

A message from Colorado Associate of Psychotherapists President, Lyle Tautfest.

Last Thursday was the annual CAP Members Meeting. I hope you received the post card we mailed to everyone in the DORA Database, 1866 Unlicensed Psychotherapists. The mailing went out on September 29. If you did not receive that card or it had the wrong address, we used your DORA listing, and it might need to be updated. We are all required by law to keep DORA informed of address or name changes. You can start the process over the Internet.

www.dora.state.co.us/registrations/NameandAddressChanges.htm

The big discussion centered around the newly published (October 15th) Sunset Law recommendations that will serve as the basis for the new psychotherapy statues that will be enacted prior to July 1 2004, and define what we can and can't do as Psychotherapists until 2013. You can find the entire 97 page report at www.dora.state.co.us/opr/2003MentalHealth.pdf There are several parts that impact us Unlicensed Psychotherapists.

Recommendation 1 – Continue the Boards of Psychologist Examiners, Social Work Examiners, Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners and Licensed Professional Counselor Examiners, the State Grievance Board and the Department of Regulatory Agencies' licensing and disciplinary functions relating to the Addictions Counselors Program until 2013

Recommendation 2 – Require each mental health board to fund itself by repealing the uniform fee requirement

Recommendation 3 – Amend section 12-43-702.5(4), C.R.S., and ADAD rules to eliminate the requirements for all candidates for listing in the Database and certified addictions counselors candidates to attend a jurisprudence workshop and replace such requirement with a new requirement that such candidates take and pass an open book, mail-in/take home type jurisprudence examination. Repeal the jurisprudence requirements found in Psychology Board Rule 18(d)(2)(E), Social Work Board Rule 17©(1), MFT Board Rule 18(d)(1), and LPC Board Rule 18©(1)

Recommendation 5 – Amend the list of prohibited activities to include as grounds for discipline having sexual contact with a former client for two years following the conclusion of the professional relationship.

Recommendation 15 – Amend statutory provisions regarding the listing of unlicensed psychotherapists in the Database to provide for a traditional registration program and permit such practitioners to refer to themselves as "Registered Psychotherapists."

However, section 12-43-702.5(3), C.R.S., specifically prohibits unlicensed psychotherapists from referring to themselves as "registered." Originally, this prohibition was enacted out of a fear that use of the term "registered" would somehow convey the idea that the state recommended such therapists. However, use of the term "licensed psychologist" does not convey the idea that the state recommends the services of a particular psychologist, it simply acknowledges the legal reality that such an individual is a licensed psychologist. It is unreasonable to conclude that use of the term "registered psychotherapist" would somehow convey more than the fact that the practitioner is registered. Thus, the fear behind the prohibition of using the term "registered

Friday October 17th I attended the Colorado State Grievance Board Meeting, where some of these issues were discussed. Of concern was the idea of each psychotherapy group to pay their own way with fees.

Recommendation # 2 – Amos Martinez said with 1800 database listed people our registration fees would most likely go up from the \$160.00 per two year period. His comments suggested the Social workers, since they are the largest group, help pay for the smaller groups. We would have to cover all costs of investigation and litigation for grievances filed as well as cover all costs of office staff and attorney general staff when working on Grievance Board Cases. There was talk about a case so complex and difficult that one case could result in our registration fees going up IF this new law is enacted.

A Grievance Board Member, expressed the very real concern that in the future there might be a less aggressive attitude about investigating and following up on some very complex cases, if the various boards know such action might result in increased fees for license and registration.

There are

2,005 psychologists
3,232 social workers of one kind or another.
492 marriage and family therapists
2,652 licensed professional counselors
2,093 addictions counselors
1,866 unlicensed psychotherapists
10,335 Total

As you can see those MFT's will take the biggest hit with licensing fees going up substantially for them.

Recommendation # 3 – Abolishing the jurisprudence workshop and test for everyone except unlicensed psychotherapists, means the State Jurisprudence Committee will be funded by us only (more fee increase?). Not to mention the lack of parity this will create between the various professions.

Recommendation # 15 – Changes what we are called, and in essence alters the public's perception of who we are. I included part of the reports reasoning in doing this above. You can bet this change will meet with a great deal of opposition from some quarters. CAP was surprised by this recommendation since it never came up in discussions with the DORA Researcher.

This is just the beginning of enacting the new law we will live under for the next ten years. CAP needs your support and contributions now more than ever. Please encourage everyone you know to become involved in shaping the laws. Let me know what you think. Share with The CAP Board your ideas, wishes, and needs. Memberships are welcome; there is a category for everyone. Special lobbying contributions can be made at any time.

One of the most important steps we can take is building personal relationships with legislators in your local districts. Find out who they are at this site. Entering your ZIP Code will give you your legislators information. www.vote-smart.org/

Those lawmakers listen most to the people who can vote for them. We need to show them we don't have two heads or three arms or..... I encourage you all to find out who your house and senate representatives are, give them a call let them know you are a valuable asset to their community a much needed business owner who votes.

CAP is on record publicly as supporting the existing structure of the Licensing Boards and the Grievance Boards. We suggested keeping the new law just like the one in effect today. CAP's official response to these new proposals will be published as soon as we access the ramifications.

The CAP Board will assist you in whatever way we can in contacting your legislators, but you have their ear they will listen to you. If you can arrange a lunch with one of them so much the better. A board member will be happy to join you in any meeting or advise you of how best to present CAP' position to your legislator.

If for some reason you don't want to be kept updated on the progress of the new psychotherapy law as it moves toward enactment please let me know, and your name will be removed from this list. If you receive more than one copy of this e-mail please let me know so we can correct our records.

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