

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2015

BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

July 2015



**DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS
AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

This Annual Performance Report is presented in accordance with Alaska Statute 08.01.070(1) and Alaska Statute 37.07.080(b). Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the past and present needs of the licensing program.

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page #</u>
IDENTIFICATION OF BOARD.....	1
IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF.....	2
NARRATIVE STATEMENT.....	3
BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS.....	4
PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS.....	6
REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS.....	7
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES.....	8
SUNSET AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS.....	12

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
IDENTIFICATION OF BOARD

Board of Marital and Family Therapy – Alaska Statute 08.63. Five members are appointed by the Governor – three persons licensed under 08.63 and two public members.

<u>Board Member</u>	<u>Date Appointed</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
Leon Webber, LMFT Board Chair	March 1, 2011	March 1, 2018
Kennith McCarty, LMFT	March 1, 2010	March 1, 2017
Linda King, LMFT	August 10, 2012	March 1, 2017
Father John Downing Public Member	January 28, 2008	March 1, 2016
JoAnn Young Board Secretary	March 1, 2011	March 1, 2018

The Board met on the following dates:

August 1, 2014 - Anchorage Alaska
October 30, 2014 - Anchorage Alaska
January 29, 2015 - Juneau Alaska
April 30, 2015 - Anchorage Alaska
May 27, 2015 -via teleconference

The meeting minutes are available to the public on the Board website:

<https://www.commerce.alaska.gov/web/cbpl/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardofMaritalFamilyTherapy.aspx>

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
IDENTIFICATION OF STAFF

Vacant (5/19/2015-Present)

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
PO Box 110806
Juneau AK 99811-0806
Work: (907) 465-2550
Fax: (907) 465-2974

Angela Parker (4/1/2015-5/19/2015)

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
PO Box 110806
Juneau AK 99811-0806
Work: (907) 465-2550
Fax: (907) 465-2974

Laura Carrillo (7/1/2015-4/1/2015)

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
PO Box 110806
Juneau AK 99811-0806
Work: (907) 465-2588
Fax: (907) 465-2974

Dawn K Hannasch, Records and Licensing Supervisor (3/1/2015-Present)

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
PO Box 110806
Juneau AK 99811-0806
Work: (907) 465-2525
Fax: (907) 465-2974

Sher Zinn, Records and Licensing Supervisor (August 5, 2013 to June 30, 2014)

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
PO Box 110806
Juneau AK 99811-0806
Work: (907) 465-3262
Fax: (907) 465-2974

Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator

Department of Commerce, Community and Economic Development
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing
550 W. 7th Avenue Suite 1500
Anchorage AK 99501-3567
Work: (907) 269-8186
Fax: (907) 269-8195

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
NARRATIVE STATEMENT

Definition/Purpose

The Board of Marital and Family Therapy is staffed by the Division of Corporation and Professional Licensing. The Board consists of three marital and family therapists and two public members. Board members are appointed by the Governor and 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 people who violate licensing laws. The Board meets at least once a year and offers public comment period at each meeting. Meeting agendas are available from the licensing examiner.

The board will continue to tend to the regular business of the board, which includes approving CEUs and Licensed Marital and Family Therapists in Alaska, making final licensing decisions and taking disciplinary actions against people who violate licensing laws.

Fiscal

Recurring fiscal surplus budget. At the end of the third quarter of the 2015 fiscal year, the Board carried a \$78,669.00 surplus. A deficit budget was carried for more than a decade due to the high cost of a disciplinary investigation of a licensee. Having paid this debt off through raised licensing fees, the Board continues to encourage the use of the surplus to reduce the biennial fees for its licensees.

Regulatory Changes

Over the past two years the board has researched distance therapy and distance supervision in detail. We are pleased to announce that the board has unanimously approved a motion to introduce regulations regarding distance therapy and supervision. The board has sent language for the proposed regulatory changes regarding distance therapy and distance supervision to the Department of Law for review.

Recommendations for Proposed Legislation

During the coming fiscal year, the board will propose statutes and regulations, which will address temporary licensure. As of this point the board has delegated a Sub Committee to further revisit the regulations regarding temporary licensure of the MFT-A's.

Other actions by the Board:

As of May 27th 2015, the Board voted to allow the required 100 hours of group supervision for a MFT-A license holder to be completed with any of the following license holders recognized by the Board of Marital & Family Therapy: Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Certified Social Worker (Supervisor), or a Licensed Psychologist. In response to public and professional comments, the board will be readdressing this at the July 2015 Board meeting and may consider modifying the proposed changes.

The board is now using a Board Evaluation Template after each meeting.

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
 FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2015**

TRAVEL REQUESTS: ranked in order of the board's priority. Provide the best estimates based on past actuals and seasonal trends in travel, such as summer hotel rooms or increased fuel costs. Calculate on full costs and note any third-party fiscal offsets. Expand the tables below as needed.

Board Meetings

Date	Location	# of Board Members	# of Staff	Total Estimated Cost (total of airline, hotel, mileage, M&IE, parking, rental car, taxi, etc.)
08/01/2014	Anchorage	5	1	\$1,000.00
10/22/2014	Anchorage	5	1	\$1,000.00
01/29/2015	Juneau	5	1	\$3,500.00
05/27/2015	Anchorage	5	1	\$1,000.00

Out-Of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel

Rank in order of the board's priority. "Reimbursement" refers to payment to cover travel costs. "Direct" refers to an offer by a company to secure travel arrangements on behalf of the board member.

Rank	Date	Location	# of Board Members	# of Staff	Total Estimated Cost		Total Potential Third-Party Offset
					(total of airline, hotel, mileage, M&IE, parking, rental car, taxi, etc.)	Conference Fee	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct
1			1	0	\$2910.00	\$625.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board: Leon Webber to the AMFTRB Annual meeting and to CLEAR Annual Educational Conference in Boston MA September 15-19 2015.						
2			1	1	\$3300.00	\$1010.00	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board: Linda King and to the AAMFT Annual Conference 9/3-9/6/2015 In Austin Texas						
3			2	0	\$1000.00	\$	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursement <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Direct
	Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the board: The board has agreed to send two representatives to attend the Mental Health Summit, an event hosted by the Board of Psychology. We have not been given any information as to the date, place or time. This leaves the Board without the ability to determine exact cost.						

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
 FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2015 CONTINUED**

NON-TRAVEL BUDGET REQUESTS

Dues/Memberships/Resources/Online Training/Teleconferences/Examination Contracts

Provide details of the budgetary request. Break down into specific events, where applicable.

Product or service: Annual Membership Dues	Provider: Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Board	Cost per event: \$500.00
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		
Product or service:	Provider:	Cost per event:
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		

Other Items with a Fiscal Impact:

Product or service:	Provider:	Cost per event:
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		
Product or service:	Provider:	Cost per event:
Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the board:		

Summary of FY15 Fiscal Requests

Board Meetings	\$6,500.00
Travel for Exams	\$0.00
Out-Of-State and Additional In-State Travel	\$10,000
Dues/Memberships/Resources/Online Training/Teleconferences	\$500.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offset	\$0.00
Other	\$0.00
Total Requested:	\$17,000

Additional information:

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
RECOMMENDATIONS FOR PROPOSED LEGISLATION FOR FY 2015**

Focus Area (Check all that apply)

- Economic Development
- Government Within Our Means
- National Regulatory/Industry Changes
- Enhance Public Protection

We will be addressing the need in the coming fiscal year to propose changes in legislation and or regulations in the following areas:

- our current code of ethics
- pursuing inclusion to Title 47

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
REGULATION RECOMMENDATIONS FOR FY 2016

The board has sent language for the proposed regulatory changes regarding distance therapy and distance supervision to the Department of Law for review.

As of May 27th 2015, the Board voted to propose changes to allow the required 100 hours of group supervision for a MFT-A license holder to be completed with any of the following license holder recognized by the Board of Marital & Family Therapy: Licensed Professional Counselor Supervisor, Certified Social Worker (Supervisor), or a Licensed Psychologist.

Language for 12 ACC 19.115(b)(7) was revised to read as follows:

“submits a completed Alaska Jurisprudence Questionnaire prepared by the board covering the provisions of AS 08.63, this chapter, the code of ethics by the board under 12 AAC 19.900, and meets the score requirement of 12 AAC 19.110(e)”

12 AAC 19.200(c) was amended to read as follows:

A holder of a license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy may practice under supervision in a clinic, social service agency, or private marital and family therapy practice. No holder of a license for supervised practice may own or operate a private practice for marital and family therapy services.

A recommendation of amendment to 08.63.100(a)(C)(i) and (ii) was made to read as follows:

- (i). Practice marital and family therapy, including 1,500 hours of direct supervised clinical contact with couples, individuals and families; and
- (ii) been supervised concurrently in the clinical contact for at least 200 hours, including 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision approved by the Board.

Language was added to 12 AAC 19.310(a), (b), and (c) to reflect new continuing education regulations including the addition of six contact hours in substance abuse, three contact hours in cross-cultural education, and two contact hours related to issues of domestic violence.

Changes were made to 12 AAC 19.110 to read as follows: ***

Changes were made to 12 AAC 19.350 to read as follows: ***

We will be addressing the need in the coming fiscal year to propose changes regulations in the following areas:

- transfer of supervision hours (labor mobility)

ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
GOALS AND OBJECTIVES FOR FY 2015

List the board's FY15 goals and objectives and how they were met:

1. The board will develop a strategy to address the need for distance therapy and distance supervision.

The board contacted the national organization AAMFT, the APA, and different MFT boards nationwide. We had replies from 16 of the 50 State boards we contacted. Along with the responses from other inquires and research we have put together a proposal for legislation of statutes and regulations.

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 manner. This is a major function of the BMFT meetings.

The board is satisfied with our process of reviewing applications.

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 licensing examiner worked with the board to tweak some parts of the application processes. At this time, the application process is satisfactory.

5. The board will continue to work closely with the investigator assigned at their request. At every meeting, the investigator assigned to this board will give 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 board meeting.

6. The board will implement brief evaluations after each board meeting.

The Board has been consistent in completing the evaluations. The evaluation form have been reviewed by the Board at its next meeting.

7. 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.

The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing has continued to work with the board to clarify budget needs including building expenses and hopefully reducing fees while maintaining a balanced budget. Meeting in Anchorage instead of traveling to meet in other cities is one of the ways that the Board had helped to reduce its expenses.

8. The board will continue to work with the Governor's office to fill vacant board seats in a timely manner. The board will have an opening in March 2014. The board encourages the Governor's office to reappoint this person or appoint a new member in a timely manner.

The Governor's Office filled two boards' vacancies in March of 2014 in a timely manner. The next vacant seat will occur in March of 2016, as Father John Downing's term will expire. The Board will work with the office of the Governor to fill the vacancy in a timely manner.

9. The BMFT will work to standardize and streamline the process for approval of continuing education while maintaining the integrity of the mission of the board, which is to approve training relevant to the profession in a changing post-modern world.

The Board has been using electronic means to review the continuing education applications so as to be able to deliver the Boards decision in a timely manner.

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

The board has continued to collaborate with the Division of Corporation, Business and Professional Licensing, especially with the Licensing Examiner whose assistance has been irreplaceable to the functioning of the board.

11. The board will be a presence and an information source for Legislators and Executive branches of the state government.

A form will be provided to board members to be completed after each contact made with a legislator or legislative office on behalf of the Board. The Board member will submit the completed form to the licensing examiner within three days. This report will be available to the Board upon request and will be included in the following Board meeting. As of the end of FY 2015 our Board has not had to fill this form out.

12. The board will continue to review, research and consider new technological advances as it pertains to therapy, supervision and training.

These issues will be addressed in the coming legislative session, especially with regards to distance supervision and distance therapy.

13. The board will explore the concept of challenges and issues of labor mobility and how MFTs may be affected in Alaska.

The board will be seeking support from the administration and Legislature in changing statutes and regulations to encourage labor mobility for applicants transferring into Alaska prior to receiving licensing.

14. The board will work to introduce changes necessary to require licensing as an MFT associate before acquiring clinical and supervision hours. The board will address the issue of previous experience and labor mobility before this change.

(See #13)

15. The board will research and consider ways of insuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations. A mail out is an example of one way that the Board can get this knowledge out to its licenses.

During FY 2015, the Board did not do any mail outs due to the regulations project.

16. The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulation Board (AMFTRB). Attendance at the annual meetings is crucial to provide an Alaskan perspective and to stay informed of what is occurring nationwide that will affect Alaska.

The Board sent one representative, Linda King to the AAMFT annual conference in Milwaukie.

17. 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, Board Regulator and CLEAR.

The Board sent one representative, Leon Webber to the CLEAR conference in New Orleans, Louisiana.

18. The board will continue to review and explore title vigilance.

The board regularly reviews and is open to explore issues relating to title vigilance.

19. The board will be a presence and information source for Legislators and Executive branches of the state government.

The board will continue to represent its mission, goals, and mandates, as it interacts with legislators and executive branches coming legislative session.

List the board's FY16 goals and objectives. Include any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats, as well as any resources needed:

Goal 1. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy will develop a strategy to address the need for distance therapy and distance supervision.

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

Objective 2: Continue to work toward the completion of the drafted regulations until the desired outcome is accomplished.

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 research and recommend changed to Regulation as needed

Goal 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 manner.

Objective 1: The Board will work with the licensing Examiner to utilize the secured website so that completed applications can be reviewed and approved in a timely manner.

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

Objective 1: The Board will work with the licensing Examiner to utilize the secured website so that completed applications can be reviewed and approved in a timely manner.

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

Objective 1: Continue to be updated on the functions of the investigator's office.

Goal 6. The board will implement brief evaluations from each board member at each meeting.

Objective 1: A report will be drafted by Board Secretary Joann Young and presented to the Board at the end of each fiscal year.

Goal 7. 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 8. 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.

Objective 2: Father John Downing's term will expire in March 2016, the Board will assist and encourage the office of the Governor to fill that vacancy as soon as possible.

Goal 9. The board will continue collaborative relations with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

Objective 1: Continue to respond and correspond with the Licensing Examiner in a timely manner with the licensing examiner.

Goal 10. 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. Return said form to the Licensing Examiner within 3 business days.

Goal 11. 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.

Objective 3: The Board will address changing the terminology of, "face-to-face" to, "real-time".

Goal 12. The board will explore the concept of challenges and issues of labor mobility and how MFTs may be affected in Alaska.

Objective 1: The board will explore the concept of challenges and issues of labor mobility

Goal 13. 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 14. 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 up-date and inform them of current statutes and regulations.

Goal 15. The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulation Board (AMFTRB).

Objective 1: The Board has approved Board member Linda King to attend the AAMFT conference in Sept in Austin TX

Goal 16. 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, Board Regulator and CLEAR.

Objective 1: the Board has approved Board member Leon Webber to attend the AMFTRB conference and CLEAR training conference in Boston

Goal 17. 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.

**ALASKA STATE BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY
 FY 2015 ANNUAL REPORT
 SUNSET AUDIT RECOMMENDATIONS**

Date of last Legislative Audit: May 24, 2013

Board sunset date: June 30, 2014

Audit Recommendation #1: BMFT should develop a strategy to address the need for distance therapy and distance supervision.

Action taken: The Board has contacted the AAMFT and other MFT boards around the country inquiring about current statues and regulations proposed or in legislation about the topic. Two documents were prepared – (1) A running tab of each response by each state as well as other side conversations that were had and (2) a document of recommendations for the Board based on those conversations/responses. A motion was approved introduce regulations regarding distance therapy and supervision.
Next Steps: The board has sent language for the proposed regulatory changes regarding distance therapy and distance supervision to the Department of Law for review.
Date completed: To be determined.

Audit Recommendation #2: The Office of the Governor and BMFT should work together to fill vacant board seats in a timely manner.

Action taken: The Office of the Governor has quickly responded to the request that they fill vacancies and/or renew terms quickly.
Next Steps: There are currently no vacancies and the terms expiring at the end of this term have been renewed. No further action needs to be taken.
Date completed: March 2014.

Audit Recommendation #3: The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing’s director should continue efforts to improve the investigative case management system’s integrity and confidentiality.

Action taken: The BMFT has actively cooperated with the investigation office, which has resulted in reduced expenses. However by failure of HB-187 we are not protected from the possibility that if an LMFT investigation were to be had, this could incur the BMFT considerable funds. The funds that may be used could intern put the BMFT at risk for raising cost again for LMFTs.
Next Steps: N/A
Date completed: The process began shortly after the investigation.