

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

Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy
August 3, 2018

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 August 3, 2018 beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held via teleconference originating at 333 Willoughby Ave, 9th Floor, Conf. Rm A, in the State Office Building, Juneau, Alaska.

August 3, 2018

Agenda Item #1 Call to Order

This meeting was called to order by Acting Chair, Karen Cunningham at 9:16 a.m.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Karen Cunningham, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Vice-Chair (Acting Chairperson)
Nicole Jenkins, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Leon Webber, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Natalie Lewis, Public Member

Board Members absent:

Dorothea Goddard-Aguero, Public Member, Chairperson

Division Staff present were:

Chelsea S. Childress, Records and Licensing Supervisor
Kelly L. Mills, Licensing Examiner

With Ms. Goddard-Aguero being absent, Ms. Cunningham resumed role as acting chairperson.

Agenda Item #2 Review Agenda

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

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

RESOLVED to accept the agenda presented.

Agenda Item # 3 Ethics Report

There were no ethics conflict to report.

Agenda Item #5 Review Minutes

The board reviewed the meeting minutes for the meetings held January 19, 2018, March 5, 2018 and June 22, 2018

On a motion duly made by Mr. Webber, seconded by Ms. Cunningham, and approved by unanimous consent it was:

RESOLVED to accept the January 19, 2018, March 5, 2018 and June 22, 2018 minutes as presented.

Ms. Childress stated the final minutes will be mailed to Chairperson Ms. Goddard-Aguero to sign and return. Upon receipt of the signed minutes, Ms. Childress will post them to the State of Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy Examiners webpage.

Agenda Item #6 Application Review

The board reviewed the pending continuing education provider approval requests.

Mr. Webber stated he was able to review the continuing education applications through OnBoard the previous day and wondered if any new applications were added since. Ms. Childress informed Mr. Webber that no new continuing education applications were added to OnBoard in the last 24 hours.

Ms. Lewis questioned if it was normal practice for continuing education applications to be approved after the conference has already taken place. Ms. Childress informed Ms. Lewis that either way is acceptable, it is up to the facility requesting approval. It may be helpful for facilities to receive approval prior to offering the course as that can be a marketing tool for them, but if they request approval after the fact, that is fine.

Ms. Childress informed the board that she would be collecting each member votes by roll call for all five continuing education provider applications and that an official motion will be required upon tallying the votes. Ms. Childress added that only Ms. Cunningham is unable to make a motion as she is acting chair.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Jenkins, seconded by Mr. Webber, all applications were approved by unanimous consent, it was

RESOLVED to accept the continuing education provider approval applications as follows:

- **Child and Adolescence and Family Behavioral Health Conference #16600**
- **AK Parenting with Love and Limits Booster #16748**
- **Attachment Focused Trauma Treatment Complex Trauma #16750**
- **STAIR - Skills Training for Affective and Interpersonal Regulation #16514**
- **Havening Techniques Training Workshop #16596**

Agenda Item #7 New Business

Position Statements:

The board reviewed a position statement regarding if an individual previously licensed as a Marital and Family Therapy Associate may reapply for a Marital and Family Therapy Associate license in order to complete the requirements for a Marital and Family Therapist license under AS 08.63.100

Ms. Childress explained that in accordance with 08.63.110(f), a MFT Associate license may not be renewed and is revoked upon failing the examination two times.

The board further determined that based on current statues and regulations, an individual would be allowed to submit a new application for supervised practice as an MFT associate should they have a revoked license in accordance with 08.63.110(f)

Mr. Webber expressed his appreciation to Ms. Childress for her thoughtfulness in drafting this position statement.

AAMFT Liability Insurance:

Ms. Childress informed the board that Ms. Cunningham had submitted a question on marital and family therapy regarding the liability insurance. It is included on the agenda so they could see what was submitted to them. Has the board heard anything back for the MFT?

Ms. Cunningham stated she did. She had Lois Paff Bergen, a graduate student look into this and reach out to all the states to see if they had any mandatory liability insurance and nobody had.

AMTRB State Delegate Voting:

Ms. Childress noted the AMFTRB sent an email with notification for open voting of new board member director positions.

Ms. Cunningham stated voting ended two weeks ago.

Thank You Letter - JoAnn Young:

Ms. Childress shared the thank you letter to Joann Young for her service to the board drafted by Ms. Goddard-Aguero.

The board had no revisions to the thank you letter presented.

On a motion duly made by Ms. Jenkin, and seconded by Ms. Lewis, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to approve the thank you letter to JoAnn Young as presented.

Task: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will send the thank you letter to JoAnn Young.

Agenda Item #10 Old Business

SB105 Regulation Discussion:

Ms. Childress noted that the meeting is ahead of schedule. The regulation specialist is scheduled to join the meeting at 1:45 p.m. after the public comment period.

The board continued with old business.

Historic Meeting Minutes:

The board reviewed historic meeting minutes for the following meetings:

- July 20, 2016
- November 18, 2016
- January 27, 2017
- February 24, 2017
- June 7, 2017

Mr. Webber stated the meeting minutes were reviewed and that all were approved during previously held meetings. Ms. Childress stated that, as acting chair at the time, Mr. Webber's signature would be required on them.

Task: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will verify the meeting minutes were previously approved. If approved, Ms. Mills will forward the signature pages to Mr. Webber

Agenda Item #11 Administrative Business

Report of Contact:

Mr. Webber, reported he had spoken with a colleague who spoke to him as a colleague and not as a board member. It was a discussion about the proposed increases in fees.

Ms. Childress advised the board that the proposed fees have been put out for public comment, therefore they cannot be on the agenda for discussion. It was public noticed to allow written public comments until August 27, 2018 at 5pm. After the public comment period closes, the division director will consider the board's comments and any written comments that were received. No oral testimony may be received as the public notice did not include language allowing for oral testimony.

Correspondence:

The board reviewed an inquiry regarding the proper steps for terminating a LMFT Supervisor and LMFT-A Supervisee relationship.

Ms. Childress explained that the supervisor had reached out to the supervisee on multiple occasions with no success in establishing contact. The supervisor had inquired to the board to determine how to terminate the agreement

The board determined a letter shall be drafted as an official notice from the state, with an official termination date, to both the supervisor and supervisee, since there is no statute or regulation to determine how to terminate a supervision agreement.

Mr. Webber stated he would recommend the supervisory agreement be terminated on the date the supervisor initially contacted the board. The associate should be notified that the supervisory agreement has been terminated and that no no supervisory clinical hours have accumulated since the date of termination. Mr. Webber added if they wish to continue as an associate and for any type of clinical practice, it will need to be under a new agreement and with a new board-approved supervisor.

Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Jenkins noted agreement with Mr. Webber's proposal.

Task: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will draft the letters to the LMFT Supervisor and LMFT-A Supervisee.

The board reviewed an inquiry regarding obtaining clinical supervision from a board approved supervisor by video communication.

The board agreed that skype-video is accepted so long as the supervisor and supervisee engage in a physical face to face consultation once per month, and there is real time video being utilized.

The board reviewed an inquiry from Susan Porter, regarding the ability for an unlicensed individual with a master's degree in marital and family therapy to open a private practice as a marital and family therapist.

Ms. Jenkins noted that they could open a private practice and say they provide marital and family therapy, but they can't represent, imply or indicate that they are a licensed marital and family therapist.

Task: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will compose a letter in response to Dr. Porter.

Travel:

The board discussed the travel for the AMFTRB and CLEAR Annual Conferences.

Mr. Webber stated he notice an important letter from Ms. Jenkins who was going to go the AMFTRB meeting.

Ms. Jenkins stated she had agreed to be the person who was going to the CLEAR AMFRTB meeting, however, due to unexpected circumstances she is unable to attend. Ms. Jenkins noted her disappointment in being unable to attend the conferences this year.

Mr. Webber noted he thought it would be beneficial to send somebody that has been there before for leadership issues and continuity. Mr. Webber added that the conferences are usually for licensed clinicians, and proposed Ms. Cunningham should attend if she is able.

Ms. Jenkins stated the board has always alternated with multiple people having the opportunity to attend, and that she would be looking forward to going next year.

Ms. Cunningham asked when the dates were. Ms. Jenkins stated the Annual CLEAR Conference is in Philadelphia, PA beginning September 26, 2018 and concluding September 29, 2018.

Ms. Childress noted the AMFTRB Annual Conference is September 25, 2018.

Ms. Cunningham stated she could tentatively say yes.

TASK: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will submit a travel request to gain approval for Ms. Cunningham to attend the AMFTRB and CLEAR Annual Conferences.

Future Meeting Dates:

With only having a tentative meeting schedule through 2018, the board discussed setting up meeting dates for 2019. In general there are four board meetings per year, one board meeting per quarter.

Ms. Childress advised the board that, if they intend to lobby for legislation, it would be best to have a board meeting in January, at the beginning of legislative session.

Mr. Webber announced that he would volunteer to be on a subcommittee to work on examining the issue of supervision. With the issue not being resolved, the goal of the subcommittee would be to draft a condensed paragraph summary and present it as a recommendation for the next meeting.

Ms. Childress asked who would like to assist Mr. Webber on the subcommittee.

Ms. Cunningham volunteered to work with Mr. Webber.

Ms. Childress explained that a subcommittee meeting must be public noticed. The licensing examiner needs the tentative meeting schedule at least ten business days in advance to allow the appropriate steps for a public notice. There must be a date, time, location, and call-in number provided for the public notice. In addition, the subcommittee

The board discussed setting a meeting date for January, 2019.

Mr. Webber inquired if the board would meet in Juneau or as a teleconference. Ms. Childress reminded the board that, during the meeting held June 22nd, Ms. Goddard-Aguero proposed only holding teleconference meetings in an effort to reduce expenses incurred by the board. Ms. Childress added that the board was in unanimous agreement for only holding teleconference meetings moving forward.

Ms. Childress informed the board that, during legislative session, it is difficult to have division staff present for the division updates or investigative reports. Ms. Childress added that the board has the final determination, but it is recommended to have the board meetings on a Tuesday or Wednesday.

Ms. Jenkins stated she would prefer Tuesday. Mr. Webber, Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Lewis agreed. Ms. Childress noted all were in agreement and inquired if the board would prefer the meeting date for January 22nd or January 29th. Ms. Jenkins requested January 22nd. The board unanimously agreed to January 22nd.

The board discussed meeting dates for the remainder of 2019.

Ms. Childress asked if the time 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. was still acceptable. The board unanimously agreed.

Ms. Childress informed the board that she would be collecting each member votes by roll call (**Leon Webber, yes; Nicole Jenkins, yes; Natalie Lewis, yes; Karen Cunningham, yes**).

The board unanimously agreed to the future meeting dates for FY 2019 as follows:

- Tuesday, January 22nd, 2019
- Tuesday, May 7th, 2019
- Tuesday, August 6th, 2019
- Tuesday, November 12th, 2019

TASK: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will confirm Ms. Goddard-Aguero's availability during the proposed meeting dates.

Travel:

Mr. Webber expressed his frustration with the travel process. Mr. Webber noted his difficulties in receiving approval when requesting travel to both the 2016 AMFTRB and CLEAR Annual Conferences.

Ms. Childress agreed that third party reimbursement can be confusing. Ms. Childress noted the board must approve to send someone to a conference during a board meeting or have the expected travel listed in the annual report to provide the licensing examiner the authority to submit a travel request. Even when the expenses are third party reimbursed, the board must receive travel approval from the division prior to the association booking any reservations.

Ms. Childress further explained that associations may have varying reimbursement policies. The State of Alaska's travel policy indicates the traveler must send the receipts to the licensing examiner within five business days of completing travel. The licensing examiner must submit the receipts to the association for reimbursement, copying the state travel desk. The association must reimburse the State of Alaska, and the State of Alaska must reimburse the traveler. Direct reimbursement between the association and the traveler is not permitted.

Ms. Childress added that, with most travel to and from Alaska requiring multiple flights, if red-eye travel is required to attend a conference, the associations usually authorize the traveler to depart the day before the conference and return the day after.

Mr. Webber stated that he wants the board be very clear that we are approving Ms. Cunningham to attend the AMFTRB and CLEAR Annual Conferences, which run during the same week and at same hotel.

Ms. Childress informed the board that she would be collecting each member votes by roll call (**Leon Webber, yes; Nicole Jenkins, yes; Natalie Lewis, yes; Karen Cunningham, yes**).

A motion duly made by Mr. Webber, seconded Ms. Jenkins, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to accept to send Ms. Cunningham to both AMFTRB and CLEAR Annual Conferences in Philadelphia, PA from September 25-29, 2018.

TASK: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will send the Updated Traveler Info form to Ms. Cunningham.

TASK: Ms. Cunningham will send in the Updated Traveler Info form to Kelly Mills with the preferred dates and flight numbers.

Mr. Webber noted the meeting is ahead of schedule, and moved that the board break for lunch early.

A motion duly made by Mr. Webber, seconded Ms. Jenkins, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to break for lunch.

Break for Lunch at 10:40 a.m.

Back from Lunch at 1:00 p.m.

Upon return from lunch, Ms. Childress took attendance by roll call (**Leon Webber, here; Nicole Jenkins, here; Natalie Lewis, here; Karen Cunningham, here**).

Agenda Item #10 Old Business

The board reviewed the proposed regulations in relation to SB105. The board drafted regulation language that was sent over to the department of law for review during the meeting held June 22, 2018.

Ms. Childress reiterated if the board deliberates and agrees upon the final draft, a motion for the Regulations Specialist, Jun Maiquis to submit the draft for public comment is required. The draft is as follows:

Chapter 18. Board of Social Work Examiners.

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted. Complete new sections are not in boldface or underlined.)

12 AAC 19.210 is amended to read:

12 AAC 19.210. APPROVED SUPERVISORS. (a) The board will approve a person to be an approved supervisor **for individual supervision** under this chapter if the applicant submits

- (1) a complete, notarized application on a form provided by the department;
- (2) verification of a current license under AS 08.63.100 to practice marital and family therapy;
- (3) documentation of having practiced as a licensed marital and family therapist for five continuous years; and
- (4) documentation of having completed at least six contact hours of education related to the practice of supervising a marital and family therapist within the last two years.

(b) The board will approve a person to be an approved supervisor for individual supervision under this chapter if the applicant submits

(1) a complete, notarized application on a form provided by the department;

(2) holds a license as described under 08.63.120(2)(A)-(F).

(3) documentation of having practiced as a licensed marital and family therapist for five continuous years; and

(4) documentation of having completed at least six contact hours of education related to the practice of supervising a marital and family therapist within the last two years.

(c) [(B)] To maintain approval under AS 08.63.120 and this section, a supervisor shall document at the time of license renewal that during the concluding license period the supervisor completed at least two contact hours of continuing education related to the practice of supervising a marital and family therapist. A supervisor may also include those two contact hours of continuing education in the total continuing education contact hours required for license renewal in 12 AAC 19.310.

(d)[(C)] If a person does not maintain approval as an approved supervisor under AS 08.63.120 and this section because of noncompliance with the continuing education requirements of **(c) [(B)]** of this section, the person may apply to the board for reinstatement of the approval. The board will reinstate the approval if the applicant

(1) submits

(A) a complete, notarized application on a form provided by the department; and

(B) documentation of compliance with the continuing education requirements of **(c) [(B)]** of this section; and

(2) complies with the requirements of AS 08.63.120 and (a)(2) and (3) **or (b)(2) and (3)** of this section

Authority: AS 08.63.050 AS 08.63.100 AS 08.63.120

Mr. Webber clarified that this discussion was regarding allowing group supervision, not individual supervision. Ms. Jenkins responded that was her understanding.

Ms. Jenkins pointed out her confusion with 12 AAC 19.210(a) and (b), as both read ‘The board will approve a person to be an approved supervisor for individual supervision under this chapter if the applicant submits’. Ms. Jenkins reiterated it was her understanding that (a) is for individual supervision and (b) is for group supervision.

The board unanimously agreed to change (b) to read ‘The board will approve a person to be an approved supervisor for group supervision under this chapter if the applicant submits’

Ms. Cunningham questioned the professional regulations under 12 AAC 19.210(b). Ms. Cunningham noted, under (b)(3), it states the board will approve the person to be an approved supervisor for group supervision if the applicant submits documentation of having practice as a licensed marital and family therapist for five continuous years, but that is contradicting for group supervision due to (b)(2) authorizing the various providers outlined under 08.63.120(2)(A)-(F) to apply as a board-approved supervisor.

Ms. Childress agreed, and asked the board for suggestions to modify this language. Ms. Childress suggested 12 AAC 19.210(b)(3) read similar to, 'documentation of having practiced as a license professional as listed under AS 08.63.120(2)(A)-(F) for five continuous years'.

The board agreed upon the suggested language for 12 AAC 19.210(b)(3).

A motion duly made Ms. Jenkins, seconded Mr. Webber, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to accept the revisions to the proposed regulation for 12 AAC 19.210 as follows:

Chapter 18. Board of Social Work Examiners.

(Words in **boldface and underlined** indicate language being added; words [CAPITALIZED AND BRACKETED] indicate language being deleted. Complete new sections are not in boldface or underlined.)

12 AAC 19.210 is amended to read:

12 AAC 19.210. APPROVED SUPERVISORS. (a) The board will approve a person to be an approved supervisor **for individual supervision** under this chapter if the applicant submits

- (1) a complete, notarized application on a form provided by the department;
- (2) verification of a current license under AS 08.63.100 to practice marital and family therapy;
- (3) documentation of having practiced as a licensed marital and family therapist for five continuous years; and
- (4) documentation of having completed at least six contact hours of education related to the practice of supervising a marital and family therapist within the last two years.

(b) The board will approve a person to be an approved supervisor for group supervision under this chapter if the applicant submits

- (1) a complete, notarized application on a form provided by the department;**
- (2) holds a license as described under AS 08.63.120(b)(2)(A) – (F);**
- (3) documentation of having practiced as a licensed professional as listed under AS 08.63.120(b)(2)(A) – (F) for five continuous years; and**
- (4) documentation of having completed at least six contact hours of education related to the practice of supervising a marital and family therapist within the last two years.**

(c) [(B)] To maintain approval under AS 08.63.120 and this section, a supervisor shall document at the time of license renewal that during the concluding license period the supervisor completed at least two contact hours of continuing education related to the practice of supervising a marital and family therapist. A supervisor may also include those two contact hours of continuing education in the total continuing education contact hours required for license renewal in 12 AAC 19.310.

(d) [(C)] If a person does not maintain approval as an approved supervisor under AS 08.63.120 and this section because of noncompliance with the continuing education requirements of **(c)** [(B)] of this section, the person may apply to the board for reinstatement of the approval. The board will reinstate the approval if the applicant

- (1) submits

(A) a complete, notarized application on a form provided by the department; and

(B) documentation of compliance with the continuing education requirements of (c) [(B)] of this section; and

(2) complies with the requirements of AS 08.63.120 and (a)(2) and (3) or (b)(2) and (3) of this section

Authority: AS 08.63.050 AS 08.63.100 AS 08.63.120

Ms. Jenkins noted that she is excited about the subcommittee to look at getting out of state applicant supervision to count. Aside from her own experience and difficulties with transferring out of state clinical supervision hours, there was an applicant here recently who is an MFTA from out of state and, because her hours were from out of state supervision, they were not accepted. After realizing she would have to start her hours over the applicant decided to become an LPC in the state of Alaska instead of an LMFT. Alaska is missing many opportunities to get licensed marital family therapists due to the restrictions and barriers for licensure. Ms. Jenkins added that it is exciting to see what is being done to advocate for marital and family therapists and what can be accomplished in the upcoming year to change this.

Mr. Webber stated over the years probably too frequently we have experienced change of licensing examiners. We have really had a good public service licensing examiners and Ms. Childress is another example of this. He is sorry that the board is losing her. Mr. Webber added that all the licensing examiners seem to study what the MFT statutes and regulations are so they are appropriately informed, and that has always been appreciated.

Ms. Childress acknowledged his appreciation and noted it has been great working with the board thus far. Ms. Childress added that the opportunity to learn is what she has appreciated about being a licensing examiner the most, and that she is eager for the opportunity to continue learning as a Records and Licensing Supervisor.

Agenda Item #9 Public Comment

Public comment opened at 1:30 p.m.

Mercy Dennis joined the group for public comment at 1:30 p.m.

Elizabeth Merrill-Bauer joined the group for public comment at 1:31 p.m.

David Banks joined the group for public comment at 1:32 p.m.

Linda King from Birchwood Behavioral Health joined the group for public comment at 1:32 p.m.

Ms. Childress read the guidelines as follows:

The public comment period is now open. The time allotted for public comment will be divided to all individuals signed in to give comment. The group will be told how much time each individual has to speak. The licensing examiner will track the time and notify the individual when they have one minute left.

Please be reminded, this is not the time for the board to respond to the comments. The board can choose to respond at the end of the comment period, send a letter in response to the individual or they can choose to not respond.

Oral testimony on any open regulations project, including the one regarding the proposed licensing fees, will not be accepted. Any comment submitted in writing will be submitted to the regulations specialist, and that email is available for anybody that needs it.

Ms. Childress continued four people have joined the meeting for public comment. The public comment period was allotted 15 minutes; subsequently, everyone will have 3.5 minutes.

Mercy Dennis was the first public comment.

Ms. Dennis stated she was going to start off saying that 3.5 minutes is extremely unreasonable to people that hold a license. She continues to read off her first item to thank the board members for volunteering for their support and guidance for the profession. Ms. Dennis reiterated that she really want to thank Dr. Webber for his work with the AMFTRB and developing the teletherapy guidelines. She noted she has three items but would not get to number three because there would not be enough time.

For her second item, in reading the annual report from FY2017, it states the goals and objectives.

Part I #7. The board 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. The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing has continued to work with the board to clarify budget needs including building expenses and hopefully reducing fees while maintaining balance budget.

Ms. Dennis clarified, this a rhetorical question since you said they were not going to answer questions, but my question to the board is what are you doing to meet that goal? Ms. Dennis noted she had a suggestion, that the board explore combining the LMFT Board and the LPC boards. She continued that an LMFT task force be appointed to discuss and propose an invitation to the LPC's to join us in a discussion of combining the two boards. The task force would ask the LPC Board to do the same in order to form a joint LMFT and LPC task force. The task force may include a sub-committee of LMFTs to include one State Board Member (if that is appropriate) and three other interested LMFTs. The LPC sub-committee would also include a State Board Member (if appropriate) and three other interested LPCs. I do not know if this is a board task or if it is something that people out here in the field should create. But if it's a board task and the board can create the task force then the committee could report regularly to the LMFT and LPC board as it needs. She added she has a variety of other thoughts about looking at the minutes and the way expenditures have been and she proceeded to go through them quickly.

Ms. Dennis continued that she is aware that a lot of expenditures go forth for staff to communicate for the board and she has had really poor luck with that. Between April and July 30th she requested seven times by voice mail or email a copy of a supervisee's supervision plan. At one point she was told they would have to go the archives and she did not hear again. About three days ago she did get a nice response from Ms. Mills stating my licensee/supervisor supervision plan were basically nowhere to be found. Ms. Dennis added that she is questioning the value of the support from the state for our dollar for doing some of these things.

Ms. Childress acknowledged Ms. Dennis and thanked her for her time and public comment.

Elizabeth Merrill-Bauer was the second public comment.

Ms. Merrill-Bauer stated, first of all, she wanted to thank the board for their time. She stated she is a post grad working toward licensure. Coming out of school, you have at least a year of internship and you've got student loan debt and have been unpaid for at least a year.

Ms. Childress inquired if Ms. Merrill-Bauer was going into the licensure fees. Ms. Merrill Bauer responded she was not.

Ms. Merrill-Bauer continued that she was calling about the post grad requirements and all that is going on, and the difficulty for us as an MFTA to actually receive and get fully licensed in Alaska verses other states. Ms. Merrill-Bauer noted she has done quite a bit of research and, overall, Alaska is the hardest and the highest in cost. Ms. Merrill-Bauer noted she is aware she is not to speak about the fee increase, but she wanted to join in Ms. Dennis's request that we look at a combined board. Looking at the number of active members in other states and comparing it to Alaska's, Alaska is low

in numbers. Ms. Merrill-Bauer added that most of the states she has looked at in the last two days since she had received the letter, that are also low in numbers, are on a combined board. She agreed that it would behoove the board to look at combining. Ms. Merrill-Bauer added that she is looking at getting a dual license. Currently it would be much better for her to become an LPC as it would be faster and much less expensive. She noted that is something the board should think about as well.

Ms. Childress acknowledged Ms. Merrill-Bauer and thanked her for her time and public comment.

David Banks was the third public comment.

Mr. Banks started by stating, obviously we are not talking about the rate increase but he hoped we could help to understand where he can provide a comment so that message can get through to the board. Mr. Banks stated he is currently an LPC and had just turned his application for MFT. His real passion is working with couples and families, and he really wants to have the MFT license as it helps him both from an insurance and military standpoint. He wants to reinforce his support for previous public comments about the combination of the board. Mr. Banks stated he sees a combined board as a much more practical thing than from the way we are doing things now. That is the comment he would make about the combination but at some point would like to express his opinion concerning the increase. Mr. Banks asked if he could be informed on where to do that.

Ms. Childress stated she will provide the appropriate contact information at the end of the public comment period, and asked if there was anything else he would like to add before his time to comment is over.

Mr. Banks continued by thanking the board and his appreciation for them and what they do, and acknowledged the board is working very hard to help us to work better out there.

Linda King was the fourth public comment.

Ms. King started by stating she wanted to thank the board. She has served on the board and knows it is hard. She knows how much input you have and don't have as far as the other things go. Ms. King stated she had two things to say. One thing is she did get contacted when we were investigating the Sunset Bill. She could not find anywhere the result the committee was coming back on the Sunset Bill. She assumed it was applying for license. She stated that a lot of the time was spent talking to people about that. That was the issue of what the practicality of a combine board to maintain marriage and family therapist. She is also concerned how much time it took in Dutch Harbor for someone to get her MFT license, she did finally get it but it was six months trying to figure out the process to get her testing. She didn't know what happened with her and the application fees. She had contacted the board several times and so there are some things in that practice that were very confusing. She's not sure how to eliminate that. Ms. King asked, how do people apply for a license and is there a way to simplify it for them when they are applying to take their test? She is concerned that if our fees, and she is aware that we are not talking about fees, but if employers are going to look at hiring MFT's and LPC's and if they are going to consider paying for those fees, will that limit our ability for employment? Ms. King added that she would support Ms. Dennis' idea of coming up with a task force to look at how we can improve and maintain and especially keeping people with a dual license. Ms. King stated she can think of ten people she knows that are currently dually licensed or are going to become dually licensed. So how can we continue to support the MFT effort and all the effort people that go through to become an MFT what we consider to higher standard and more work than LPC?

Ms. Childress acknowledged Ms. King and thanked her for her time and public comment.

Ms. King inquired if there is a way to find the outcome of the Sunset Bill. Ms. Childress replied that the sunset results are public and are available online.

Ms. King stated she had looked but could not find it. Ms. Childress replied that she will find her email in our system and send you the link where the Sunset Report is online and where it can be found.

Task: Licensing Examiner, Kelly Mills will send Ms. King the link to access the 2018 Sunset Audit Report.

Ms. Childress closed the public commenting period at 1:45 p.m. Ms. Childress thanked the individuals present for public comment, and provided the email for contacting our regulations specialist: regulationsandpubliccomment@alaska.gov

Ms. Dennis inquired whether the board meetings are under the open meeting law and if anybody may attend. Ms. Childress responded yes, board meetings are subject to the Open Meetings Act.

Ms. Dennis continued, asking how one would do that when a meeting is telephonic.

Ms. Childress informed Ms. Dennis that the list of tentative meeting dates are on the MFT website. On the right hand side there is a link called Meeting Notices. When you click on that you will find the day of the meeting, the time of the meeting and the location or if it's a teleconference, and the GCI call in information.

Agenda Item #10 Old Business

Jun Maiquis, Regulation Specialist joined the meeting at 1:45 p.m.

Ms. Childress informed Mr. Maiquis of the motions for the revised proposed regulations, approved earlier during the meeting.

Mr. Maiquis stated he would complete the proposed revisions, and asked when the next board meeting is scheduled for. Ms. Childress responded that the next meeting is tentatively scheduled for November 9th.

Mr. Maiquis inquired if the board wanted to allow oral testimony. Thirty days are the minimum requirements for written comments. Does the board want to allow oral comments or just written comments when it is time for the next meeting?

Mr. Maiquis stated oral comments are an option. If a proposal is somewhat controversial and the board thinks it will be a high interest in your industry, he would recommend to allow for oral testimony. The minimum legal requirement is written comments. Oral testimony must be advertised according to the Public Notice Act otherwise the public cannot come in for your next scheduled meeting and make a comment in regard to the regulations. This is something the board would need to talk about if they wanted to allow that. He also inquired if this would be mailed out to all current licensees. Minimum legal requirement is to notify all interested parties. This affects the current licensees so they need to be informed. Licensees will need to consider the additional cost for licensure under the proposed regulations.

Mr. Webber asked if there is an announcement sent out to licensees when something like this is up for discussion or is the posted note the only thing they get.

Mr. Maiquis stated if the proposal affects the current licensees it should go out all licensees. For example, if we are going to do a continuing education regulations obviously we needed to inform the licensees that your continuing education is going to be changing.

Mr. Webber made motion to have written comments and to send notice of the proposed changes to all current licensees and associates. This means that we will not have public comment but it also means that it will be enacted three months earlier and it means that we are doing this in the good faith of our profession and were inviting comments to be written.

A motion duly made by Mr. Webber, seconded Ms. Jenkins, and approved by unanimous consent, it was:

RESOLVED to have written comments and we send a notice of this to all current licensees and associates.

Jun Maiquis, Regulation Specialist exited the meeting at 2:12 p.m.

Agenda item #9 Meeting Adjourned

With no further business to discuss, a motion was made to adjourn the meeting.


On a motion duly made by Nicole Jenkins, seconded by Natalie Lewis, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to adjourn the Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy.

Adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted By:

Respectfully Submitted By:



Renee Carabajal, Program Coordinator 2 for -
Lauren Osborn
Occupational License Examiner
State of Alaska, DCCED, CBPL

04/28/2023

Date

Approved by Division per Board vote 04/27/2023 - No Standing Board members were active at this meeting.

Dorothea Goddard-Aguero
Board Chairperson
Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy

Date