

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  
April 17, 2015

*These are draft minutes prepared by staff of the Alaska State  
Board of Marital and Family Therapy.  
They 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, a regularly scheduled meeting of the Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy was held on Friday, April 17, 2015 in Anchorage Alaska.

**Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order by Leon Webber, Board Chair at 9:01 a.m.

**Agenda Item 1      Roll Call**

**Roll Call**

Board members present:

JoAnn Young  
Linda King  
Kennith McCarty  
Leon Webber

Board member John Downey joined the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Board staff present:

Dawn K Hannasch, Records and Licensing Supervisor

Visitors:

Larry Holman LMFT  
Ashley M Borrera LMFT

**Agenda Item 2      Review Agenda**

The Board reviewed the agenda, the following changes were made:

- Teleconference with Regulations Specialist Jun Maiquis was tabled
- Regulations review was moved to 2:10 p.m. after public comments
- Investigative report was moved to 9:30 a.m.
- Old business was added to the agenda for 9:40 a.m.
- Review of CE's will be done on the Divisions secure website by 4/27/2015

### **Agenda Item 3                      Review/Approve minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes and approved as amended:

- October 30<sup>th</sup> 2014
- January 29<sup>th</sup> 2015

### **Agenda Item 4                      Ethics Reporting**

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

### **Agenda Item 7                      Investigative Report**

Investigator Michelle Wall-Rood joined the meeting

- There were no new actions to report

### **Agenda Item                      Old Business**

Leon Webber gave a hand out to all members to review regarding distance therapy and distance supervision. The Board discussed each topic and the corresponding information that was provided by Leon Webber, in depth. A recording of the full discussion can be requested from the Division.

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Linda King, seconded by Ms. JoAnn Young, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:**

**RESOLVED to approve the changes to the language as amended and send to Dept. of Law for review.**

### **Agenda Item 6                      Division Update**

Staff member Martha Hewlett joined the meeting via teleconference at 10:00 a.m.

The following items were discussed by the Board:

- The fee analysis will be concluded by the Division no later than the end of May 2015 and ready for discussion at the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

- The Board inquired from the Division if the temporary licenses were being counted twice, the FY 2014 statistical report indicates that that is not the case.
- The Division reports that the Budget is in a healthy position at this time.
- Board Member Kenneth McCarty inquired from the Division if the Board can be involved with lowering fees, the Board feels that other licenses are being sought after instead of MFT because of the cost of licensure.

Leon Webber, Board chair left the room from 10:13 a.m.-10:15 a.m.

- The Board was informed that the fee setting would be reviewed by Director Hovenden and Operations Manager Chambers. They look to past records and work to anticipate upcoming needs of the Board, this will allow for no massive increase in fees.
- The Board would like to reduce fees, Director Hovenden and Ops Manger Chamber's is aware of the Board desire and the fact the many licenses will be retiring in the future.

Martha Hewlett left the meeting at 10:20 a.m.

The Board took a break from 10:21 a.m. – 10:36 a.m.

### **Agenda Item 9                      New Business**

- The Board discussed the “spirit” of the temporary license. The Board reviewed regulations regarding temporary licensure. They discussed adding to the regulations project; i.e. not issuing MFTA's a temporary license until they have passed the exam.

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. Leon Webber, seconded by Ms. Linda King, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:**

**RESOLVED to form a Sub Committee to revisit the regulations regarding temporary licensure for MFTA's.**

- The Board discussed the need for increased and updated Supervisor training, it was noted that the Board will encourage on-line training and other courses but that the Board will not be providing the training.
- The Board will consider asking the Division to recognize other license types (SPCO, SCSW and SPHY) to supervise the 100 group hours required. The Board has requested that Board Member Kenneth McCarty write a letter of suggestion so that the Board can revisit this topic at the July 17<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- The Board has agreed that they will change the wording from “face-to-face” to “interactive” regarding the description of CEU's. (Sec 08.63.900)
- The Board reviewed a letter that was sent from the Board of Psychology. The letter is requesting a “Mental Health Summit” of all Alaska State Boards, dealing in mental health. The Board conferred with Dawn K Hannasch regarding the Divisions opinion of such a meeting. Mrs. Hannasch pointed out that Ms. Chambers has been consulted by the Board of Psychology as mentioned in the correspondence. The Board resolved to send a letter in

return to the Board of Psychology requesting more information but also decided that the MFT Board should be represented.

**Upon a motion duly made by Mr. JoAnn Young, seconded by Mr. John Downing, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:**

**RESOLVED that the Board will send 2 represents to attend the “Mental Health Summit” sponsored by the Board of Psychology.**

### **Agenda Item 8                      Board Business**

- The Board reviewed applications and approved the following for licensure:
  1. Laurie L Linsley
  2. David J Banks
  3. Karla M Gelhar
  
- The Board reviewed past goals and objectives from the January 29<sup>th</sup> 2014 meeting  
A few key areas that were discussed are as follows:
  1. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy will continue to work on drafting Regulations at a teleconference on May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015.
  2. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy 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.
  3. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy will develop a strategy to address the need for distance therapy and distance supervision.

### **Agenda Item 11                      Administrative Business**

- Board Travel:
  1. Linda King will attend the AAMFT Meeting on behalf of the Board
  2. Leon Webber will attend the CLEAR training on behalf of the Board
- Dawn K Hannasch Records and Licensing Supervisor informed the Board that they will need to have their draft of the 2015 Annual Report done and returned to the Licensing Examiner by June 15<sup>th</sup> 2015.

### **Recess for lunch**

The Board recessed for lunch at 12:00 p.m.  
The Board went back on the record at 1:00 p.m.

## Agenda Item 10

## Public Comments

- The Board recognized Larry Holemen, LMFT and Supervisor in Alaska. Mr. Holemen was also a member of the Board 10 years ago.

Mr. Holemen's statement to the Board:

1. The proposed regulations if adopted by the Board would restrict and discourage new licenses for coming to Alaska.
2. It is his recommendation that the Board should look at out of State supervision to increase the number of licensees in Alaska.
3. The Board should consider reciprocity with other States to also increase the number of licensee's in the State of Alaska.
4. Mr. Holemen recommended that the Board look into allowing those hours accrued in another State, be accepted here in Alaska.
5. Mr. Holemen suggested that the Board look into changing the CEU requirements to exclude topics that the license is not practicing in.
6. Mr. Holemen commented that the Board had thought about combining with other Mental health Boards, he suggested that the Board research the idea.
7. Mr. Holemen suggested that the Board research reciprocity with other States to increase the number of LMFT's in the State of Alaska.

Board member Kenneth McCarty comments that the Boards position is to first protect the public in Alaska. What if other States are not as dedicated to that as we are?

- Mr. Holemen responded that the Board would need to research other States minimum qualifications to make sure that they meet Alaska's standards.

The Board recessed at 2:23 p.m.

The Board went back on the record at 2:30 p.m.

- The Board reviewed a letter from Mercy Dennis, LMFT regarding concerns with the proposed regulations. The Board appreciated Ms. Dennis' letter and have taken the concerns under consideration.
- The Board recognized Ashley Berrear, LMFT in Alaska.

Ms. Berrear's statement to the Board:

1. The proposed regulations will lower standards and lesson our field
2. The proposed regulations would detour folks from coming to Alaska to practice, for example:
  - Military families
3. Ms. Berrear encouraged the Board to look for other options

4. Ms. Berrear stated that she is seeing colleagues becoming LPC's instead of MFT's due to the hardship of licensure in Alaska.
5. Ms. Berrear also commented that she is concerned that the proposed regulations would prevent her from being a business owner as she already is.

It was decided by the Board that Members John Downing and Linda King will review the remaining public comments submitted to the Board and report back to the Board during the May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 teleconference.

Board Chair, Leon Webber will reply to all those that contributed to public comments both in person and in written letter.

The Board will meet again to discuss the proposed regulations via teleconference May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015 from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

### **Adjournment**

There being no further business:

**Upon a motion duly made by Ms. Linda King, seconded by Ms. JoAnn Young, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:**

**RESOVLED to adjourn the meeting of the Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted:

Approved: May 27<sup>th</sup> 2015

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Dawn K Hannasch, Records and Licensing Supervisor  
Alaska State Board of Marital & Family Therapy

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Leon Webber, President  
Alaska State Board of Marital &  
Family Therapy

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Date

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Date