



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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Board Meeting Minutes May 10, 2019

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy met on Friday, May 10, 2019, at the Board office in Montgomery to conduct Board business. Members present were Dr. Scott Ketring (Board Chair), Dr. Luciana Silva (Board Vice Chair), Ms. Angela Nelms-Griffin (member) and Mr. Douglas Cooke (member). Dr. Mark Westfall (member) was not present. Also present were Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator), Mr. Todd Hughes (Assistant Attorney General) and Ms. Jenna Lanier (recording secretary).

The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised on the Board's website, www.mft.alabama.gov, and the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Ketring at 10:02 a.m. with a quorum of the members present to conduct business.

An Oath of Office was administered by Ms. Jennifer Love (notary public) to new Board member, Mr. Douglas Cooke.

Chairman Ketring presented public comments and final adoption of proposed Rule changes. He reported a public comment sent to the Board from the Medical Association of the State of Alabama regarding the LMFT scope of service. The Association commented on the fact that Marriage and Family Therapists may only work in the marriage and family therapy context. They requested specifications in the rules to include in "all references to 'diagnosis and treatment' in the proposed Rule contain a statement that such diagnosis and treatment is 'within a marriage and family therapy treatment context'." The Board agreed to add to the proposed Rules and include the specifications requested.

Corrections to the proposed Rules were discussed to include: (1) the elimination of a duplicate paragraph, (2) correct a typo, (3) elimination of #3 requirement within the reciprocity section (4) addition of language to include requested specifications proposed by the Medical Association of the State of Alabama regarding scope of service and (5) addition of specifications regarding differences in post-degree internship requirements. These changes will be edited and proposed for adoption at the next regularly scheduled meeting.

The remainder of the proposed Rules that had been published for public comments were considered for Final adoption by the Board. Dr. Silva made the motion to adopt the remainder of the Rules that were not changed and advertised for public comments. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelms-Griffin and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Ketring presented the November 6, 2018 Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. Dr. Silva to approve to approve the November 6, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelms-Griffin and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Ketring presented to the Board the financial activities of the Board as of April 30, 2019. The financial report also included a line item summary of expenses. He reported on the total number of licensees (#376 total), along with the total number of complaints received during FY 2019 (copy of report available for review in Official Book of Minutes). Ms. Nelms-Griffin made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Silva and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers presented the Administrator's Report listing activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting, along with a list of new licenses issued (reports available for review in Official Book of Minutes).

Chairman Ketring reviewed a request from a LMFT recommending that wallet-sized license cards be issued by the Board. After discussion, Dr. Silva made the motion to deny the request due to financial reasons. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelms-Griffin and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers proposed to the Board that the current mailing address for the Board be changed. She explained that the Board is currently renting a post office box and recommended the Board use the physical address of the Administrative Office as its formal address. Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the change by eliminating the post office box. The motion was seconded by Dr. Silva and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers reported that election of Board officers was due. Dr. Silva nominated Dr. Ketring to remain as Board Chair until January 2020. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelms-Griffin and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Nelms-Griffin made the motion to nominate Dr. Silva to remain as Board Vice Chair until January 2020. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers recommended that the Board allow administrative approval of certain applications to reduce lapse in time between receipt and final approval. She recommended that the Board delegate administrative approval of associate applications from applicants that have completed accredited programs. A motion was made by Dr. Silva to approve the delegation of authority as recommended by Ms. Childers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelms-Griffin and unanimously approved by the board.

Additionally, Ms. Childers recommended that the Board delegate administrative approval of applications that are from accredited program graduates wishing to take the national licensing exam and include a letter from the program director stating anticipated graduation date. Ms. Nelms-Griffin made a motion to approve the delegation of authority as recommended by Ms. Childers. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Lastly, Ms. Childers recommended that the Board delegate to administrative staff the authority of approval of endorsement (i.e. reciprocity from other states) applications. Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the delegation of authority as recommended by Ms. Childers. The motion was seconded by Ms. Nelms-Griffin and unanimously approved by the Board.

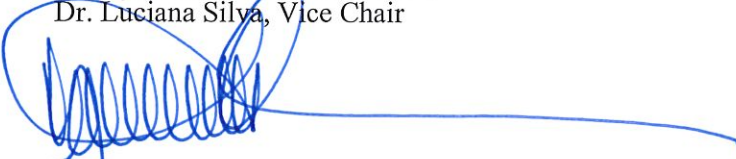
Applications for the Board's approval were presented by Ms. Childers. The Board reviewed 18 applications for licensure (list available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes). Following a review and discussion of the applications, Dr. Silva made a motion to approve the applications as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Ketring announced that the next meeting of the Board is scheduled for Friday, July 26, 2019 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business, Ms. Nelms-Griffin made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Silva and unanimously approved by the Board. Chairman Ketring adjourned the meeting at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Luciana Silva, Vice Chair


Keith E. Warren, Executive Director

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