



March 4, 2022

Senator Kathy Harrington
300 N. Salisbury St., Room 300-B
Raleigh, NC 27603

Representative Sarah Stevens
300 N. Salisbury St., Room 419
Raleigh, NC 27603

Senator Harrington, Representative Stevens, and Members of the Joint Legislative Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee and Staff,

I am writing with reference to the Administrative Procedure Oversight Committee's request for input and information concerning the North Carolina State Board of Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors. I am certified by this board and work in the state of North Carolina as a pastoral psychotherapist. I serve the citizens of North Carolina as a practitioner in mental health counseling. I offer counseling and psychotherapy to individuals, couples, and families. Furthermore, my experience, education and certification by this state board enables me to work in this manner and provide a level of service that insures the safety of the citizens of North Carolina. I do this work as member of the clinical staff at TPC Integrative Psychotherapy and Pastoral Counseling in Raleigh, NC. I also teach in the areas of Pastoral Care and Counseling at Campbell University Divinity School in Buies Creek, NC.

In reference to the information your committee requested from the Board of Examiners of Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors, let me offer a few responses.

First, in order to protect the citizens of North Carolina, it is our desire to maintain our current status as a Board of Examiners to continue to provide the people of our state with certified pastoral counselors. Our Board certifies Pastoral Counselors in the state of North Carolina who serve our citizens as mental health professionals

with specific education and training in both mental health counseling as well as spiritually integrative psychotherapy.

Second, if maintaining the independence and autonomy of the Board of Certified Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors is not an option, it is crucial to consolidate Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors and Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counseling Associates with another state approved licensing board to practice counseling in the state of North Carolina. As mentioned, our board certifies persons who are trained practitioners of mental health counseling and psychotherapy. Across the state of North Carolina, Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors and Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counseling Associates provide our citizens thousands of hours of mental health counseling per year. If our practitioners must be consolidated with another existing board in North Carolina, consolidation with the Board of Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists makes sense due to the cognate relationship of services provided to our state's citizens OR with the Board of Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselors due to the broad scope of this board's mission and purpose.

Third, when consolidating our board with another board of therapists or counselors, it will be necessary to grant a FULL license to practice counseling for Certified Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counselors and an ASSOCIATE license for Certified Fee-Based Practicing Pastoral Counseling Associates. Consideration must also be given to anyone already in the process of working toward certification as a FBPPC or FBPPCA.

Lastly, it would also be prudent to include representation from our current board on the new board in order to insure a smooth process of consolidation.

In closing, I appreciate the opportunity to serve the people of North Carolina as a pastoral psychotherapist and to be certified by our current board to work in this way. I look forward with hope to being able to continue this service for years to come.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Terry Michael Newell PsyD". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Terry-Michael Newell, PsyD, CFBPPC