

**THE COLORADO SCHOOL FOR FAMILY THERAPY**

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The State of Colorado House of Representatives

February 2, 2015

Dear Honorable Members of the House of Representatives

**My presentation:** I would like to speak in favor of HB15-1082

**My interest:** I am the Director of the Colorado School for Family Therapy founded in 1995. The School is a Private Occupational School regulated and approved by the State of Colorado Department of Higher Education Division of Private Occupational Schools (DPOS) for the education of mental health professionals (CRS 12-59). I also served as a Professional Member and Vice Chair of the Professional Counselors Examiners Board (2005-2006); as the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Representative on the State of Colorado Commission for Criminal and Juvenile Justice (CCJJ) (2007-2012); as an expert witness for DORA and the Attorney General's Office (2006 and 2009); and a member of the DORA MFT Professional Development Standards Committee (2010). Our School has educated hundreds of psychotherapists throughout the State since 1995 and our graduates have been elected to the leadership of professional organizations and received appointment by the Governor of Colorado to DORA regulatory boards. I am also the President and Founder of the multidisciplinary professional organization: The Colorado Mental Health Professionals Association. COMHPA is an advocacy and rights organization for the six DORA regulated mental health professions in Colorado.

**My testimony:** HB15-1082 needs to be enacted into law for 5 simple reasons:

- 1.) **Protection of the Small Business Owner:** Innocent Colorado citizens need to be protected from harassment by former clients beyond a reasonable time for the professional to respond.
- 2.) **Saving of Resources by Hard Working Mental Health Professionals:** Psychotherapists will be able better serve clients in need instead of wasting valuable time and money responding to frivolous complaints. If a complaint is sent to the DORA Office of Investigations (OI) an average investigation takes 6-8 months and most grievances are dismissed.
- 3.) **Public and Consumer Protection:** Mental Health Professionals are also members of the public and deserve legal protection as Colorado citizens and small business owners.
- 4.) **Administrative Law Vs. Criminal Law and Civil Law:** Administrative law is designed to be corrective and instructional, not punitive. Acts of malicious intent committed by mental health professionals against consumers are better addressed through restitution in civil court trials or actual charges in criminal court filed by District Attorneys for child abuse, insurance fraud, sexual misconduct and other misdemeanors in their jurisdiction.
- 5.) **A Question By The MFT Board Chair on October 31, 2014:** During the public phase of the October 31, 2014 Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) Examiners Board in response to a complaint filed against a MFT for allegations originating in 2006, Mr. James Ungvarsky, the MFT Board Chair, asked the DORA Director of Mental Health and the attorney for the Board. "Is there no Statute of Limitations for complaints this old?" That was a good question requiring an answer through this legislative action.

Thank you in advance for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Reo M. Leslie Jr." The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent initial "R".

Reo Leslie, D.Min., LMFT, LPC, CAC III, RPT-S; 720-253-4831 (cell)  
School Director, The Colorado School for Family Therapy  
Founder and President, The Colorado Mental Health Professionals Association  
Director, Mental Health Professionals United Small Donor Committee (SDC)

**THE COLORADO MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS ASSOCIATION**

12101 East Second Avenue, Suite 101, Aurora, Colorado 80011

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Website: <http://coloradomhp.com/home.html>

**Mission Statement:**

Providing risk prevention, professional development, advocacy, leadership, fairness, protection, and opportunities to influence public policy for Colorado mental health professionals

**ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEE -\$100.00**

**REGISTRATION FORM:**

**THE FIRST 100 Members Earn a FOUNDING MEMBER certificate**

**Membership Benefits:**

- 1.) Consultation on Grievances, Lawsuits, Career and Business Development, and Risk Management
- 2.) Free Initial Consultation with Lawyers Specializing in Mental Health Law
- 3.) Opportunities to Influence Public Policy in a Manner Consistent with the interests of Mental Health Professionals

**Please Mail, FAX or email registration form with \$100.00\***

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CITY/STATE/ZIP CODE \_\_\_\_\_

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DORA MENTAL HEALTH LICENSURE, CERTIFICATION, OR REGISTRATION:  
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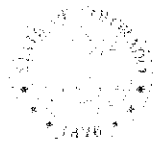
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CREDIT CARD NUMBER: \_\_\_\_\_

EXPIRATION DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ MONTH \_\_\_\_\_ YEAR

\*Would you like to donate \$50.00 of your \$100.00 fee to our Small Donor Committee (SDC) that supports appropriate candidates and causes? If so...please split the \$50.00 between one check for the COMHPA and our SDC: Mental Health Professionals United. If using a credit card, please sign below to consent to the split:

\_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



Department of Regulatory Agencies

**STATE BOARD OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST EXAMINERS  
AGENDA**

**October 31, 2014**

**Pursuant to statute, a porting of this meeting will be closed to the public.**

**The agenda is subject to change. If changes occur, a revised agenda will be available at the meeting.**

**CONVENE**

9:00 AM — 1560 Broadway, Conference Room 1250 C, Denver, CO 80202

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of minutes from the May 2, 2014, board meeting and the June 24, 2014 emergency board meeting.

**REPORTS**

Program Director Report

- o FYI
- o Discussion Items
  - EBAS
  - AMFTRB

**INVESTIGATIVE REPORTS**

<b>Agenda Item #1</b>	<b>GC</b>	<b>Case # 2013-3178</b>
<b>Agenda Item #*2</b>	<b>BW</b>	<b>Case # 2013-403</b>

**NEW BUSINESS FROM DVOMB AND SOMB**

**INITIAL REVIEW**

<b>Agenda Item #3</b>	<b>BM</b>	<b>Case # 2014-1070</b>
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**NEW BUSINESS**



**DORA is dedicated to preserving the integrity of the marketplace and is committed to promoting a fair and competitive business environment in Colorado. Consumer protection is our mission.**

**INITIAL REVIEW**

- Includes complaint and response unless otherwise noted

<b><u>Agenda Item #*4</u></b>	<b><u>TA</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-2264</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*5</u></b>	<b><u>CB</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-1573</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #6</u></b>	<b><u>JK</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-2590</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #7</u></b>	<b><u>DK</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-1770</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*8</u></b>	<b><u>MM</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-589</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*9</u></b>	<b><u>MM</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-592</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*10</u></b>	<b><u>MM</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-642</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #11</u></b>	<b><u>TP</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-2723</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #12</u></b>	<b><u>GR</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-2387</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*13</u></b>	<b><u>JW</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-1411</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #14</u></b>	<b><u>JW</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-1493</u></b>

**OLD BUSINESS**

**MONITORING REPORTS/ACTIVE STIPULATIONS**

- Information regarding active stipulations—no action required.
- Monitoring Status Report—ratification required.

**TABLED ITEMS**

<b><u>Agenda Item #*15</u></b>	<b><u>MK</u></b>	<b><u>Case # 2014-3938</u></b>
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**LICENSING—ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUES**

**RATIFICATIONS**

- Approval of Applications—ratification required.

**APPLICATIONS**

<b><u>Agenda Item #16</u></b>	<b><u>OH</u></b>	<b><u>Pending Application</u></b>
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**NON MFT SUPERVISORS**

<b><u>Agenda Item #*17</u></b>	<b><u>KAG</u></b>	<b><u>Pending application</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #18</u></b>	<b><u>CBS</u></b>	<b><u>Pending application</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*19</u></b>	<b><u>JB</u></b>	<b><u>Pending application</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*20</u></b>	<b><u>AD</u></b>	<b><u>Pending application</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*21</u></b>	<b><u>PM</u></b>	<b><u>Pending application</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*22</u></b>	<b><u>DR</u></b>	<b><u>Request to the Board</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*23</u></b>	<b><u>AS</u></b>	<b><u>Request to the Board</u></b>
<b><u>Agenda Item #*24</u></b>	<b><u>RZC</u></b>	<b><u>Pending application</u></b>

**APPEAL**

<b><u>Agenda Item #*25</u></b>	<b><u>MH</u></b>	<b><u>Appeal to Board</u></b>
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**MOTION TO MOVE INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

**ADJOURN**

The next Colorado State Board of Marriage and Family Therapist Examiners meeting will take place on  
February 27, 2015, in Conference Room 1250 C

**PLEASE NOTE:**

**Board meeting agendas, dates, and locations may be accessed on our website at:**

**[www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/marriagefamilytherapists](http://www.dora.colorado.gov/professions/marriagefamilytherapists)**

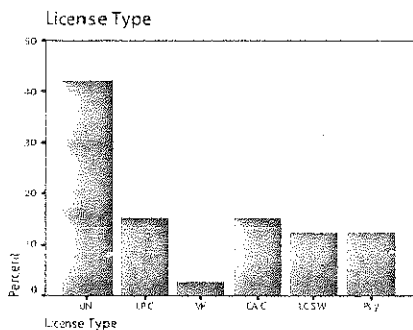
### General Sample Characteristics

Number of sanctioned violations during the six-year time period.	235
Gender Distribution.	131 Males (55.7 percent) 101 Females (43.0 percent)
Average age of those receiving disciplinary	49.51 years
Average time span from degree conferral to receiving sanction.	15.64 years
Average number of years from receiving licensure to receiving the sanction.	6.48 years

### The most frequent ethical violations include

Standards of Practice	44.3 percent
Dual Relationship	31.5
Competence	20.0
Sexual Contact	18.3
Database Listing Violation	15.7
Confidentiality	13.6
Mandatory Disclosure Violation	12.3

Note that some sanctions were the result of multiple infractions therefore percentages do not equal 100 percent.

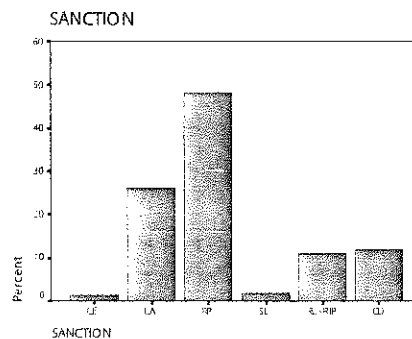


This graph represents the breakdown of disciplinary action by license type.

- Unlicensed (UN) - 42.1 percent
- Licensed Professional Counselor (LPC) - 15.3
- Marriage and Family Counselor (MF) - 2.6
- Certified Addictions Counselor (CAC) - 15.3
- Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) - 12.3
- Licensed Psychologist (Psy) - 12.3

This graph represents the breakdown of resulting disciplinary actions by the board.

- Continuing Education (CE) - 1.3
- Letter of Admonition (LA) - 26.0
- Restricted Practice (RP) - 48.1
- Surrendered License (SL) - 1.7
- Revocation of License- Injunction to Restrain Practice (RL-RIP) - 11.1
- Cease and Desist Order (CD) - 11.9



The following graphs represent the breakdown of other demographic variables related to the individuals sanctioned for ethical violations.

