

STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

MINUTES OF MEETING
October 26, 2012

These are DRAFT minutes prepared by the staff of the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing. These minutes have not been reviewed or approved by the Board.

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Marital and Family Therapy was held Friday October 26, 2012, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Robert Atwood Building, Conference room 1270, 550 W. 7th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Leon Webber at 9:10 am.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Leon Webber, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Kennith McCarty, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Linda King, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
JoAnn Young, Public Member

Board Members not in attendance

Father John Downing, Public Member

Attending from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing were:

KC Odell, Licensing Examiner
Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator

1. Review Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda, and was informed that Kennith McCarty wanted to update the board on the AAMFT national conference he attended in Charlotte, NC and it was decided agenda item twelve: New business would be the best place to discuss it.

On a motion duly made Linda King, seconded by JoAnn Young, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the agenda as amended.

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2. Review Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the July 6th, 2012, meeting and the board had some amendments they wanted completed before approving the minutes as finalized. The licensing examiner took note of them and made all necessary changes before submitting them for filing.

On a motion duly made by Joann Young, seconded by Linda King, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept July 6th, 2012 meeting minutes once amended.

3. Board Report

The Licensing Examiner gave the following report to update the Board members:

number of MFT licensees:	92
number of MFT associates:	12
number of MFT supervisors:	15

4. Review Applications and CEU

The board began with a brief discussion about the process they currently use to review continuing education courses. Mr. Webber informed newly appointed member Linda King about a particular instance where the board had to review the applications for over eighty courses at one meeting. The board would like to take some precautionary measures to prevent such an occurrence in the future, such as: implementing a deadline for sponsors to have their applications in to the division of licensing by, putting some language up on the MFT webpage that asks courses be applied for ahead of time rather than sending them in large bundles like they have been in the past, and if there are a large amount of applications that need to be reviewed at the same time the board could review some of the applications either before or after the meeting via email ballot. However, they want to keep the dialogue they have at these meetings while reviewing the applications because it provides an opportunity for one member to catch things that another member may not see, and approving courses via correspondence doesn't provide that opportunity.

The board then went on to review three applications for licensure as a Marital and Family Therapist, one application for an Associate license, one application for a change to a supervisory plan, one application for supervisory status on an existing license, and twenty four applications for continuing education course approval. Leon Webber abstained from the voting on Ms. Karla Gelhar's application, as being her supervisor is a conflict of interest for him. Linda King abstained from the voting on Ms. Nicole Clarke-Frechette's application, as being her supervisor is a conflict of interest for her as well.

After reviewing all of the licensee applications the board members handed in the voting ballot containing all their votes attached to each individual application packet. Let the record show they have approved these applicants for licensure:

MFT by Credential

Richard Hartman
Araceli Cabarcas
Annalynn Schooley

MFT SUPERVISOR

Craig Ward

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The board approves the following applicant for associate licensure with the request that she submit further documentation on past or current certifications, and a verification of good standing at the agencies she was previously employed.

MFT ASSOCIATE

Nicole Clarke-Frechette

After reviewing all continuing education approval applications the board members handed in the voting ballot containing all their votes attached to each individual course packet. Let the record show they have approved these courses for the following amount of credit hours and all information in the applicant's files will take precedence over the information in the minutes:

International Institute for the Communication Arts

-Marital and Family Therapy: The systemic supervisor – 3.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Developmental Trauma – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Relating with transitional young adults – 3.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-ASAM – 7.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Forgiveness in Recovery – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Motivational Interviewing – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Cognitive Behavioral Therapy – 7.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Documentation – 3.5 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Personality disorders & addiction – 3.5 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Motivational enhancement therapy – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Engaging couples and families – 9.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Risk Assessment – 7.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-A new look at binge drinking – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Working with resistant clients – 3.5 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Trauma focused CBT – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Global assessment of functioning – 3.5 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Cross cultural competence – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Substance abuse assessment – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Trauma 101 – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Nutrition: The healer and slayer of nutrition – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Trauma informed care – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Hazelden co-occurring disorders program: Review – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Hazelden co-occurring disorders program: Screening & Assessment – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Hazelden co-occurring disorders program: Integrating combined therapies – 6.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute

-Family Services – 12.0 CEUs

5. Investigative Report

The board's investigator, Michele Wall-Rood, joined the meeting and gave her report. Since the last meeting in July, there was one new complaint which has been closed due to being incomplete, and there are no open complaints currently for our board. Michele asked the board who she should contact if there is a complaint in the future that is needed to be reviewed by a licensed member. Board chair Leon Webber volunteered since the board chair usually takes on this responsibility. Having nothing further to discuss the board moved on to agenda item six: budget report.

6. Budget Report

The licensing examiner provided the board with their board report made up of the schedule of revenues and expenditures over the past eleven years in the board packets. Mr. McCarty asked that the report reflect that this newest budget report does not reflect what was presented to the board in the past, but rather only just recently. So anyone reviewing this document wouldn't see what the board was seeing at the time. He went on to clarify that the board had been receiving reports that their budget was in the deficit when it in fact was not, so he would like to see somewhere on their report that there was an amendment to the amounts in 2012. Perhaps in the form of the amounts that were in fact reported with an asterisk next to it in columns beside the updated ones, or as the licensing examiner suggested to just state at the bottom or top of the document that an amendment was made stating the date and reason. Mr. McCarty stated that he wants to make it very clear on this report what the board saw at each fiscal year end. Because the sunset audit or legislators will see that the board had money all this time to be utilizing, and they wouldn't see that the board was in fact being told the opposite incorrectly during that time. Mr. McCarty thought that as a board putting the numbers that were reported to them side by side with the numbers that have now been corrected is in their best interests. It would remove any ambiguity or investigative needs for someone reviewing the amended information.

On a motion duly made by Kenneth McCarty, seconded by Joann Young, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to recommend that the division include in the fiscal year end budget report what was actually presented to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy for their revenues and expenditures.

7. Board Discussion

Leon Webber had a few issues that he wanted members to be aware of, and have someone volunteer to perhaps do some research on each of them.

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The first being training of subspecialties, if someone could contact the national association and find out what they or perhaps other states are doing in regards to subspecialties of therapy. Mr. Webber volunteered himself to pursue it and would report back what he's found at the next meeting.

Medicare and Medicaid are also a growing concern in the healthcare industry and Mr. Webber thought Ken McCarty would be best suited to stay on top of the latest with that, and he agreed.

Labor mobility is another national concern that may warrant a call to the national association's headquarters. Linda King volunteered to be responsible for that and would keep her ear out for anything pertinent to the issue.

Title Protection has always been important within the therapy field, and Mr. Webber wants our board to be vigilant in its protection of the MFT title. Kenneth McCarty also volunteered to take this on.

Mr. Webber asked that the licensing examiner help the board with its continuing education course review process, as discussed earlier during agenda item four. He agreed to make some suggestions for change as time permits with renewals coming up. Mr. Webber went on to suggest that a courteous letter be sent to the local institutions that the board has a good relationship with in approving its courses. Just to inform them that any changes are not a personal criticism, but rather preventive measures.

Having prior supervision in another state prior to being licensed in our state is something our board has seen more and more recently. Is that acceptable to this board and is there anything statutorily preventing us from accepting those hours? Joann Young volunteered to look into that and report back to the board at their next meeting.

Supervisors recently have wanted to achieve licensure in our state, but practice out of state while supervising licensees that are still living in Alaska. The danger there is the means of supervision that they are utilizing. Mr. McCarty is also taking this issue on and will be discussing it further with the board later in the meeting under agenda item ten: cyber therapy and supervision.

Those being the items that Mr. Webber wanted the board to stay privy to, and having nothing further to discuss the board decided to adjourn the meeting for lunch.

On a motion duly made by Leon Webber, seconded by Kenneth McCarty, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting of the Marital and Family Therapy Board for lunch at 11:51pm

8. Public Comment

The board came back on record at 12:55pm and called former board chair Patricia White to allow her to say a few words and thank her service to the State of Alaska and this board. She returned the well wishes and thought Linda King would be a wonderful replacement. The board then continued on with public comment.

Mercy Dennis and Shawnmarie Carpenter joined the board to discuss the allowance of Marital and Family therapy associate licensee's to take their examination at any time during their supervision as opposed to having to wait until the end of the associate period to take it. There is currently nothing that could be found in statute or regulation that specifies when the exam should be taken, but the board has been requiring they do it at the end of the supervised hours received during their associate period. Mercy Dennis provided the board with some language if adopted into regulation would allow associates to take

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the examination at anytime. Mr. Webber asked if she would include the applicants who are not an MFT associate in this group, and Ms. Dennis said that if she was still a board member she would not. It is her belief that someone should get certified as an associate so that its clear beyond a doubt what they are qualified to do.

Shawnmarie Carpenter then spoke from the point of view of a licensed MFT associate in our state. She clarified to the board that if an associate were able to take the exam at the beginning of their supervision then if they were to fail the exam the supervisor would be there to advise and help them understand what areas they aren't strong in. Instead of waiting years until the supervision is completed, the book knowledge that the test covers is mostly gone, and they no longer have the safety net of a supervisor to go back to with questions. She also equated the situation to a perspective on the macro level when you are a student as opposed to the micro level when you are working with clients. Having to switch back to the students perspective is much more difficult than taking the exam while you're still used to being a student. The board having no further questions thanked them both for their time and continued talking about the issue in the next agenda item after they had left.

9. Marital and Family Therapy Associates

Mr. McCarty stated that there was in fact something in title eight but outside of the section that governs Marital and Family therapy that prevents applicants from taking the exam earlier. Mr. Webber raised the point that if there was in fact something preventing this regulation change from being possible statutorily than the Department of Law would no doubt make a correction if not the division of licensing regulations specialist before it even got to them. Mr. McCarty began discussing how he would like to strengthen the associate licensure process in our state by making it mandatory for someone wishing to become an LMFT to be an associate first. Mr. Webber wanting the board to stay on subject guided the conversation back to the language Mercy Dennis had proposed earlier, and whether or not the board would hear a motion to adopt it. Mr. McCarty continued by discussing the examination process with the other members. His question to the board was: what sort of safe guard does the board have to assure the people they license are capable trained therapists who know the components of this profession if they are allowed to take the exam right away, and the board must rely solely on the supervisor's approval at the end of their fifteen hundred hours. Mr. Webber again brought the board back to the subject at hand being the language presented by Ms. Dennis to be added to regulation.

On a motion duly made by Linda King, seconded by Joann Young, and approved with Kenneth McCarty opposed and John Downing not present, it was

RESOLVED to change Alaska regulation 12 AAC 19.110(f) to read: "...and the applicable fees established in 12 AAC 02.242 *or an associate approved by the board for a license under supervised practice may schedule for the national Marital and Family Therapy examination by filing with the department a complete application showing fulfillment of the requirements in AS 08.63.100(a)(1)(2)(3)(A)(B)&(b).*"

And to add to Alaska regulation 12 AAC 19.200 as (d) to read: "*A holder of a license for the supervised practice of Marital and Family Therapy may submit to the board for approval an application to be scheduled for the national Marital and Family Therapy examination during the period of time that person holds a current license for the supervised practice of Marital and Family Therapy.*"

The board would like this regulation change to be sent for public comment before their next meeting so any comments or concerns can be considered at that meeting.

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10. Cyber therapy and Supervision

Mr. McCarty began informing the board about his research into the progressively more common use of computer technology within the therapy profession. It has been a topic of discussion at the AAMFT conference he attended as well as around the country. The main concern being what is the language that we as a state board need to have so that a licensee doesn't have to be a computer whiz. In his quest for such language Mr. McCarty found that the people he spoke with at North Central University in Arizona were the most helpful on the subject. They outlined for him that not all video communication is secure due to it not being encrypted on both ends. The language that a licensee should look for when trying to find a secure video conferencing website or program is that it has high definition secured socket layer (SSL) AES features. All the entities that Mr. McCarty had talked with confirmed that the program called "Skype" is not secure and that it is possible for Skype connections to be hacked. Therefore anyone wishing to use that particular program or others like it would have to use a disclaimer warning patients of the danger to be HIPAA compliant. Mr. Webber recommended perhaps continuing this discussion at a later meeting with the aid of a specialist in this area, or perhaps just an associate who is well versed in those processes from their time in school. Mr. McCarty wanted to add one more thing: that Oregon and Massachusetts are the only two states to have statutes in place regarding cyber therapy.

11. Licensure Fee

Mr. McCarty wanted to bring this issue in front of the board again because he had received a number of calls while the licensing examiner was out of the office on personal leave regarding how to get a hold of the division regarding fee changes. There was a notice that went out alerting licensees about a fee change but no time limit was given on when to respond and some were worried they wouldn't be heard. The licensing examiner informed the board that they misunderstood, the notice that went out was not a call for comment, like the process for regulation change, it was merely a notification that the fee would be changing. The board satisfied with this explanation moved on to the next agenda item.

12. New Business

Mr. Webber asked the licensing examiner if he had brought an evaluation form for the members to review and use for future meetings. The examiner had misunderstood what Mr. Webber was talking about over the phone prior to the meeting and thought that it was something he intended the board to create together. Mr. Webber said that he would provide a copy of what he would like the board to use as its evaluation moving forward. He continued by asking Mr. McCarty if he had any suggestions for the board or the division as to how we can improve or further support his efforts. He just thought it was enough to be able to send a letter from the board as a whole expressing their opinions, and that the division of licensing has endorsed the licensing boards to do their own lobbying as long as they keep their licensing examiner and the division as a whole privy to their intentions. Mr. Webber and Mr. McCarty briefly discussed the boards desire to have some sort of "insurance" against getting hit by a massive Department of Law bill again. Mr. Webber expressed his intent to keep that on his task list and discuss it further with the examiner and division director in the future.

Mr. McCarty went on to give the board his report on the AAMFT National Conference he attended in Charlotte, NC. As he discussed earlier he sought out discussions and lectures relating to cyber therapy, but he also got to hear about reaching out to military families and how universities are instructing therapists to deal with those types of issues. Mr. McCarty was asked if he thought it was important for our board to continue to send a member to that meeting and he thought that it was. Apparently the association had asked at one point how many attendants were board members in their home states and it was less than thirty people. Mr. Webber asked when the next conference was planned and where it would be. Ms. King stated that it would be in Portland, OR on October 17-20, 2013.

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13. Administrative Business

a. Ethics reports

There were no Ethics reports submitted.

b. Task List

Kennith McCarty: Medicare/Medicaid lobbying efforts, Title protection, Out of State Supervision,

Leon Webber: Training Subspecialties, Evaluation form, Insurance for board investigative cost.

Linda King: Labor Mobility

Joann Young: Prior Supervision from another state

Licensing Examiner: Continuing education review process

c. Schedule next meeting

The board decided to schedule their next meeting for January 25th, 2013 in Juneau.

d. Sign meeting minutes

Meeting minutes were signed

e. Travel Authorizations

The travel authorizations were signed.

f. Board travel/conferences

The board had no conferences to inform the licensing examiner about.

On a motion duly made by Joann Young, seconded by John Downing, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting of the Marital and Family Therapy board.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:29 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:

KC Odell, Licensing Examiner

Approved by:

Leon Webber, Chairperson

Date: _____

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