

## Board Meeting - Minutes

November 1, 2024

With proper and required notice having been provided to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office and with posting on the websites of the Alabama Secretary of State, and the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage & Family Therapy (ABEMFT), the ABEMFT meeting was held Friday, November 1, 2024, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1050, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order at 10:10 am by Chairman, Dr. Raven Livingston.

A quorum was established and maintained; the following Board members were present:

1. Dr. Raven Livingston
2. Dr. Samuel Jones
3. Dr. Kathryn Jones
4. Mr. Tony Watkins

Also present, were Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, Administrator, Jacki Tucker, Administrator, and Charles McKay, Board Legal Counsel. Also present were Sara Beth Earles, Rachel Sullivan, Hannah Ruggles, and Alisia Owens.

Chairman Livingston asked for an approval of the agenda. Dr. Samuel Jones made the motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Dr. Kathryn Jones. All members present voted in favor of the agenda.

Chairman Livingston asked for an approval of the board minutes from the August 23, 2024 meeting. Dr. Kathryn Jones made the motion to approve the minutes and it was seconded by Dr. Samuel Jones. All members of the board voted in favor of approving the minutes from the August 23, 2024 meeting.

Chairman Livingston stated that there had been a great deal of activity with the Board over the past month. Of particular note, the Board had received several letters pertaining to changes to the rules. These letters were discussed further under Old Business.

Executive Director Austin reported that the October renewal had been a busy time for the Board. The Board had 258 renewals during this period, with 33 licensees having renewed as of the meeting and one going inactive and one not renewing their license. Austin reported that a second reminder email was sent to the 235 licenses who have not yet renewed their license.

Before beginning the financial report, Mr. Will Parker thanked everyone for participating in the Sunset Review Committee, especially Chairman Dr. Livingston. Parker stated that the Board continues to see improvements in financial standing. The Board has a balance of \$135,835.00, with the only issue over the last year being unpaid legal fees to the Attorneys General office totaling \$7,600. These fees have been paid.

Legal Counsel Charles McKay reported that the Board needed to discuss awarding the Administrative RFP contract stating there was only one bid made for the contract. At this time, Claire Austin, Will Parker, and Jacki Tucker left the meeting. Mr. McKay presented the administrative contract to the Board and answered questions. Dr. Samuel Jones made the motion to authorize the contract and it was seconded by Dr. Raven Livingston. The vote to authorize the contract was unanimous. The Board also voted to allow the Board attorney with the AG's office to negotiate the contract on behalf of the Board. Mr. McKay said that the contract would be submitted to Purchasing.

Under old business, the Board reviewed and discussed the letters that were submitted to the Board regarding the changes made to the rules and regulations. The board agreed that changes made were in an effort to reduce ambiguity and ensure uniformity in requirements, especially in light of changes to COAMFTE accreditation standards. Austin stated that during the next Board that the Board would need to certify the administrative rules that were posted and published in the Administrative Monthly by January 24, 2025.

Under new business, the board reviewed the following applications and awarded licenses as follows:

**Intern Applications:**

Debra Benham  
Betty Cheatum  
Nicole Copeland  
Angela Hill

**Associate Applications:**

Terri Stanley-Nolfe  
Micah Wade

**LMFT:**

Brittany Boatwright  
Karl Christensen  
Cindy Hatcher  
Catherine Hussong  
Randi Nowell

**LMFT By Endorsement**

Victor Higgins, Jr – NC  
Gregory Schacher – Minnesota

**SIT for Exam:**

Mary-Clair Marshall

**Approved Supervisor:**

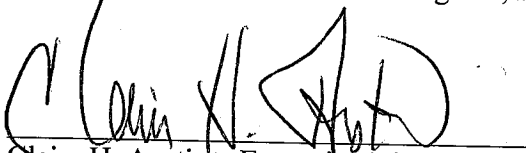
Tara Tate

With no further business before the board, Chairman Livingston requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Tony Watkins and seconded by Dr. Kathryn Jones, the meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, January 10, 2025 @ 10:00 AM CST – at the ABEMFT office located downtown at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, AL 36104.



Board Chairman – Raven A. Livingston, PhD



Claire H. Austin – Executive Director