

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 THE MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 5TH, 2018

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 on Monday, March 5th, 2018 beginning at 9:30 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference at 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor, Conf. Rm A, in the State Office Building, in Juneau, Alaska.

Agenda Item 1

Call to Order/Roll Call/Ethics Report

The meeting was called to order by Chairperson Dorothea Aguero at 9:35a.m.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Dorothea Aguero, Public Member, Chairperson
Karen Cunningham, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Vice-Chair
Leon Webber, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Nicole Jenkins, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Lisa Hay, Public Member

Division Staff present were:

Chelsea Childress, Licensing Examiner

Ethics Report:

There were no ethics conflicts to report.

Agenda Item 2

Review Agenda

The Board reviewed their meeting agenda. The Board had no revisions or suggestions for the agenda presented.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Cunningham, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept the agenda as presented.

Agenda Item 3

Discussion - SB105/HB353

Gary Zepp, Office of Representative David Wilson joined the meeting at 9:35a.m.

Gary Zepp, Office of Representative David Wilson exited the meeting at 10:29a.m.

After reviewing the agenda, the Board proceeded with discussion for SB105 and HB 353. The Board had received a list of questions regarding the pending legislation from Gary Zepp, Legislative Aide for the Office of Representative David Wilson.

The first question for the Board to address was, *what is the time it takes for an associate to get a license?*

The Board confirmed it is generally around two years, but an associate Marital & Family Therapist has 4 years to complete the requirements for full MFT licensure before the associate license expires.

The second question for the Board to address was, *what is the time it takes to get licensed and qualified to be a supervisor?*

The Board confirmed that, in order to qualify as a supervisor, a Marital & Family Therapist must:

- Have practiced marital & family therapy for five years;
- Be licensed under this chapter (AS 08.63.120); and,
- Meet the minimum standards established by the board for approved supervisors.

The third question for the Board to address was, *it appears that some states allow a licensed Marital & Family Therapist to supervise an associate Marital & Family Therapist, comments, perspective vs, Alaska's psychiatrists?*

The Board confirmed that psychiatrists can only provide group supervision, not individual supervision. The Board explained that there is a vast difference between knowledge and skills offered by MFT's vs. psychiatrists, and that individual MFT supervision should be provided by an individual that has received appropriate MFT training.

The fourth question for the Board to address was, *at what stage does an associate LMFT or an LMFT supervisor need liability insurance? When an application is submitted? Or when an associate receives their license?*

Ms. Goddard-Aguero informed the Board that the Division Director, Janey McCollough, communicated to her that there are unintended consequences with this requirement, namely, the Division of Insurance reported there was no insurance available to cover investigative fees available in Alaska and that even if there was, the State has no way to receive those funds currently, so we will have to use licensing fees to offset investigative costs.

The fifth question for the Board to address was, *telemedicine, is this how a psychiatrists supervises an associate currently?*

The Board determined supervision could occur via an encrypted device. See Position Statement for "Face to Face".

The sixth question for the Board to address was, *SB 105 expands the group of healthcare providers that supervise a LMFT Associate, are concerns about any of the groups listed?*

The Board determined the list of healthcare professionals is allowed for group supervision, but not for individual supervision.

The seventh question for the Board to address was, *it's been suggested to include a Nurse Practitioner, Doctoral Level Psychologist, or a Physician, to supervise, any concerns?*

The Board clarified that the individual supervision must be obtained by an MFT in accordance with Sec. 08.63.120.

The eighth question for the Board to address was, *BOARD AMENDMENT: Under AS 08.63.120 (B)(2) – Does individual supervision occur with out-of-state supervision via telemedicine currently?*

The Board does not currently accept out-of-state supervision (unless the supervisor is approved under this chapter), but they noted their interested in changing this in the interest of supervision of portability. The Board agreed to propose an amendment to capture verbiage around supervision to include, "licensed under this chapter **or other licensing jurisdiction** as a LMFT."

Agenda Item 4

Legislative Point of Contact

The Board discussed the role and assignment for Legislative Point of Contact. Ms. Goddard-Aguero noted she cannot serve as the POC due to the commitment required and lack of advanced-notice, but will do her absolute best. Ms. Jenkins also noted she cannot serve as the POC due to lack of advanced-notice, but would otherwise love to do it. Ms. Jenkins added she really enjoys the legislative process and enjoyed testifying earlier that week, but the last-minute scheduling makes it difficult to commit. Ms. Cunningham noted she has some flexibility in her schedule and that she would be willing to be the POC. Ms. Cunningham asked Ms. Childress for support/guidance on the process. Ms. Childress noted she would forward the CBPL Legislative Guide for Board Members, and welcomed Ms. Cunningham to contact her via phone or email if any questions arise.

Agenda Item 5

CE Correspondence

The Board reviewed a continuing education application for review. Upon review, there were concerns from the Board regarding who is instructing the course, the qualifications for the instructors, and the facilities screening process (if any) for potential instructors. Ms. Cunningham added that she had hesitations in approving this course, adding that the syllabus looks like it is geared more towards personal experience vs. translating how to apply to their license and practice. Ms. Cunningham also voiced concerns about one of the guest speakers being a sexual predator, and potential triggers other attendees may experience by guest speakers sharing personal stories. Ms. Jenkins clarified that it is a workshop about shame - a speaker who is a sexual predator, who is (arguably) sharing his personal story with shame, not glorifying his status as a sexual predator, would be a completely appropriate guest speaker.

Mr. Webber suggested writing a letter in response noting concerns of the facilitators and the screening process. Ms. Jenkins asked if the letter would address Ms. Cunningham's concerns. Ms. Cunningham agreed that the letter should be sent. After further discussion, the Board unanimously agreed that the course should be limited to 15 CEU's.

On a motion duly made by Mr. Webber, seconded by Ms. Jenkins, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to table the continuing education application and have Ms. Childress send out a response letter noting the Board's concerns for the screening process of facilitators and attendees.

Agenda Item 6

Public Comment

Public Comment opened at 11:00a.m.

No public comments.

Public Comment closed at 11:02a.m.

Agenda Item 7

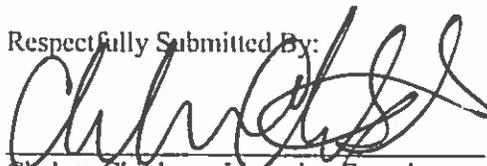
Meeting Adjourned

With no additional board business, the Board moved to adjourn.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Ms. Cunningham and approved unanimously, it was:

RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting at 11:10 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:


Chelsea Childress, Licensing Examiner

Approved By:


Dorothea Goddard-Aguero, Chairperson 10-11-18