



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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Board Meeting Minutes October 25, 2019

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy met on Friday, October 25, 2019, at the Board's office in Montgomery to conduct Board business. Members present were Dr. Luciana Silva (Board Chair), Mr. Douglas Cooke (Vice Chair), and Dr. Mark Westfall (member). Ms. Angela Nelms-Griffin (member) and Dr. Karley Downs (new member pending oath) were not present. Also present were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator), Ms. Bettie Carmack (Board Counsel), Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary) and Dr. Scott Ketring (guest).

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 Dr. Silva, Board Vice Chair (Chair-elect), at 10:07 a.m. Mr. Warren called Board roll and a quorum of the members were present to conduct business.

Dr. Silva reported that election of officers was due. She explained that Dr. Karley Downs had been appointed to fill the term that Dr. Ketring (former Board Chair) had been serving and the Board Chair position was vacant. She asked Mr. Warren to preside over the elections. Mr. Warren called for nominations for Board Chair. Dr. Westfall nominated Dr. Silva as Board Chair. The nomination was seconded by Mr. Cooke. There were no other nominations from the members and Dr. Silva as unanimously approved as Board Chair.

Mr. Warren called for nominations for Board Vice Chair. Dr. Westfall nominated Mr. Cooke as Board Vice Chair. The nomination was seconded by Dr. Silva. There were no other nominations from the members and Mr. Cooke was unanimously approved as Board Vice Chair.

Dr. Silva presented the July 26, 2019 Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. Dr. Westfall made a motion to approve the July meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairperson Silva addressed the members for the Board Chair's Report. She asked the Board to consider licensure of applicants from another state and recommended changes in the Board's Rule 536-X-2-.03, Endorsement of an Individual who is Licensed/Registered as an MFT under the laws of another State or Territory. She called on Dr. Ketring to assist in presenting changes to the Board's Rules. Following a lengthy discussion, the Board was in support of the changes to the Rule by deleting reference to interns and associates, specifying 3 days, rather than 5 days, in any month and no more than 10 days, rather than 15 days, in any calendar year that services are performed, and the addition of stating who was automatically eligible for licensure with additional considerations.

Also presented by Dr. Ketring was a *Word* fillable formatted application to be offered online. Mr. Warren explained that it was the Board's goal to have online applications and, at a future date, electronic signature capabilities. Dr. Ketring offered to make changes to the formatted application to allow for completion of the application online and suggested that the original application be mailed to the Board's office, with verification letters from other states to come separately. Chairperson Silva asked Dr. Ketring to work on the application format and submit to the Board for approval.

Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the financial activities of the Board as of September 30, 2019. The financial report also included a line item summary of expenses. He reported on the total number of licensees (#396 total), along with the total number of complaints received during FY 2019 (copy of the report available for review in Official Book of Minutes). He commented on the upcoming licensing renewal period. Dr. Westfall made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren 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).

Mr. Warren commented on two complaint cases. Ms. Carmack explained that one case was open, with pending civil litigation, and this case was in the investigative stage. She also reported that one case had been closed since the Respondent was deceased. Ms. Carmack reported that she had no new information for the Legal Counsel's Report.

Mr. Warren indicated that two new Board members had been appointed and, as public officials, all Board members were required to complete a Statement of Economic Interest. He also commented on the Board's Risk Management coverage, up to \$1 million per occurrence, when the members act as an entity and not individually. He recommended to the members that inquiries from licensees and the public be forwarded to Board administration to prevent situations of individual involvement by Board members.

Mr. Warren reminded the Board that he was working on the Rules to incorporate the language in the statute about scope of practice as recommended by the Alabama Medical Association.

Chairperson Silva indicated that a request for Board approval of CE hours had been received and asked Dr. Ketring to review with the Board the CE request. The Board discussed whether to approve CE programs on a case-by-case basis and reviewed Rule 536-X-6-.01 Required Relevant Professional and Continuing Education Experience. Following the review of the request, the Board agreed that the CE entity should obtain AAMFT or NBCC or ALAMFT pre-approval, etc. as indicated in the referenced Board Rule 536-X-6-.01. Dr. Westfall made the motion for clarity that the Board does not grant individual CE accreditation and acceptable CEU consideration go through accrediting organizations identified in the Board's Rules. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board continued to discuss Rule 536-X-6-.01 and modifications to the Rule, expanding on the type of approved organizations and its affiliates.

Mr. Warren presented for the Board's approval a proposed Rule that allowed licensure applications from spouses of active military to be processed expeditiously by the Board. Dr. Westfall made a motion to approve the Rule as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren commented on the Board terms and nominating authorities for Board appointments. Dr. Silva clarified that the Board would continue to accept nominations from the Alabama MFT association.

Applications for the Board's approval were presented by Ms. Childers. The Board reviewed nine (9) applications for licensure (list available for viewing in the Board's official Book of Minutes). Following a review and discussion of the applications, Mr. Cooke made a motion to approve #A219 application pending verification of supervisor. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and unanimously approved by the Board. Dr. Westfall made a motion to approve the 8 other applications as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board reconsidered changes to Rule 536-X-6-.01 and Dr. Westfall made a motion to amend section (4)(b) to include:

1. ~~NBCC approved courses, and continuing education activities sponsored by allied mental health professional associations or agencies;~~
2. Continuing education activities sponsored by allied mental health professional associations or agencies (i.e. psychology, counseling, nursing, medical, social workers);
- 3 2. Supervision by an Approved MFT Supervisor under a board approved contract (not more than ten (10) hours);
4. Continuing education activities sponsored by mental health federal agencies (e.g DOD, DOE, etc.);
- 5 3. Independent study activities such as: teaching graduate courses in MFT; presenter of MFT material in a recognized professional forum (first time presented); supervising a person for MFT licensure under a Board approved contract; service rendered on professional MFT boards or committees, editing or writing professional books or articles for publication. No more than ten (10) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study.
6. Continuing education activities sponsored by accredited universities;
- 7 4. AAMFT and subsidiary organization, or NBCC, or ALAMFT pre-approved distance learning courses that may include web page lectures; class discussions ... etc.

The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board also reconsidered changes to Rule 536-X-2-.03. Dr. Westfall made the motion to amend the Rule concerning applicants licensed in another state to include:

(5) Licensed MFT's from any of the other 49 states of the United States are automatically eligible for an Alabama licensure by endorsement following the verification of moral character, evidence of licensure, certification of no disciplinary actions, and verification of three credit semester or four credit quarter course in mental health diagnosis.

Note: 1. Such services are performed for no more than ~~five (5)~~ three (3) days in any month and no more than ~~fifteen (15)~~ ten (10) days in any calendar year, and.


The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Silva announced that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Friday, January 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m.

With no further business to discuss and Dr. Silva adjourned the meeting at 1:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dr. Luciana Silva, Vice Chair


Keith E. Warren, Executive Director

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