experience in the field of Genetic Counseling and such experience is to be within 3 years prior to the date of submission of an application.”

– It is also noted that reference is made in (4) b... to “an application fee , as prescribed by regulation.” The Committee noted the matter of an application fee would need to be addressed at a later date.

– In reference to (4) d. .. the Committee proposed that an acceptable exam for licensure would be the **American Board of Medical Genetics , Genetic Counseling Exam** or the **American Board of Genetic Counseling Certification Exam** or its successor.

e) Accreditation Information (ABGC) :

– During discussion , Erynn Gordon -Fishman volunteered to research when the American Board of Genetic Counseling began accrediting Genetic Counseling programs. Shortly , following the meeting Erynn reported to Committee members that the **Executive Director of ABGC , confirms that the ABGC began Interim Accreditation in 1995 and commencing with the 1999 Exam , a candidate was only eligible to sit for the exam if he/she had graduated from an ABGC accredited program.**

III. PROPOSED MEETING CALENDAR (2010-2011)/ NEXT MEETING :

Executive Director Orr distributed a proposed meeting calendar to cover the balance of 2010 and calendar year 2011 .

Meetings for balance of 2010 were proposed for Thursday, November 4 and Friday, December 10. It was noted that most Committee members had a conflict due to a Professional Association meeting on November 4 and given other conflicts in November , it was agreed that the **next Committee meeting will take place on Friday, December 10 at 10:00 am** at the Board of Medical Examiners' Office , 140 East Front St. , 2nd Floor Conference Room , Trenton NJ.

Committee members will review the proposed meeting calendar for 2011 and confirm agreement/discuss known conflicts/make revisions at the next meeting on December 10, 2010.

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