

Board Meeting - Minutes

March 20, 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 10:01 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
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 Sarah Grace from the Association.

Claire Austin, the Executive Director, administered the Oath of Office to the newest Board member, Shameka Crusoe. Austin welcomed her to the Board, and Mrs. Crusoe introduced her family members who joined her for this special occasion from Mobile, AL.

Chairman Tony Watkins asked for an approval of the agenda. Dr. Tim Nichols 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 Tony Watkins asked for an approval of the board minutes from the January 27, 2025, 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 January 27, 2025, 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.

The executive director's report, Austin stated that the Board currently has 570 active licenses, and 22 pending applications as of March 20, 2026. Austin then discussed bills pending in the Legislature that would impact the MFT board and stated there were only three weeks left in the 2026 Session. 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 \$230,042.00. 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 Boards balance is so much better. We simply process the applicants in a timely manner which keeps the Board on task. In return 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 this period, 16 paid late fees, and 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: (4)

Anna-Kay Dick
Megan Hepler
Shaquenita Gipson
Diana Petit

Associate Applications: (2)

Zakiya Thagard
Aaliyah Williams

Associate & Exam Application: (3)

Angela Eberhardt
Damon Turner
Tonya Vaughan

LMFT: (6)

Megan Beard
Daniel Birdsong
Magdaline Braxton
Dana Dansby
Melvia Moye
Joi Shelton

LMFT By Endorsement: (6)

Dawn Davis – Pennsylvania

Amanda Hood – Georgia

Abigail Holcomb – Tennessee

Bayley Pharr – Tennessee

Vanessa White – Arizona

Daniel Whiteside – licensed in Georgia, Kentucky, Indiana, and South Dakota

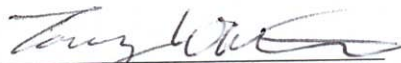
SIT Applications: (1)


Maddison Kirschner

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

With no further business before the board, Chairman Tony Watkins requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Ann Bethea and seconded by Shameka Crusoe, the meeting was adjourned at 11:01 am.

The next Board meeting will be held on Friday, June 5, 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