



ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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MINUTES Board Meeting June 10, 2022

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy met on Friday, June 10, 2022, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery. Members present were Mr. Douglas Cooke (Board Chair), Dr. Karly Downs (Board Vice Chair attending virtually), Dr. Mark Westfall (member), Dr. Samuel Jones (member), and Ms. Raven Pyle Livingston (member). Others attending were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Ms. Laura Howell (Legal Counsel), and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary) and guests.

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.

Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Mr. Cooke, Board Chair, at 10:00 a.m. Mr. Warren called Board roll and reported that a quorum of the members was present to conduct business. Mr. Cooke welcomed everyone in attendance. Ms. Howell introduce three law clerks who had accompanied her to the meeting, Mr. Pham, Mr. Littlepage and Ms. Payne, and other guests attending were Dr. Scott Ketring, Dr. Tommy Smith and Ms. Erin Holloway.

Approval of Minutes: Chairperson Cooke presented the March 18, 2022, Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board prior to the meeting for their review. Dr. Westfall made a motion to approve the March meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board.

Report by Board Chair: Chairperson Cooke reported that he had no report at this time.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the Board's financial activities for the period ending May 31, 2022. He also presented a line-item summary of expenses for this same period, along with information about the current number of licensees. He reviewed the projected revenue of the Board beginning with the October 2022 renewal period. Mr. Warren reported on the number of complaints the Board had received to-date (copy of the report available for review in Official Book of Minutes).

Dr. Downs made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and was unanimously approved by the Board.

Board Administrator's Report: Mr. Warren presented the Administrator's Report listing activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in March (reports available for review in Official Book of Minutes). Also presented was a list of new licenses issued and licenses that were expired, following the renewal period that ended March 1, 2022.

Legal Counsel Report: Ms. Howell reported on case 2022-003 and recommended the case be dismissed due to no probable cause. Dr. Jones made the motion to accept the recommendation by Ms. Howell that the case be closed due to no probable cause. The motion was seconded by Dr. Downs and unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren explained that a Board member would be appointed, on a rotating basis, to serve on the Investigative Committee.

Old Business – Adoption of Final Rule: Mr. Warren presented the proposed Rule 536-X-10 Complaint Procedures for final approval by the Board. He reported that the amended Rule had been advertised for public comment and no comments were received. Mrs. Livingston made the motion to approve final rule 536-X-10 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and unanimously approved by the Board.

New Business – COAMFTE 12.5 Accreditation Standards: Mr. Warren reported that the Board had received letters from licensees regarding the COAMFTE new accreditations standards (copy of letters available for review in Board’s Official Book of Minutes). The Board reviewed the letters and discussed the COAMFTE standard for Associate hours from 500 to 300, with 100 relational hours. The Board discussed the gap of 200 hours if other states adopted the 300-hour standard and the Board’s licensure rules remained at 500 hours, which would result in an Intern designation to acquire the additional hours toward becoming licensed as an Associate.

Chairman Cooke recognized Dr. Scott Ketring and Dr. Tommy Smith to address the Board. Both spoke in favor of the Board maintaining the 500-hour licensure requirement and reported that Auburn University, the only COAMFTE program in the State, had planned to continue its 500-hour program.

Ms. Holloway indicated that she would meet with the department representatives for Auburn University and University of Alabama to identify MFT supervisors in the State.

The majority consensus of the Board was in support of keeping the 500-hour licensure requirement based on the benefits in preparing for practice. Also mentioned was the development of the Interstate Compact which will facilitate the mobility of licensed professionals across member states.

Discussion of Rule Changes: The Board discussed the recent changes to the Board’s statute in Act 2022-238. Also mentioned as a future consideration to add recognition of individual therapy to the Board’s name.

Chairman Cooke appointed the following individuals to the Board’s Rules Committee: Dr. Downs, Dr. Ketring, Ms. Howell and Mr. Warren, to draft and present rule changes based on the new statute.

Ms. Holloway offered to work with the Board’s Administrator in identifying licensees who may be retired or deceased. Ms. Holloway also reported that the State Association may be off assistance in identifying demographic data regarding population of MFT in parts of the State, along with the population being served.

Approval of Applications: Mr. Warren presented fifteen (15) applications for the Board’s approval comprised of 10 Association applications, 1 exam request, 2 LMFT applications, and 2 Intern applications.

- Associate application from JAM was reviewed, and it was determined that study courses did not meet the criteria for licensure.
- Associate Application from SW was reviewed, and it was deferred, lacking additional information.
- Associate application from RP was reviewed and approval was pending receipt of additional information regarding coursework.
- Associate application from ANH was reviewed and approval was pending receipt of supervisor contract.
- LMFT application from ESK was reviewed and approval was pending receipt of Form 10 with clinical hours.
- Exam request from GB was reviewed and approved.
- Intern application from CB was reviewed and approved.
- Intern application from BH was reviewed and approved.
- Associate application from BKS was reviewed and approved.
- Associate application from CFP was reviewed and approved.
- Associate application from SS was reviewed and approved.
- Associate application from CC was reviewed and approved.
- Associate application from MB was reviewed and approved.
- Associate application from JS was reviewed and approved.
- LMFT application from RTM was reviewed and approved.

Mrs. Livingston made the motion to approve the applications as reviewed, pending receipt of additional information as discussed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board.

Next Board Meeting: Chairman Cooke reported that the next regular meeting was scheduled October 21st. Due to a conflict in scheduling, it was the consensus of the Board to change the meeting date to October 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m., and to add a regular meeting on August 26, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment: With no further business to discuss, Mr. Cooke adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Douglas Cooke
Board Chair

Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

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