

Department of Commerce, Community
and Economic Development

Division of Corporations, Business
and Professional Licensing

Marital and Family Therapy

Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2024



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

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This report is required under Alaska Statute 08.01.070(10).

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Board Membership (as of the Date This Report was Approved)

Date of Final Board Approval: 6/14/2024

Name	Appointed	Expires
Noah Shields, Chair, Therapist/Counselor	03/01/2019	03/01/2027
Shawnmarie Carpenter, Therapist	08/08/2023	03/01/2025
Richard Clampitt, Therapist/Counselor	03/01/2021	03/01/2025
Kayla Green, Member of the Public	03/01/2020	03/01/2024

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Accomplishments

1. The board started using a Listserv to improve communication between the Board of Marital and Family Therapy and licensees to provide relevant information related to the profession.
2. Reviewed and updated the Jurisprudence Examination to align with the current Statutes and Regulations.
3. Reviewed and updated the application for Supervisor to improve the application process and align with the current Statutes and Regulations.
4. Reviewed and updated the LMFTA application and checklist to improve the application process and align with the current Statutes and Regulations.
5. Approved changes to regulations to clear up confusion, and improve the practice of marital and family therapy and access to supervision.
6. Evaluated Statutes and made recommendations to modernize and clear up confusion on wording, in order to improve the practice of marital and family therapy. The Statutes were added into HB 126 and approved.
7. Reviewed applications of Marital and Family Therapists by credentials, by examination, for supervisor status and for associations. This is a major function of the Board of Marital and Family Therapy.
8. Reviewed and approved continuing education courses to ensure they are beneficial to the practice of marital and family therapy.
9. Listened to public comment, added items to future meetings based on the public comment or provided response to public comment.
10. Staff updated applications and the Board of Marital and Family Therapy webpage.
11. Filled vacant seat on the BMFT.
12. Recommended adjustments to licensing fees based on the present and predicted financial situation.

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Activities

1. Board meetings were conducted three times during FY 24.
2. Contacted legislators to gain support for board recommended changes to Statutes.
 1. Board Chair spoke at the Senate Health and Social Services Committee to discuss recommended MFT Statute Changes in SB 115 Physician Assistants. Board recommended statutes were later removed from SB 115.
 2. MFT Board recommended statutes placed into HB 126. HB 126 passed and the Statutes were approved.
3. Reviewed investigations and identified appropriate disciplinary responses, when appropriate.
4. The board continued to work with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing to review the budget and provide recommendations for decreasing the licensing fee during the next license renewal.
5. A board member was added bringing the current vacancy to one public member.
6. Established workgroup to research license portability and compacts to identify areas that Alaska can improve the licensing process.
7. The board worked with the licensing examiner to create an avenue for applicants to find board approved supervisors through the professional license search more easily.
8. The board supported legislation that was beneficial for the profession of marital and family therapy. Specifically writing a letter of support for SB 225 and HB 314.

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Needs

1. 2024 AMFTRB 38th Annual Meeting of State Delegates - Monday, September 16, 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM in Baltimore, Maryland. This meeting is instrumental in helping the State of Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy identify key regulatory issues that are facing MFTs nationally and ways that Alaska can support our professionals through regulator changes within our state.
2. One public member seat remains open. This seat has remained open for several years and impacts the ability of the board to function due to quorum requirements when someone on the board is unable to make a board meeting or doesn't keep-up with voting on onboard.
3. Retention of staff. Whether this takes training or financial compensation to retain staff. The board has experienced a significant amount of turnover of licensing examiners. This has caused applications to be misplaced, applicants to wait a significant amount of time for the board to be able to review their application, and inconsistent information being communicated to the licensees.
4. In-person meetings. The board would like to schedule an in-person meeting at least once during the next fiscal year. This would increase relationships on the board, provide a stronger engagement by the board members, and support better communication and quicker decision making.
5. Board approved changes to Regulations to be published, open to public comment, and adopted.
6. Research and evaluate Retirement License. The board will need to review information on the feasibility of supporting a retirement license based on precedents in other professional licenses and applicability to the State of Alaska.
7. Improve license portability. The board will work with the AAMFT to determine if additional regulatory or statute changes should be made to support license portability. Portability increases the ease at which a licensed Marital and Family Therapist can apply and receive licensure in other states. By increasing portability in Alaska, we support qualified Licensed Marital and Family Therapists from other States the opportunity to receive licensure in Alaska and are able to provide services to Alaskans in need of services, or provide short-term visitors or employees working in Alaska can receive out-of-state LMFT support while visiting Alaska.
8. Assess findings of the workgroup on compacts. The board will need to take the findings from the workgroup on the feasibility of compacts and provide either a Position Statement to increase understanding for licensees on the challenges of compacts or determine what changes, if any, the board can do in supporting compacts.