

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
July 19, 2013

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 July 19, 2013, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the Robert B. Atwood Building room 1770, 550 West 7th Ave. Anchorage, Alaska.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Leon Webber at 9:00 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 in attendance telephonically

Father John Downing, Public Member

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

Karl Marx, Licensing Examiner
Sara Chambers, Operations Manager (*via telephone*)
Michele Wall-Rood, Investigator

Present from the Public

Sarah McConnell, TTC
Mercy Dennis, UAA (MFT M-3)
Victor Wewembe
Jason Hooley, SOA
Elizabeth Guardina, SOA

1. Review Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda, and had no changes to make.

On a motion duly made by Kenneth McCarty, seconded by Linda King, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the agenda as written.

2. Ethics Disclosure

There were no ethics violations to report. Board members were reminded to watch the required ethics training video available online at the Department of law page:
<http://www.law.state.ak.us/doclibrary/ethics.html>

3. Review Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the May 3, 2013 meeting.

Chair Webber asked for an update on Leos, Newsom, and Alevizon mentioned in the May minutes. Mr. Marx gave an update.

4. Board Report

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

Number of MFT licensees:	82
Number of MFT associates:	13 (not expired)
Number of MFT supervisors:	18 (3 lapsed)

Mr. Marx referred to the more detailed information in the draft Annual Report included in the Board packets. Chair Webber pointed out the current and proposed sunset dates: 6/30/14 vs. 6/30/18.

5. Applications and CEU Review

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:

<u>MFT by Examination</u>	<u>MFT Associate</u>	<u>MFT by Credentials</u>
Noah Shields	Kim Honan	Lauren Kelly

The Board was not able to complete their voting on the following applications for licensure: Kevan Walker. A letter of instruction will be sent to Mr. Walker and his supervisor.

The Board completed the 2013 random CEU audit. Mr. McCarty asked about being able to e-mail all licensees about the Board's definition of face-to-face time in order to save money. Mr. Marx pointed out that he had just started capturing e-mail addresses and the current Division software does not offer this function.

The Following continuing education courses were approved:

Trust Training Cooperative (TTC)

- Sarah McConnell- "Strengths Based Assessment & treatment with Alaska Natives" – 2.0 CEUs
- McConnell-"Ethics and the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA) part 1" -2.0 CEUs
- McConnell-"Ethics and the ICWA part 2" -2.0 CEUs
- McConnell-"An Integrated Model of Assessment & Treatment" -2.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute, Inc.

- Randy Moss- "2013 Alaska State Trauma Conference" – 18.0 CEUs
- Moss-"Working with Those That Harm: DV & Interpersonal Violence Perpetrators: What to do; What not to do" -6.0 CEUs
- Moss-"Ethics" -6.0 CEUs
- Moss-"Psychopharmacology for Clinicians & Counselors" -3.0 CEUs
- Moss-"Domestic Violence" -6.0 CEUs
- Moss-"Autism Spectrum Disorders" -3.0 CEUs
- Moss-"2013 Alaska State ARC Training: Attachment, Self-Regulation & Competency" -12.0 CEUs

Rural Alaska Community Action Programs

- Lyn Eldridge- "DV: Identifying and Mitigating Effects of DV on Children" – 3.0 CEUs
- Elsie Boudreau-"Collaborative Partnership to Improve Response to Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault" -1.5 CEUs

All other continuing education courses requested by Rural Alaska Community Action Program were approved pending verification of presenters' credentials to staff.

Board members requested that each future CEU application be on a separate form rather than a packet. Mr. McCarty expressed concern that no action seems to have been taken on the Board's 2012 request to have a \$25.00 CEU application fee created.

6. Investigative Report

The Board's investigator, Michele Wall-Rood, joined the meeting and explained her investigative report. Father John Downing asked about the costs to licensees, which have been minimal recently due in part to Board volunteers.

Break 10:36AM. Returned 10:45AM.

7. Budget Report

The Board was joined by Sara Chambers telephonically to discuss the budget report. Ms. Chambers explained the 3rd quarter report.

Mr. McCarty requested that Ms. Chambers reopen the Board's request to add a regulation charging a \$25.00 fee for each continuing education course submitted. This fee would cover the biennial cycle if the course was offered on more than one occasion. Mr. McCarty explained that this \$25.00 fee would not be so much to generate revenue but to decrease staff and Board work load reviewing so many courses which sometimes have little to do with the practice of Marital and Family Therapy. Chair Webber stated that the Division could expect a request from the Board to establish this CEU fee.

Chair Webber stated that out of state travel has become a burden to the Board and it appears that it is not possible to get approval in time to meet the Board's annual travel request. Chair Webber stated that he once received travel approval only two days out and was unable to travel to a previous national conference. Ms. Chambers discussed how little funds are available for travel, especially out of state. Chair Webber specifically asked for help with Ms. King's travel approval to the AAMFT conference in October. Ms. Chambers stated that she would be glad to help and Mr. Marx e-mailed the travel request again. Mr. McCarty also shared that he received travel approval to a North Carolina conference so late once that the costs had increased several hundred dollars so he thanked Ms. Chambers for her promised help.

Mr. McCarty spoke about the requested statute change to require an insurance proviso for MFTs that would cover investigative costs up to \$30,000.00. He asked that since this would be a fine rather than a fee, would the proviso pay the Board or go into the general fund. Ms. Chambers answered that under current law since it would be a fine, it would go into the general fund and, further, there does not seem to be a system in place to collect such insurance.

Ms. Chambers discussed House Bill 187 with the Board and how this could help prevent extreme spikes in license fees due to high investigations costs. Ms. Chambers stated that the Division is asking for 1.7 million to cover investigative costs. Chair Webber asked that HB 187 be added to the October 4th agenda so that the Board members can become more familiar with it as the legislative session will be closer. Mr. McCarty compared the proviso to a contractor bond.

TASK: Staff add HB 187 to October 4th tentative agenda.

Father John asked what the current license fees are. Mr. Marx answered that it is \$665.00. Father John asked if the recent fee reduction has caused any increase in the number of licensees. Mr. Marx answered that the total numbers are similar or slightly lower. Father John asked what strategies the Division can suggest to help further reduce future license fees. Ms. Chambers stated that HB 187 should help as well as reducing personnel costs.

Father John asked if his January 2013 travel to the Juneau Board meeting was ever paid. Mr. Marx stated that since the airfare costs were much higher, his travel is being held up for new approval. Ms. Chambers asked that this be forwarded to her.

Ms. Chambers brought up HB 84 which requires each board which issues a temporary license to be prepared to give considerations for military experience and expedite processing of military temporary licenses. She will hold a teleconference Monday July 22nd. Board members are welcome to call her at their convenience. She stated that the Governor's office has pre-approved public noticing any necessary regulation changes although this Board may not need any new regulations. Mr. Marx printed and added HB 84 to the Board packets.

Ms. King reminded Ms. Chambers that at the January meeting she had promised to try and set new biennial license fees more than just a few months out. Ms. Chambers stated that the Division had a new finance person and after seeing how HB 187 is going they might be able to better do this. Ms. Chambers signed off at 11:45 AM.

Mr. McCarty asked how the Division is using a six year analysis to set license fees since statute states that the Division will look at the last biennial cycle.

8. Old Business

Mr. Marx pointed out that regulation 12 AAC 19.110(f) allowing associates to take the national examination has been public noticed and will be voted on at the end of this meeting.

Mr. McCarty stated that allowing an unregulated person to work under supervision to accrue hours is not in the best interest of the public. He stated that he feels that only licensed associates should be allowed to accrue supervised hours towards full licensure. Chair Webber stated that he is tending to support this to help protect the supervisor and supervisee.

TASK: Mr. McCarty will look at other states' language to draft a regulation requiring an associate license to accrue supervision hours.

Mr. McCarty stated Senator Dyson's SB 80 is already addressing telemedicine. Chair Webber stated that the Board has continuously discussed the growing need for regulation of cyber therapy.

TASK – Ms. King will contact Marki Bloomer for any other states' regulations regarding cyber therapy.

Chair Webber stated that distance supervision would require that the supervisor be licensed in Alaska. Mr. McCarty reminded the Board that one associate deployed to Iraq was receiving supervision from Alaska so it is happening.

TASK – Chair Webber will research distance supervision further.

Mr. McCarty stated that the Department of Behavioral Health stated that all agencies doing substance abuse have national agency accreditation unless they are under a professional board. No action is necessary.

Ms. King stated that since there is no way for the Board to access money from proviso claims, there is no point pursuing this. Mr. McCarty asked about the signed letter of support for this proviso.

HB 187 was discussed earlier.

Mr. McCarty stated that Title 47 which was tied to SB 118 is currently on hold.

12:03 PM break for lunch. Returned 12:58 PM.

Chair Webber was feeling sick and went to the hospital at 12:58 PM. Ms. King assumed chair responsibilities.

9. Public Comment

Sarah McConnell with Trust Training Cooperative (TTC) introduced herself. Their goal is to make continuing education (CEU) training accessible to licensed professionals especially in rural Alaska. They conducted a survey sent to licensed mental health providers asking about their needs.

Jason Hooley from Boards & Commissions introduced himself and Elizabeth Guardina.

Mercy Dennis from University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA) referred to her correspondence to describe UAA courses. She requested a letter of support from the Board. Acting Chair King asked if UAA was

currently offering the required domestic violence (DV) courses for licensure. Ms. Dennis answered not yet. Mr. McCarty asked about blood-borne pathogens training, which was not included yet. Ms. Dennis added that post-masters training is available as a route to licensure.

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

RESOLVED to write a letter of support for the UAA program.

TASK- Mr. McCarty will draft the letter of support for UAA.

10. Correspondence

Chair Webber included a thank you letter to Tory Jacobson who conducted the recent legislative audit.

Mercy Dennis submitted the previously discussed UAA program description.

11. New Business

Since Chair Webber was absent, the Board did not enter executive session to discuss the recent legislative audit. Mr. McCarty stated that he feels that the Board is in much better standing than they were four years ago. He cited the recent regulation progress as an example.

Break 1:49 PM. Returned 1:53 PM.

12. Administrative Business

Mr. Marx explained that the Board had an August 1st deadline to submit their narrative. He went on to explain how license numbers were extracted in the past and would be standardized this year. A copy of the FY12 Annual Report was provided to give the Board a guideline to follow. Mr. McCarty expressed concern about narrative information that he recalls submitting for FY12 that does not seem to be in the final version, such as regulation recommendations.

TASK- Mr. McCarty will coordinate written Board narratives for the Annual Report.

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

RESOLVED to schedule a January 31, 2014 Board meeting in Juneau.

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

RESOLVED to adopt the minutes as written.

Travel authorizations were passed out and signed.

Mr. Marx suggested including Board travel and conferences in the Annual Report narrative. Acting Chair King asked what information would help get out of state travel approved. Mr. McCarty answered with examples such as specifying which meals are included and which classes will be attended.

Task list was recapped.

5. Regulations

Mr. Marx explained that the Board is required to make some sort of response to HB 84 which requires that the Board look into a way to accept military experience towards obtaining a temporary or associate license. Mr. Marx stated that he sees no way to speed up processing military applicants more than he already does. Mr. McCarty pointed out that the provided matrix of corresponding military jobs does not list anything for MFTs but he would be willing to entertain a military chaplain's claim for hours. Mr. Marx pointed out that an associate MFT license just requires an appropriate master degree with the appropriate courses and no experience. He suggested that the burden would still fall on the veteran to find an accredited school that will convert military experience into credit hours. He pointed out that veterans could potentially use military experience for full licensure but that is not part of HB 84.

TASK: Staff put HB 84 on the October 4th agenda.

TASK: Chair Webber will call into Monday 7/22/13 teleconference or call Sara Chambers directly.

Mr. Marx pointed out that this regulation only addresses the national exam but they would still have to wait until approved for full licensure to take the state exam. Mr. Marx described the state exam, which is e-mailed to the applicant, who must return it within 30 days and score at least 90%. If a candidate fails, they must wait six months to retest. Acting Chair King did not feel that this change was worth the risk of delaying the regulation change. Mr. McCarty concurred.

Upon a motion by Kenneth McCarty, seconded by Joann Young and approved unanimously, it was:

MOVED to adopt 12 AAC 19.110(f) as public noticed.

To be scheduled for an examination, an applicant must file with the department a complete, notarized application for a license by examination, including supporting documentation required by this section, and the applicable fees established in 12 AAC 02.242; a marital family therapy 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) and (B), and (b).

Roll Call Vote

NAME	YES	NO
John Downing	X	
Kennith McCarty	X	
Leon Weber		Absent
Joann Young	X	
Linda King	X	

THE MOTION PASSED.

Mr. McCarty suggested a new regulation that would require an associate license in order to accrue supervised hours towards licensure. Mr. Marx explained that normally if the Board accepts this proposed regulation today, the next step would be to go to the Regulation Specialist for word crafting before the Board has a chance to accept it for public notice at the October 4, 2013 meeting. After at least a 30 day public notice period, the Board could vote to adopt a version at the January 31, 2014 meeting in Juneau.

Mr. McCarty stated that the intent that the Board is looking for in this regulation wording is that only licensed associates can accrue the required supervised hours in Alaska.

Upon a motion by Kenneth McCarty, seconded by Joann Young and approved unanimously, it was:

MOVED to change 12 AAC 19.200:

(d) A marital and family therapy associate candidate seeking licensure in Alaska must attain marital and family associate licensure status prior to accruing hours. No therapy/counseling may begin before the applicant is registered and approved.

Mr. McCarty stated that out of state hours might still be adopted by the Board on a case by case basis, such as having been supervised by an AAMFT approved supervisor. He went on to briefly mention creating a log sheet of tasks to be signed off and dated at a later meeting.

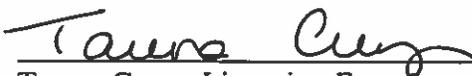
TASK: Staff will refer to 12 AAC 19.200(b) in welcome letters to new associates and supervisors which specifies what titles an associate can use.

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

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

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Tawna Curry, Licensing Examiner

Approved by:



Leon Webber, Chairperson

Date: 10/4/2013