



EMDR INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION

April 13, 2009

Board of Behavioral Sciences
Attn: Enforcement Unit
1625 North Marker Road, Suite S-200
Sacramento, CA 95834

Re: PESI, LLC, PCE 1745; Case No. CE 2009-548

Thank you for your letter dated April 1, 2009 regarding your investigation of this complaint. Although the changes that PESI proposes to make in its marketing materials is an improvement, they are still missing the most important point. Attendees of their programs are not eligible to "obtain certification with EMDRIA" because only those mental health professionals who have completed an EMDRIA-Approved Basic EMDR Training program are eligible to apply for EMDRIA Certification. PESI's programs do not qualify. By stating that "participants are strongly encouraged to continue enhancing their knowledge" could be interpreted to mean that upon completion of the PESI program they are qualified to use EMDR in the treatment of clients. This is very dangerous to the safety of clients since the PESI participants do not need to be licensed and have not completed sufficient EMDR training by attending a PESI program.

Also, PESI's offer to EMDRIA of free advertising is of little value since EMDRIA does not provide training programs. EMDRIA sets the standards for programs and approves them for basic training or continuing education.

We would appreciate your further consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,
EMDR International Association

By: 
Scott Blech, Executive Director



Board of Behavioral Sciences

APR 06 2009

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April 1, 2009

EMDR International Association Attn: Scott A. Blech, Executive Director 5806 Mesa Drive, Suite 360 Austin, TX 78731-3785

RE: PESI, LLC, PCE 1745; Case No. CE 2009-548

Dear Mr. Blech:

The Board of Behavioral Sciences (Board) has reviewed the complaint you filed against Continuing Education Provider, PESI, LLC. Your concerns were related to a course that PESI was offering, EMDR and EMDR Related Techniques for Effective Trauma Treatment, in which the brochure describing the course, contained misleading and incorrect information, e.g., EMDR is a technique, an individual can learn the essence of EMDR in two days, and attendees will be able to use EMDR as psychotherapy upon completion of the two day course. The investigation of the complaint has been completed.

The Board forwarded correspondence to PESI, requesting a response regarding the above concerns. PESI response indicated they have subsequently changed and added additional information to the brochure:

"This workshop is intended for masters and doctoral level clinicians working with clients affected by trauma. The course will prepare participants to incorporate the essence of EMDR-alternating bilateral stimulation-into two distinct types of psychotherapy sessions: development and instillation of internal resources and reprocessing of traumatic material. This course will not prepare participants to work with trauma clients. This course assumes a requisite knowledge of, and experience with, a traumatized population, i.e. clients with underlying simple of complex PTSD regardless of presenting issues."

PESI stated after attending the two day course, participants are strongly encouraged to, continue enhancing their knowledge; received consultation and support with an experienced EMDR clinician; obtain certification with EMDRIA.

In addition, PESI stated they extended an offer to EMDRIA to advertise their training to the EMDR attendees at no cost. Subsequently the Board closed its investigation as mediated.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to the Board's attention and if you have any other, information please contact, the Enforcement Unit at the above address or e-mail address, at 'BBS_EnforcementUnit@dca.ca.gov'.

Sincerely,

[Handwritten signature]

Cassandra Kearney Enforcement Analyst



Arnold Schwarzenegger Governor State of California State and Consumer Services Agency Department of Consumer Affairs