

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Board of Marital & Family Therapy

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2023



Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing

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**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Table of Contents

Identification of the Board	Page 1
Identification of the Staff	Page 2
Narrative Statement	Page 3
Budget Recommendations	Page 4
Proposed Legislative Recommendations	Page 8
Regulatory Recommendations	Page 9
Goals and Objectives	Page 10
Sunset Audit Recommendations	Page 14

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Identification of the Board

Board Member	Duty Station	Date Appointed	Term Expires
Richard Clampitt Licensed Therapist	Palmer	March 1, 2021	March 1, 2025
Kayla Green Public Member	Eagle River	March 1, 2020	March 1, 2024
Noah Shields, Chair Licensed Therapist	Kenai	March 1, 2019	March 1, 2027

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Identification of Staff

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Jasmin Bautista – Investigator

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**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Narrative Statement

The Board of Marital and Family Therapy (BMFT) is staffed by the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing (CBPL). The board consists of three licensed marital and family therapists and two public members. This year the board had a professional member step down, leaving two professional members and one public member seated on the board. Board members are appointed by the governor and are confirmed by the legislature.

The board adopts regulations to carry out laws governing the practice of marital and family therapy in Alaska. It makes final licensing decisions and takes disciplinary actions against individuals who violate licensing laws. The board meets at least once a year and offers a public comment period at each meeting. Meeting agendas are available from the licensing examiner.

The board reviewed the fiscal budget and the number of renewals the board received during the past fiscal year. The board began FY23 with a surplus of \$125,973. At the end of the third quarter of FY23, the board will carry a surplus into the renewal year. The board works diligently to decrease the amount of license renewals to fall commensurate with other mental health licenses and to maintain a surplus in the budget. One avenue has come from the increase in Telehealth to provide counseling to hard-to-reach areas, that has opened opportunities for non-residents to pursue licensure in the State of Alaska to meet the growing mental health needs within our State. The board's drafting of regulations pertaining to Telehealth has aided in providing professionals a regulatory pathway to practice remotely and to reach remote communities where mental health providers may have historically been in short supply.

The board continues to focus on refining regulations to represent changes in the marital and family therapy field, including changes in technology and best practices. During the Annual Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AMFTRB) conference, a member of the board and a staff member were able to attend in-person and collaborate with other states in identifying current trends in the field. This is important to learning, as a board, where changes in the field may be occurring and what updates may be needed in the regulations. For FY24, the conference will be held in-person in Salt Lake City, Utah and the board hopes to send a board member to attend.

During FY23, the board has focused on reviewing Statutes and Regulations in order to increase ease of use by current and prospective licensees. The board has also implemented a Listserv to increase communication with licensees to keep everyone up-to-date on important practice and licensure information. Increasing communication and simplifying the language increases licensee awareness on important issues, reduces the workload of staff, and will hopefully decrease licensees being out of compliance with current standards of licensure.

The board has and will continue to focus on making the licensing application process as efficient and easy to navigate as possible, to reduce professional licensing fees, and to ensure regulations are in-line with current changes in the field.

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024

Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board’s fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt- supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as “other” so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 14, 2023	TBD	5	1
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 0.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
January 2024	Juneau	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify):			\$ 2,000.00 \$ 700.00 \$ 200.00 \$ 500.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 3,400.00

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April/May 2024	ANC	5	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Please Specify): Per diem, misc. expenses			\$ 600.00 \$ 800.00 \$ 300.00 \$ 430.00
Total Estimated Cost:			\$ 2,130.00

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Travel Required to Perform Examinations

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

- Airfare:
- Hotel:
- Ground:
- Conference:
- Other (Please Specify):

Total Estimated Cost:

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 26-27, 2023	Salt Lake City, UT	1	1

Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Annual meeting of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board (AAMFTRB). Assist the Board is staying current on industry best practices and to collaborate with other State MFT Boards.

Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$ 2,400.00			\$ 2,400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$ 2,000.00			\$ 2,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$ 500.00			\$ 500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$ 600.00			\$ 600.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections): M&IE, parking, mileage				
Net Total:	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,000.00

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Budget Recommendations for FY 2024 (continued)

Non-Travel Budget Requests

- Not Applicable Resources Examinations
 Membership Training Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
AMFTRB Membership	AMFTRB	\$ 500.00

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

This Association is organized (1) to facilitate communication among its member boards concerning the regulation of marital and family therapists; (2) to sponsor collaboration among the member boards in developing compatible standards for marital and family therapy services; (3) to interface with other marital and family therapy organizations, with legislative, judicial, regulatory, and executive governmental bodies and with other groups or associations whose areas of interest may coincide with those of the Association; (4) to aid its member boards in fulfilling statutory, professional, public, and ethical obligations; (5) to develop, conduct and maintain the "Marital and Family Therapy National Examination"; and (6) to engage in and encourage research on matters related to the legal regulation of marital and family therapists.

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact

- Not Applicable

Cost Per Event:

Number of Events:

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event

Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:

Summary of FY 2024 Fiscal Requests:

Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$ 5,530.00
Travel for Exams:	\$ 0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$ 6,000.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$ 500.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	\$ 0.00
Other:	\$ 0.00
Total Requested:	\$ 12,030.00

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Legislative Recommendations - Proposed Legislation for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

During the coming fiscal year (FY24), the board will pursue amendments to legislation and statutes, specifically:

Sec. 08.63.100. Qualifications for license to practice. (a) (B) (i) nine semester or twelve quarter hours of course work in marital and family therapy; (ii) nine semester or twelve quarter hours of course work in marital and family studies; (iii) nine semester or twelve quarter hours of course work in human development; (iv) three semester or four quarter hours of course work in professional studies or professional ethics and law; (v) three semester or four quarter hours of course work in research; and (vi) nine semester or twelve quarter hours of supervised clinical practice in marital and family therapy; (C) after receiving a degree described in (B) of this paragraph, has practiced supervised marital and family therapy in Alaska or another jurisdiction, including 1,700 hours of clinical contact with couples, individuals, and families; the 1,700 hours of clinical contact must include at least 200 hours of individual or group supervision approved by the board, at least 100 hours of which must be individual supervision;

Sec. 08.63.120. (b)(2) (D) Delete an advanced practice registered nurse under AS 08.68 who is certified to provide psychiatric or mental health services by an entity recognized by the Board of Nursing;

Sec. 08.63.130. Delete Temporary license for the practice of marital and family therapy. (a) The board shall issue a temporary license for the practice of marital and family therapy to an applicant who satisfies the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A), (B), and (C) and has been approved by the board to take the marital and family therapy examination. (b) A person may practice under a temporary license until the board issues the results of the first marital and family therapy examination given after issuance of the person's temporary license and either issues or denies a license under AS 08.63.100 to the person. (c) If a licensee under this section fails the marital and family therapy examination, the board may not renew the person's temporary license.

Add, Senior license for the practice of marital and family therapy. (a) The board shall issue a senior license for the practice of marital and family therapy to an applicant who has been licensed in the state of Alaska under this chapter for over 10 years and is collecting Social Security benefits due to reaching retirement age.

Sec. 08.63.900. Definitions. Delete (3) "course" means a class in a graduate program at an accredited educational institution or an institution approved by the board;

Sec 08.63.900 (5) (b) (6) "supervision" means synchronous consultation, direction, review, evaluation, and assessment of the practice of the person being supervised, including direct observation and the review of case presentations, audio recordings, and video recordings

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Regulation Recommendations - Proposed Regulations for FY 2024

No Recommendations

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

Recommendations

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2024

12 AAC 19.320.(b)(10) Training may be synchronous method or by individual study.

(A) Individual study may fulfill up to one-half of the requirements for renewal and can be conducted through completion of a formal correspondence program, non-synchronous video or streaming, or other individual study program. Individual study programs will only be accepted if;

1. the program requires registration and provides evidence of successful completion; or
2. the licensee submits a signed statement verifying that the licensee has successfully completed the program from a licensee who is a supervisor approved under 12 AAC 19.210 and has supervised the licensee's study program under this paragraph.

12 AAC 19.990. (4) "one year of supervised clinical practice" means one academic year consisting of minimum of 12 months of active clinical practice;

12 AAC 19.990. (5) "asynchronous/non-synchronous," means no real-time communication is present or utilized;

12 AAC 19.990 (9) "synchronous" means a real-time interaction in person or by live-streaming.

12 AAC 19.990(10) "Another jurisdiction" means another state or district licensing Marital and Family Therapists that has similar requirements to the state of Alaska according to the Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapists.

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives

Part I

FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:

1. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy (BMFT) FY 2023 had intended to simplify and modernize existing regulations to support ease of use and improve applicability with current practices.
2. The BMFT will continue to review statutes and regulations to be consistent with the practice of marital and family therapy. The board will continue to recommend other statutes and regulations as needed.
3. The board will continue to review applications of marriage and family therapists by credentials, by examination, for supervisor status and for associates in an established and timely manner. This is a major function of the BMFT meetings.
4. The board will continue its responsibility to improve the process of approving continuing education, including supervision and continuing education, while maintaining professional standards. The board is satisfied with our process and continues to review and vote on applications in a timely manner.
5. The board will continue to work closely with the investigator assigned at their request. At every meeting, the investigator assigned to this board gives a report on their work related to the BMFT. The board will continue to be updated on the functions of the investigator's office. The investigator reported at each meeting. There were investigations reported throughout the year, and the board is satisfied with the outcome of each of the closed investigations.
6. The board will continue to work with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing with the goal to continue to reduce expenses and increase/decrease fees as is reasonable to maintain a balanced budget. The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing has continued to work with the board to clarify budget needs including the use of licensing fees to maintain a balanced budget.
7. The board will continue to fill vacancies as they occur in a timely manner. There are currently two vacancies to fill.
8. The BMFT will work to standardize and streamline the approval of continuing education while maintaining the integrity of the mission of the board, which is to approve training relevant to Marriage and Family Therapy.
9. The board will respond to unprecedented events to support professionals licensed under this chapter who provide mental health services to Alaskans.
10. The board has continued, and will continue, to collaborate with CBPL's Occupational Licensing Examiner, whose guidance has been essential to the functioning of the board.
11. The board will continue to provide information and be a source of information and support for legislators and executive branches of the state government. The board will continue to document all contacts with legislators or legislative offices on behalf of the board and report that to the board through the Occupational Licensing Examiner.
12. The board will continue to review, research and consider new technological advances as it pertains to therapy, supervision, and training. The board will continue to make recommendations to the proposed regulations and statutes in order to stay current with developing technology.

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part I

FY 2023's goals and objectives and how they were met:

13. The board will research and consider ways of insuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations. The primary way of insuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations is through our website. In addition, the recent implementation of a Listserv should also support licensees with important updates.
14. The board will continue its goals to increase board education to improve its function by sending delegates to national conferences and/or trainings such as "Clear" and American Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulation Board (AMFTRB). One board member attended the AMFTRB meeting in FY23. The board endeavors to send a board member to the national conferences during FY24.
15. The board will continue to review and explore title vigilance. The board regularly reviews and is open to explore issues relating to title vigilance.
16. The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the American Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulations Board (AMFTRB).

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

Goal 1: The board will pursue joint recommendations from AAMFT, COAMFT, and AMFTRB regarding certification, Registration, or compact agreements to facilitate license portability.

Objective 1: Continue to seek input from the National Organization, AAMFT, the APA and various MFT Boards.

Objective 2: Continue to draft a proposal for legislation of statutes and regulations.

Goal 2: The board of Marital and Family Therapy will continue to review statutes and regulations to be consistent with the practice of marital and family therapy.

Objective 1: Continue to recommend other statutes and regulations as needed.

Goal 3: The board will continue to review applications of marriage and family therapists by credentials, by examination, or supervisor status, and for associates in an established manner.

Goal 4: The board will continue its responsibility to improve the process of approving continuing education, while maintaining professional standards.

Objective 1: Continue to approve training relevant to the profession in a changing world.

Objective 2: Continue to standardize and streamline the process for approval of continuing education while maintaining the integrity of the mission of the board.

Goal 5: The board will continue to work closely with the investigator assigned at their request.

Goal 6: The board will continue to work with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing with the goal to continue to reduce fees as is reasonable to maintain a balanced budget.

Objective 1: Continue to clarify budget needs.

Objective 2: Continue to review expenses at each regular scheduled board meeting.

Goal 7: The board will continue to work with the Governor's office to fill vacant Board seats in a timely manner.

Objective 1: Continue to encourage the Governor's office to reappoint current members or appoint a new member in a timely manner.

Goal 8: The board will continue collaborative relations with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

Objective 1: Continue to communicate with the licensing examiner.

Goal 9: The board will be a presence and information source for legislators and executive branches of the state government.

Objective 1: Complete forms provided to board members after each contact made with a legislator or legislative office on behalf of the board.

Objective 2: Continue to be updated on the functions of the investigator's office.

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Goals and Objectives (continued)

Part II

FY 2024's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.

Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:

Goal 10: The board will continue to review research and consider new technological advances as it pertains to therapy, Supervision, and training.

Objective 1: Continue to address these issues during the legislative session.

Objective 2: Seek support, awareness, and endorsements by legislative members and the Governor.

Goal 11: The board will continue to require licensing as an MFT associate before acquiring clinical and supervision hours.

Objective 1: Continue to address the issue of previous experience and labor mobility before this change.

Objective 2: Continue to review current statutes and regulations and propose changes necessary to match national trends.

Goal 12: The board will research and consider ways of insuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations.

Objective 1: Send mail outs to licensees to update and inform them of current statutes and regulations.

Objective 2: Send out updates on a Listserv to licensees.

Objective 3: Provide Position Statements to be uploaded onto the State of Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy website.

Goal 13: The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the Association of Marital and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and the Regulation Board (AMFTRB).

Objective 1: Continue to attend annual meetings to maintain an Alaska perspective and stay informed of what is occurring nationwide.

Goal 14: The board will continue its goals to increase board education to improve its function by sending delegates to national conferences and/or trainings such as the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's yearly conference; the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's (AAMFT) yearly Regulatory Board (AAMFTRB) meeting; and the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation's (CLEAR) annual conference.

Goal 15: The board will continue to review and explore title vigilance.

Objective 1: Continue to regularly review and be open to exploring issues relating to title vigilance.

**Board of Marital & Family Therapy
FY 2023 Annual Report**

Sunset Audit Recommendations

Date of Last Legislative Audit: 5/9/2017

Board Sunset Date: 6/30/2026

Audit Recommendation:

N/A - The last audit reflects that all prior recommendations were resolved or the issues still outstanding were considered insignificant.

Action Taken:

N/A

Next Steps:

N/A

Complete : No Yes **If yes, date completed:**