

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
DECEMBER 9, 2011

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 December 9, 2011, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the 550 W. 7th Ave/Suite 1270, Anchorage, Alaska.

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Chair Patricia White at 9:15 am.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Patricia White, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Kennith McCarty, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Leon Webber, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist
Father John Downing, Public Member
JoAnn Young, Public Member

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

Don Habeger, Director
Gary Keiser, Investigator
Misty Frawley, Administrative Officer (by telephone)
Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

1. Review Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda. There were two items that were switched in their time slots.

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

RESOLVED to accept the agenda as amended.

2. Review Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the July 15, 2011, meeting.

On a motion duly made Leon Webber, seconded by JoAnn Young, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to accept July 15, 2011 meeting minutes.

3. Board Report

The Licensing Examiner gave the following report to keep the Board:

number of MFT licensees:	88
number of MFT associates:	7
number of MFT supervisors:	15

A new Licensing Examiner, K.C. Odell, will begin working for the MFT Board as of 1/1/2012.

4. Investigator's Report

The Board's Investigator, Gary Keiser, presented the report. Since the last meeting, there have been no new complaints opened. There is one on-going open complaint review regarding violation of professional ethics.

Board Member Leon Webber enquired if there was a way to for the Board to monitor costs of on-going investigations. He wanted to know if the costs could be included in the Board reports.

Director Don Habeger was present and discussed this with the Board and the Investigator. He has no problem including the hours that it is taking for a case on Board reports, as long as it is not exparte communications. He stated that it is good to get the information to the Boards as soon as possible, but because the Board also plays the part of judge and jury, it will have to be determined what information can be brought to them at what stage. It cannot prejudice the Board.

5. AKMFT Liaison report

Ken McCarty is the Board liaison with AKMFT, the state wide organization. He and Board Member Webber reported on the conference that was hosted by AKMFT. It was concerning challenges on the use of cyber technology.

Interstate use of the cyber technology is not encouraged unless an MFT is also licensed in the state where the patient is.

When using the technology for supervision of licensure hours, until there is greater clarity, the Board is encouraged to use the supervisors' knowledge in using cyber technology.

Director Habeger

Division Director Don Habeger attended part of the meeting and addressed the Board. Director Habeger reported to the Board that the Division is trying to get better and more accurate information on costs and is trying to get information to all boards that is good and accurate.

There was discussion in reference to when a Board could get involved in an investigation without compromising fair process.

Board members enquired if the state can charge the person being investigated for the costs, if he has insurance. At this time, that is unknown. The Director informed the Board that they are looking at different ways to pay, such as fines going to boards, not the general fund. It is felt that all should not have to pay for those who are doing something wrong.

6. Application/Audit Review

The Board reviewed thirteen applications.

On a motion duly made Leon Webber, seconded by JoAnn Young, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to approve the following list of applications with the stipulation that the information in the applicants' files will take precedence over the information in the minutes:

MFT ASSOCIATE

Ashley Barrera

MFT BY CREDENTIAL

Robert Bornt

MFT BY EXAMINATION

James Lee

On a motion duly made Leon Webber, seconded by Kenneth McCarty, and approved unanimously, it was

RESOLVED to approve the following list of continuing education applications with the stipulation that the information in the files will take precedence over the information in the minutes:

ALASKA ASSOC OF MFT

Clinical Realities in a Cyber World – 8 CEUs (includes 3 hours in Ethics)

CODI

A New Look at Binge Drinking – 6.0 CEUs

Engaging Couples & Families – 9.0 CEUs

Regional Trauma Institutes 101 #1 – 12.0 CEUs

Regional Trauma Institutes 101 #2 – 12.0 CEUs

Substance Abuse Assessment – 6.0 CEUs

SOUTH CENTRAL FOUNDATION

1-2-3 Magic Parenting – 4.0 CEUs

UAA-ARBHTA

Critical Elements in Clinical Supervision – 16.0 CEUs

Successful Clinical Supervision in Rural Alaska – 16.0 CEUs

7. Public Comment

Patt Sandberg, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology, UAA

Patt Sandberg, PhD, Associate Professor of Psychology at UAA, spoke during the public comment period of the board meeting. Her purpose was to represent a multidisciplinary (PSY/SWK/ED-Counseling) contingent at UAA who would like to create a certificate option that would gather coursework from each discipline to create the opportunity for UAA students to prepare for the AKMFT license. She wanted to know if the Board would have any problems. The Board indicated that they would support such an endeavor, with individual members commenting that they thought it would be great and that it would be wonderful.

Mercy Dennis(LMFT), Ashley Berrara, and Linda King (President of AKAMFT)

These individuals spoke regarding changing regulation 12 AAC 19.110l, License by examination:

- 12 AAC 19.110. LICENSE BY EXAMINATION.** (a) The board will issue a license by examination to practice marital and family therapy to an applicant who meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a) and this section.
- (b) The applicant's supervised experience must meet the requirements of 12 AAC 19.130.
- (c) To show fulfillment of the training requirement in AS 08.63.100(a)(3)(D), the applicant must document at least six contact hours of training related to domestic violence in courses approved by the board under 12 AAC 19.320(b)(1)--(7).
- (d) The examinations required for a license to practice marital and family therapy are the Examination in Marital and Family Therapy administered by the Professional Examination Service and the state written examination prepared and administered by the board. To pass the examinations the applicant must achieve at least the minimum passing score recommended by the Professional Examination Service on the Examination in Marital and Family Therapy and 90 percent or higher on the state written examination.
- (e) An applicant may substitute post-degree courses or practice as allowed in 12 AAC 19.120 to meet the course of study requirements in AS 08.63.100(a)(3)(B)(i)--(vi).
- (f) To be scheduled for an examination, an applicant must file with the department a complete, notarized application for a license by examination, including the supporting documentation required by this section, and the applicable fees established in 12 AAC 02.242.

They would like to see a change made to the regulation so that an applicant who is a Marital and Family Therapist Associate, would be able to take the examination during the four years the MFTA.

They felt it was good timing, right out of college, to take the exam; that it does no harm to the consumer; and other states do so.

Some Board Members felt it was fine to take at any time; others thought it was fine as it is. There was discussion regarding how the supervisors need to take more of a role in making sure the intern is skilled enough to practice on their own. Is it the Board's responsibility to make sure supervisors are doing a good job? How is it managed?

Mercy Dennis, Ashley Berrara, and Linda King also supported changes regarding statute 08.63.110 and regulation 12 AAC 19.200 (License for Supervised Practice):

Sec. 08.63.110. License for supervised practice. (a) The board shall issue a four-year license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy to a person who meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A)—(B).

(b) A licensee under this section may practice only

(1) under the direct supervision of a supervisor approved by the board under AS 08.63.120; and

(2) in a clinic, social service agency, or other setting approved by the board.

(c) A license for supervised practice expires four years from the date of issuance and may not be renewed.

(d) A licensee under this section shall submit to the board for its approval a proposed plan for satisfying the supervision requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(3)(C).

(e) A licensee under this section shall use the title “marital therapy associate,” “family therapy associate,” or **other title that is approved by the board.**

(f) The board shall revoke a license for supervised practice if the person fails the examination required under AS 08.63.100 two or more times.

12 AAC 19.200. LICENSE FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE. (a) A holder of a license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy may practice under supervision in a clinic, social service agency, or private marital and family therapy practice.

(b) A holder of a license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy shall use the title “marital therapy associate,” “family therapy associate,” or “marital and family therapy associate.”

(c) A holder of a license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy may practice only under the direct supervision of a supervisor approved by the board under 12 AAC 19.210.

They would like to add “License” to the name in the regulation. There were several reasons:

- In the statute, it says it is a license, so it gives a name that is in the statute.
- It is a benefit to the consumer.
- It is a benefit to the Associate because some may be able to bill insurance.

The Board discussed it, but felt that it is a license for supervised practice. A person should be differentiated because the supervisor is responsible.

The some of the Board also felt that having the exam at the end of supervision shows that they know the information. There is no accountability for approved supervisors.

It is the anonymous Board consensus that they would leave the statues and regulations as written. They feel that it is a license for supervised practice. Naming a Marital and Family Therapy Associate a LICENSED Marital and Family Therapy Associate would be misleading.

There will be on-going discussion on these topics.

8. Budget Report

Administrative Officer Misty Frawley gave the budget report by telephone. There will now be quarterly reports instead of each board getting a report every meeting.

Information showed that there is a surplus right now of \$21,010.00, but as the year progresses and as the expenses accumulate, the surplus will change.

9. Correspondence

a. Leiser – graduate degree hours

Ms. Leiser had questions regarding the following instruction on the education coursework sheet:

SUPERVISED CLINICAL PRACTICE (One year)

Direct clinical work with couples and families must have been a part of a graduate degree or completed through a supervised clinical practicum in marital and family therapy obtained subsequent to the granting of a degree in an equivalent course of study. This one-year requirement includes nine semester or twelve quarter hours or approximately 15 hours per week for one year. Direct client contact is face-to-face (therapist and client) therapeutic intervention. The balance of time was to be spent in supervision, record keeping, and participation in other clinical activities of the agency or practice. Please indicate under credit hours whether quarter or semester.

She was enquiring if the fifteen hours per week for one year followed the school year. The answer is, "no", it is for a full one year; not connected to any school calendar.

b. Mercy Dennis/license MFT Associates

See public comment.

10. Old Business

a. On line Therapy (from conference)

Board Member Webber was attending the conference this year and was going to bring more information to the Board regarding on-line therapy in reference to MFTs and what needs to be basic information to give to licensees. Mr. Webber was reluctantly unable to attend the conference.

b. Practice Protection

Board member McCarty had earlier requested the Board look into putting practice protection into the statutes. He is withdrawing that request.

c. Email vote /meeting vote

The Board had previously made the decision to only vote on applications at the meetings, rather than by mail or email ballots. The members wish to be able to discuss some aspects and cannot do that by email.

The Board would still like to have the balloting done mostly at the meeting, except for emergencies and for license by credential applications that come in more than two months before the next meeting.

d. Graduate practicum hours-UAA

There had been a previous question regarding whether or not UAA offers an MFT practicum. Board Member Webber spoke with UAA professors regarding this question. UAA does not offer a practicum in graduate studies that are specifically MFT. The practicum is specifically for the Psych Department. With the new certification that was referred to during public comment by Patt Sandberg, that could change.

11. Regulations

a. 12 AAC 19.210 (licensed supervisors)

The Board had previously worked on changing the regulations related to supervision. They had wanted an approved supervisor for Marital and Family Therapist Licensing to have to be licensed as an MFT for five continuous years. The Board previously voted to submit it for public comment. The public comment period is not yet over, so no action taken at this time.

b. Fee for license status

The Board previously asked to have a regulation created to charge for workshops/CEUs. The individual workshop providers will have to apply even if the course is offered in a conference. It is the Board's intention that each course reviewed will be charged a fee of \$25.00.

The regulation is not completed or public noticed at this time.

12. New Business

a. AMFTRB conference report

Board Member Leon Webber was scheduled to attend the AMFTRB conference, but did not attend due to delay in travel authorization.

13. Board Business

a. Ethics reports

There were no Ethics reports submitted.

b. Task List

Ken McCarty: Liaison for AkAMFT

Leon Webber: contact a Dr. Marky Bloomer, a researcher/professor, regarding licensing exam philosophy throughout the U.S.

c. Schedule next meeting

March 16, 2012 in Juneau (Note: this meeting has been changed to March 23, 2012)

d. Sign meeting minutes

Meeting minutes were signed

e. Travel Authorizations

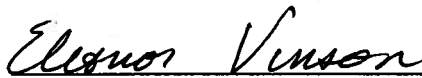
The travel authorizations were signed.

f. Board travel/conferences

No conferences scheduled at this time.


The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm.

Respectfully Submitted by:



Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved by:



Patricia White, Chairperson

Date: _____

3/23/12