

# *Annual Report*

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# *Fiscal Year 2016*

## **BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY**



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

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This annual performance report is presented in accordance with  
Alaska statute AS 08.01.070(10).

Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the  
past and present needs of the licensing program.

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**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Webber, Leon</b> Therapist/Counselor	Mar 01, 2011	Mar 01, 2019
<b>Young, Joann</b> Public	Mar 01, 2011	Mar 01, 2018
<b>McCarty, Kenneth</b> Therapist/Counselor	Mar 01, 2010	Mar 01, 2017
<b>King, Linda</b> Therapist/Counselor	August 10, 20012	Mar 01, 2017
<b>Goddard-Aguero, Dorothea</b> Public	Mar 01, 2016	Mar 01, 2020

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**Identification of Staff**

**Laura Carrillo – Licensing Examiner**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Post Office Box 110806  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806  
(907) 465-2550

**Dawn Hannasch – Records and Licensing Supervisor**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
Post Office Box 110806  
Juneau, Alaska 99811-0806  
(907) 465-2550

**Sonja Lipker – Investigator**

Department of Commerce, Community & Economic Development  
Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
550 West Seventh Avenue, Suite 1500  
Anchorage, AK 99501-3567  
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**Jun Maiquis – Regulations Specialist**

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Post Office Box 110806  
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**Narrative Statement**

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 a public comment period at each meeting. Meeting agendas are available from the licensing examiner.

A new licensing examiner, Laura Carrillo, was introduced in 2015.

**Fiscal**

Recurring fiscal surplus budget. At the end of the third quarter of the 2014 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. As expected, there was no public or professional opposition to his motion. The board has sent language for the proposed regulatory changes regarding distance therapy and distance supervision to the Department of Law for review.

The Board adopted changes to continuing education requirements that impact the 2016 renewal period.

As of May 27, 2015, the Board will 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, or a Licensed Psychologist. Secondary to a large influx of public/professional comment on this topic we will be readdressing the subject at our next Board meeting and modifying the regulations to better reflect the needs as requested by the commentary.

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2017**

<b>Board Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># Board</b>	<b># Staff</b>
Jul 20, 2016	Anchorage	5	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Video-conference		\$125.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$125.00</b>

<b>Board Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># Board</b>	<b># Staff</b>
Oct 20, 2016	Anchorage	5	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Video-conference		\$125.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$125.00</b>

<b>Board Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># Board</b>	<b># Staff</b>
Feb 24, 2016	Juneau	5	1
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare: Five board members flying to Juneau		\$1,625.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel: One night for five board members		\$625.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground: Taxi		\$250.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Video-conference		\$700.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$3,200.00</b>

<b>Board Meeting Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># Board</b>	<b># Staff</b>
May 16, 2016	Anchorage	5	1
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: Video-conference		\$125.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$125.00</b>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)**

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Conference:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$0.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel**

Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
Sep 01, 2016	Clear Training - Oregon	2	0
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			
Leon Webber & Doroithia Aguero will attend. Mr. Webber's expenses will be covered by CLEAR as he will be speaking.			
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:		\$800.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:		\$800.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:		\$50.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:		\$400.00
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:		\$300.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:		\$0.00
	<input type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:		\$0.00
<b>Net Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$2,350.00</b>

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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2017 (continued)**

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel**

Not Applicable

<b>Date</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b># Board</b>	<b># Staff</b>
Sep 01, 2016	AAMFT Indianapolis	1	0

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

Linda King will attend

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$50.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:	\$300.00
<input type="checkbox"/> Direct Third-Party Offset:	\$0.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Reimbursed Third-Party Offset:	\$2,000.00

**Net Total Estimated Cost: **\$350.00****

**Summary of FY 2017 Fiscal Requests**

Board Meetings	\$3,575.00
Travel for Exams	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel	\$4,700.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training, Teleconferences	\$500.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets	\$2000.00
Other:	\$0.00
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$6,775.00</b>

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**Recommendations for Proposed Legislation for FY 2017**

- 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 the Board will propose statutes and regulations which will address temporary licensure. As of this point the board has delegated a subcommittee to further revisit the regulations regarding temporary licensure of MFT-A's.

The Board will now be using a Board Evaluation Template.

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

If there are questions about this, please contact Board Chair, Leon Webber.

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**Regulation Recommendations for FY 2017**

**No Recommendations**

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

**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

We will be addressing the need in the coming fiscal year to propose changes in legislation and or regulations in the following areas: transfer of supervision hours (labor mobility), our current code of ethics, and pursuing inclusion to Title 47.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part I**

**FY 2016's goals and objectives, and how they were met:**

1. The board will continue to implement regulations to address distance therapy and distance supervision. The board working with AMFTRB (American Marriage and Family Therapy Regulation Board ) has adopted guidelines for the implementation of distance therapy and supervision.
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 with each board meeting. In addition to feedback from each board member after each board meeting the board will implement a written brief evaluation beginning at the August 1, 2014 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.
8. The board will continue to have openings in 2017 The board encourages and will work with 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 2016 in a timely manner. There are no other board seats vacant at this time.

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.
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 information source for legislators and executive branches of the state government. Board members will continue to complete provided forms after each contact made with a legislator or legislative office on behalf of the Board. Board. Business cards have been created and used by board members to identify members and as a reminder of their visits.
12. The board will continue to review, research and consider new technological advances as it pertains to therapy, supervision and training. The board proactively met with representatives prior to the legislative session, promoting distance supervision and distance therapy. The board will continue to address issues as they arise.
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 pursue regulations changes to promote labor mobility while maintaining current professional standards. People transferring into Alaska prior to receiving licensing as well as licensed professionals relocating.
14. The board will address the issue of previous experience and labor mobility when working with licensing associates who starting to acquire supervision hours. (See #13)
15. 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. However knowing that many licensees do not check the website the board has and will be occasionally sending a mailing out to licensees to update and inform them of current statutes and regulations and recent changes.
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 Clear and Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulation Board (AMFTRB). In this report funds are requested which will send one board member to the Clear in Portland. A member was sent to Boston in 2015.
17. The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the Association of Marital and Family Therapy. Attendance at the annual meetings conference is crucial to provide an Alaskan perspective and to stay informed of what is occurring nationwide that will affect Alaska. In this report funds are requested which will send one board member to the AAMFT Annual Conference this year in Indianapolis, IN. In 2015 a member was sent to this conference in Austin, TX
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.

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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part II**

**FY 2017'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, for 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.

**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 continue use of brief evaluations with each board meeting.

**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.

**Goal 9.** The board will work to standardize and streamline the process for approval of continuing education while maintaining the integrity of the mission of the board

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

**Goal 10.** 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 11.** 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.

**Goal 12.** The board will continue work on distance therapy, tele therapy to allow for therapists not licensed in Alaska and not establishing a practice in Alaska to do limited sessions with people residing in Alaska.

Objective 1: The development of a form to monitor therapists not residing in the state of Alaska but working with Alaskans.

**Goal 13.** 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 14.** 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 15.** 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 16.** 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 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.

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

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

**Goal 19.** 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.

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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit:**  
**Board Sunset Date:**

**Audit Recommendation:** 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:** 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 2016

## Sunset Audit Recommendations (continued)

<b>Audit Recommendation:</b>	The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing's director should continue efforts to improve the investigative case management system's integrity and confidentiality.
<b>Action Taken:</b>	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.
<b>Next Steps:</b>	N/A
<b>Date Completed:</b>	The process began shortly after the investigations