

Board Meeting - Minutes

June 5, 2026

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 on Friday, March 20, 2026, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order at 10:07 am by Chairman, Tony Watkins.

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

1. Dr. Kathryn Jones
2. Tony Watkins
3. Ann Bethea – 10:08
4. Dr. Tim Nichols
5. Shameka Crusoe

Also present, Claire Austin, Executive Director, Will Parker, Jacki Tucker, Board Administrator, Ben Seiss, Board Legal Counsel, and Andrew Mount from the Attorney General's office. Rachel Sullivan and Magdaline Braxton both with the Association attended via zoom.

Chairman Watkins asked for an approval of the agenda. Dr. Tim Nichols made the motion to approve the agenda, and it was seconded by Shameka Crusoe. All members present voted in favor of the agenda.

Chairman Watkins asked for an approval of the board minutes from the March 20, 2026, meeting. Dr. Tim Nichols made the motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Dr. Kathryn Jones. All members voted in favor of approving the minutes from the March 20, 2026, meeting.

Chairman Watkins reported that there are several Questions and Answers that need to be added to the Board website for applicants. Chairman Watkins stated the Q&A on the website would help the application process run more efficiently. This will benefit the applicants along with the Board Administrator with the application process.

Chairman Watkins suggested that at least 2 members of the Board should attend the AMFTRB 40th Annual Meeting of State Delegates in September. Dr. Tim Nichols made a motion for the Board to send 2 members to the AMFTRB meeting. Dr. Kathryn Jones seconded the motion. All members voted in favor of sending 2 Board members to the AMFTRB meeting in September 2026.

The executive director's report, Austin, stated that the Board currently has 584 active licenses and 35 applications pending before the Board today. Austin stated that the Board would be mailing and emailing a letter to all Board approved Supervisors. This letter will lay out the exact items and documentation needed for the applicants. Austin stated there seems to have been

confusion. By providing this information to Supervisors this should make the application process smoother for the applicants.

Austin deferred to Will Parker for the board's financial report. Parker gave the overall update on the board financials stating that the Board is in very good financial shape with a balance of \$224,271.00 and expenditure for the past three months was \$14,471.87. Parker discussed how board administrator, Jacki Tucker, processes the applicants daily and works diligently to get these applicants ready for our Board meeting for approval. He thanked Jacki for her diligence in working with the applicants. Parker stated that this is a reason why the Board's balance is so much better. We simply process the applicants in a timely manner which keeps the Board on task. In return, this ultimately increases the Board's revenue. The Board has continued to try to increase revenue and lower expenses over the past three years, and the board is in much better shape than it's been in over three years.

Austin called on Jacki Tucker, Board Administrator, to update the Board on the National MFT Examination numbers in Alabama. Tucker presented the numbers for the thirteen schools reporting their performance in Alabama for the period December 2025 – March 1, 2026. The numbers are a little better than the last reporting period for the passing rate.

Mrs. Tucker reported there were 270 renewals during last year's renewal period, 16 paid late fees, 6 licenses went inactive, 2 retired, and 3 simply were not renewing their license. The Board sent 17 cease and desist letters at the beginning of March 2026.

Legal Counsel, Ben Seiss stated there was no business to come before the Board today.

The review of all the applicants. – All these applicants were approved by a Board vote.

Intern Applications: (8)

Mara Brenner
Ashley Creason
Stacy Edwards
Marquetta Long
Katherine Turner
*Emily Diaz Garcia
*James Landers
*Erroll Lewis
(*Deferred)

Exam Only Applications: (6)

Casey Barrera
Emma Chandler
Dushaina Dumerant
Gabriella Jackson
Mary Mackenzie Pistritto
Rachel Worth

Associate Applications: (2)

Debra Benham
Cherry Duke

Associate & Exam Application: (3)

Amellia Davis
Claire Kolisz
Meg Morris

LMFT: (10)

Glendalyn Boothe
Gabrielle Curry
Madison Delaney
Amber Holley
Lia Hopper
Kaimen Howard
Heeyoung Kang
Sarah McCain
Holly Powell
Jaime Sanchez

LMFT By Endorsement: (5)

Isabelle Ait- Chalalet – Texas
Kaitlyn King - Tennessee
Darbie McDonie – Texas
Nina Smith – Kentucky
Leontyne Williams – Texas

SIT Applications: (1)

Jennifer Starling

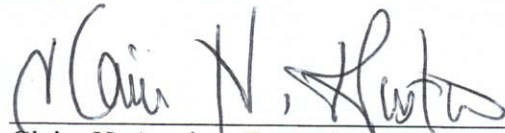
There was a motion made by Dr. Kathryn Jones and seconded by Dr. Tim Nichols, the board members voted unanimously in favor of approving 32 of the 35 above applicants.

Under other business, Board Member Ann Bethea discussed having a more efficient application process for the applicant. Bethea suggested researching platforms to use for updating and processing applications, renewals and CE's in a more efficient way. The Board's overall opinion was in favor of better technology to streamline the application process to be done electronically online. A motion was made by Dr. Tim Nichols to work on updating the technology development for the application process allocating up to \$50,000 for the Board to spend on updating this platform, it was seconded by Ann Bethea, there was a Roll Call Vote with all Members voting unanimously for the Board to proceed with the staff working on updating this process for the Board.

With no further business before the board, a motion to adjourn was made by Chairman Watkins and seconded by Dr. Tim Nichols; the meeting was adjourned at 11:17 am.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, August 28, 2026 @ 10:00 AM CST – at the ABEMFT office located downtown at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, AL.


Board Chairman – Tony Watkins


Claire H. Austin – Executive Director