

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  
January 31, 2022  
Quarterly Meeting

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

By Authority of AS 08.01.070(2) and AS 08.63.030, and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6 a regularly scheduled meeting of the Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy was held on January 31, 2022, via Zoom.

January 31, 2022

Agenda item #1 Call to order/ Roll Call

This meeting was called to order by Lacy Derr at 9:02 a.m.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Richard Clampitt, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
Joy Collins, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
Tristian Monterastelli, Public Member  
Kayla Green, Public Member

Division Staff present were:

Lacey Derr, Records & Licensing Supervisor  
Josh Hardy, Investigator  
Melissa Dumas, Admin. Operations Manager

Agenda Items #2 & #3 Review Agenda/Ethics Reporting

A motion duly made by Ms. Green, Seconded by Ms. Monterastelli, and *approved unanimously, it was:*

*Resolved to elect Mr. Clampitt Chair for the day.*

A motion duly made by Ms. Collins, Seconded by Ms. Monterastelli, and *approved unanimously, it was:*

*Resolved to approve the agenda as presented.*

No ethics items to report.

Agenda item #4 Military Licensing

Records and Licensing Supervisor Lacey Derr presented the board with the draft language the division had developed with guidance from the board of nursing. The regulation proposed would assist an active-duty military spouse and/or active-duty military personnel stationed in this state with a temporary license. At the same time, they fulfill the requirements of full licensure. This gives priority assistance to our military community and gets them to work while transitioning to Alaska. RLS Derr explained the specific references to the statutes and regulations for basic educational requirements, rights of the board to deny, and centralized licensing fees associated with the proposed temporary license. The commission agreed that this was a good draft and should move forward for public comment.

Ms. Collins believes leaving the fee at \$100 will be helpful; Mr. Clampitt agreed.

**A motion duly made by Ms. Green, seconded by Ms. Collins, and approved unanimously; it was:**

**It was resolved to approve the military licensing fee to match the centralized price of \$100 as presented for public comment.**

**A motion duly made by Ms. Monterastelli, seconded by Ms. Green, and approved unanimously; was:**

**It was resolved to approve the draft language for military licensing as presented for public comment.**

## **Agenda Item #5                      Administrative Business**

**Combine Board Discussion-** License professional Counseling board conversation and the possibility of combining MFT with counseling to alleviate fees and investigative costs.

- Not a lot of MFTs; combining boards might be a possibility
- Struggles: Due to regulations and training, investigations might be very busy. Lacy noted that someone in the same profession should only review all investigations. Should MFTs review MFT issues only?
- Ms. Collins mentioned having combined investigation funds, but boards will still act separately. Ms. Derr followed up by saying that it is a possibility and might be looked at. Ms. Collins added that conversing with the other boards might be a good idea. The current issue when working on this type of work is that Examiners are understaffed at this time; therefore, it might be a little challenging to pursue this effort at the time; the division must also consider the differences between each profession since there have been licensees and board members who disagree with combining both boards.
- Ms. Monterastelli asked if MFT is combined with counseling; if the integration of both is not a good fit, will there be a chance we can return to being a stand-alone board of MFT? Ms. Derr responded that it is not likely since the process is long and requires legislation.
- Ms. Clampitt would like more information regarding why the LPCs don't want to combine MFT with Counseling.
  - Ms. Derr will check the counseling minutes to bring more information to the MFT board. Another reason Ms. Derr added is that the education and hours may differ from MFT and mentioned that Florida has a super board.
  - Mr. Clampitt wants more information about this topic to understand the pro and cons, information about the super board in Florida, and how they currently work so the board can make an educated decision regarding this change. Ms. Collins added that combining the funds before combining boards is a potential solution.

- Mr. Derr's tasks and follow-ups: Pull meeting minutes discussion for board discussion, feedback from the board chair who is leading this part, reach out to the Florida board to provide more information, and contact Director Chambers for information on investigative costs.
- Ms. Green added that the professional liability would be super helpful.
- Ms. Collins - Inbound calls from applicants to the boards- The applicants find the board's information numbers on the website with follow-up questions. How do they proceed with those?
  - How are applications being proceeds? How can the board assist applicants? Options: letter on the website regarding the process time frame. Ms. Derr replied that the Division is currently understaffed, but things are improving. There is a customer contact form on the website for applicants to ask questions; turnaround has been close to 12 weeks before staff can follow up.
  - Can applicants pay a part of the feeds? Lacy replay- application fees are due immediately to mediate for the examiners to start the process. Professional fees can be paid before the license is processed. Board approvals and reviews are always critical and helpful.
  - Mr. Clampitt - is there a way the board can assist the examiners when answering questions? Ms. Derr replied that simple questions regarding regulations and fees are ok to be answered by the board. Still, the board should typically refrain from answering questions because they review applicants' applications and requests.

### Agenda item #6 Investigations Report

Senior Investigator Josh Hardy joined the meeting and provided a summary of the report of the investigation in the packet:

- one open case
- two closed cases

Mr. Clampitt asked if the Board should take the conversation off the record for discussion. Mr. Hardy indicated there was nothing requiring action at this time. The MFT board is doing well since there are open investigations cases like continued education and custody cases.

### Agenda Item #5 Administrative Business

Board Members updates - Explain reappointments for the March 1, 2022, term expirations.

Mr. Clampitt asked if everyone was on a 4-year cycle. Ms. Derr replied, yes.

Ms. Monterastelli - March 1, 2022, she intends to request a re-appointment.

Ms. Derr noted that Mr. Clampitt and Ms. Collins are both on the board until 2025.

Mr. Clampitt stated that he would like to understand the regulation change process. The Board can make regulation changes with assistance Board can make a regulation change statute changes require legislation.

**A motion duly made by Ms. Monterastelli, seconded by Ms. Green, and approved unanimously; was:**

**Resolved to enter executive session by Alaska Statute 44.62.310(c), and the Alaska Constitutional Right to Privacy Provisions to discuss applications.**

Back on the record at 10:20 a.m.- the tabled application of Joshua Miller, Ms. Derr will reach out to the applicant regarding what CE is required to move forward with the renewal.

Ms. Collins will have an excused absence for the rest of the afternoon.

Agenda item #7                      Public Comments

There are no public comments, and no one was registered for this meeting.

Agenda item #8                      Division Update

Admin Operations Manager Melissa Dumas joined the meeting and presented the most recent revenue/expenditure report. Renewal revenue can be compared by years. This has been the first year ever that the board has received general fund dollars to help offset and avoid an increase in fees. \$106,101 total recent revenue in the program, plus the general fund amount of \$20,151, for a current total of \$145,757.

Mr. Clampitt asked how the indirect costs are calculated. Ms. Dumas noted three different types of indirect: division, department, and statewide. Each program is assigned a percentage of those costs.

Mr. Clampitt asked about the cost in FY16 for the examiner. Ms. Dumas noted that Ms. Derr works more than in this program, so the Board had a different focus than when there is a dedicated examiner.

Mr. Clampitt asked about how the fees go up or down. Ms. Dumas indicated there is no way to know when there will be an increase in licensees. Ms. Derr stated that the costs were up because of the Military and regular applications.

Ms. Monterastelli asked about the cost of investigations. Ms. Dumas indicated that investigative cases differ from actual costs assigned to the program. Is there a ballpark for this cost?

Agenda item #8                      Adjourn

*A motion duly made by Ms. Green, and approved by unanimous consent, was:*

*Resolved to adjourn the meeting at 11:42 am.*

Date final minutes approved by the board: <input type="checkbox"/> Board Meeting <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Onboard	02/26/2025
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