

**STATE OF ALASKA
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
DIVISION OF CORPORATIONS, BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL LICENSING**

BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY

**MINUTES OF MEETING
May 2, 2008**

By authority of AS 08.01.070(2), and in compliance with the provisions of AS 44.62, Article 6, a scheduled meeting of the Board of Marital and Family Therapy was held October 26, 2007, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at 550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1860, Anchorage, Alaska

Call to Order/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order by Curtis Schlosser, Acting Chairperson, at 9:06 a.m.

Board Members present, constituting a quorum:

Curtis Schlosser, Marriage and Family Therapist
Larry Severson, Marriage and Family Therapist
Father John Downing, Public Member
Dorothy Stanton, Public Member (until 11:00 am)

Joining the meeting at different times by telephone:

Patricia White, Marriage and Family Therapist, Chairperson

Attending from the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing were:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner
Susan Winton, Investigator
Christine Wyatt, Administrative Manager (by telephone)

Our new Board Member, Father John Downing, introduced himself to the Board. He had been licensed in California and moved to Alaska five years ago. He is celebrating fifty years of ministry this month.

1. Review Agenda

The Board reviewed the agenda and moved item six (Regulations) and item ten (application review) to an earlier time.

**On a motion duly made by Larry Severson, seconded by Father John Downing, and approved unanimously, it was
RESOLVED to accept the agenda as amended.**

2. Review Minutes

The Board reviewed the minutes from the October 26, 2007, meeting.

On a motion duly made by Dorothy Stanton, seconded by Larry Severson, and approved unanimously, it was RESOLVED to accept the October 26, 2007 meeting minutes.

3. Old Business

a. LPC joint Boards discussion (update)

The Board had sent a letter to the Board of Professional Counselors enquiring if the Counselor Board was interested in pursuing a joint board. They turned down the offer to be part of a joint board. There was discussion regarding the pros and cons of a joint board. Other states have joint boards and have stated that they get more done with fewer people.

It is the Board Members' understanding that Senator Dyson is pursuing a joint board. Some members of the Board wish to pursue this information.

Board member Father Downing stated that he was not in favor of this combined board, as he felt a smaller group would get more done and the orientations are different.

The letter from the Board of Professional Counselors was read:

Dear Chairwoman White:

On behalf of the Board of Professional Counselors, I want to thank you for your offer to meet with you to discuss a possible merger of our Boards. I took your request to our Board meeting, where the proposal was deliberated at length. This is not the first time this issue has come before the board, and once again, after careful consideration, we decided not to pursue a merger.

The Board of Professional Counselors deals with almost 400 Licensed Professional Counselors in the state of Alaska. We receive a large number of requests for licenses at each meeting. We deal with numerous written requests for Continuing Education Units that often require research. We are currently pursuing multiple regulation changes and additions and will be actively engaging in some legislative changes in the near future. We meet regularly with the investigator assigned to us to discuss current cases involving LPCs. Nearly one hundred per cent of our meeting is dedicated to the work of Licensed Professional Counselors.

We believe that blending our Boards would require a great deal more time and expense to our licensees with no additional benefit to them. The work of the Board of Professional Counselors would need to continue in addition to the work of a combined board. This would quickly become a cost and time issue as the meetings would automatically become longer. Sub-committees for such a small board would require two or three to do the work of five. We also fear that combining two separate disciplines with different statutes, regulations and ethics codes would be a disservice to the membership of each licensed profession and to those we serve.

It is our belief that separate Boards best achieve the statutory mandates for both the membership we represent and the public we serve. Thank you for your offer.

Chair Patricia White, who joined the meeting by telephone, felt that it would benefit to have a joint Board because of the knowledge and wisdom that could be shared. She will write a letter to the Chair of the Board of Professional Counselors and try to get a dialogue going.

It was felt that even if the Boards do not combine, a committee with members from each board would be beneficial, especially for such things as CEU oversight.

b. AAMFTRB annual meeting 2008 in Anchorage: Planning and subcommittee formation

The Board was joined by Chair Patricia White for the discussion regarding what the Alaska Board will be involved in for the annual American Association of Marital & Family Therapy Regulatory Boards' (AAFTRB) meeting being held in Anchorage, Alaska this September.

Chair White had suggested that someone from the Board be present at the opening and give welcoming remarks to the national organization. There was discussion that there may be a reception for the Board.

c. Annual report

The Board reviewed the goals and objectives from the 2007 yearly report. They determined that the majority of the goals were still pertinent to the Board. They removed number 11, which read: "The Board will examine the pros/cons of practice vs title licensure."

d. Renewal forms

The Board reviewed the Disclosure Statement that all MFTs must furnish (per statute) to clients. A copy of a sample disclosure statement will be sent out with the license renewals. The statute that requires the disclosure statement is:

Sec. 08.63.230. Disclosure statement. Before the performance of services, a licensed marital and family therapist shall ensure that the client was furnished a copy of a professional disclosure statement that contained

- (1) the name, title, business address, and business telephone number of the marital and family therapist;
- (2) a description of the formal professional education of the marital and family therapist, including the institutions attended and the degrees received from the institutions;
- (3) the marital and family therapist's areas of specialization and the services available;
- (4) the marital and family therapist's fee schedule listed by type of service or hourly rate;
- (5) a description of the exception to confidentiality contained in AS 08.63.200(a)(6); and
- (6) at the bottom of the first page of the statement, the following sentence: "This information is required by the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, which regulates all licensed marital and family therapists," followed by the name, address, and telephone number of the board's office.

There was discussion on having a business practices class included in the CEU requirements. Not all were agreed, as this is not MFT's focus, but thought it a good idea to suggest to the state AAMFT to include in their training.

e. Statute Update (Changing supervision)

The Board had previously discussed changing the statute 08.63.100(3)(C)(ii). It now reads:

Sec. 08.63.100. Qualifications for license to practice. (a) The board shall issue a license to practice marital and family therapy to a person who
(ii) been supervised in the clinical contact for at least 200 hours, including 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision approved by the board;

They would like to change it to the following (changed words underlined):

Sec. 08.63.100. Qualifications for license to practice. (a) The board shall issue a license to practice marital and family therapy to a person who
(ii) been supervised in the clinical contact for at least 200 individual or group hours, including at least 100 hours of individual supervision;

Because it is a statute, the Board had discussed getting it changed through AKMFT. The Board requested that this change be included in the Omnibus Bill changes.

f. Letter to UAA

The Board reviewed the letter that had been written by Board Member Schlosser regarding the question of the difference between Marital and Family Studies and Marital and Family Therapy.

The letter will read as follows:

The Alaska State Board of Marital and Family Therapy had been asked to clarify the curriculum requirements for marriage and family therapy students for your institution. Specifically, we were asked to clarify the difference between “Marital and Family Studies” and “Marital and Family Therapy” courses. Following research, our Board has determined that the following definitions from AAMFT (American Association for Marital and Family Therapy) will answer your questions.

Marriage and Family Studies (a minimum of three courses required):

Courses in this area should present a fundamental introduction to systems theory. The student should learn to think in systems terms across a wide variety of family structures and a diverse range of presenting issues (i.e. gender, culture, and substance abuse). Topic areas may include: systems theory, family development, subsystems, blended families, gender issues in families, cultural issues in families, etc.

Marriage and Family Therapy (a minimum of three courses required)

Courses in this area should have a major focus on advanced family systems theories and systemic therapeutic interventions. This area is intended to provide a substantive understanding of the major theories of systems change and the applied practices evolving from each theoretical orientation. Major theoretical approaches might include: strategic, structural, object relations family therapy, behavioral family therapy, communications family therapy, intergenerational family therapy, and systemic sex therapy.

It seems a fair summary to conclude that a family studies course would look at structure and connectedness in families and attempt to define what constitutes a family. It may even look at dysfunction and pathology in families which may be transmitted over several generations. Excellent credit courses and seminars in family studies could be fashioned around texts like Normal Family Processes by Froma Walsh or The Changing Family Life Cycle by B. Carter and M. McGoldrick. However, a “Studies” course should not address treatment or changing the family structure or system.

A family therapy course should address treatment and therapy of dysfunction and pathology in families. Excellent credit courses or seminars in family therapy could be fashioned around texts like Family Therapy: An Overview by Goldenberg, or Family Therapy: A Systemic Integration by Dorothy Becvar, or Family Therapy: Concepts and Methods by Nichols and Schwartz.

Thank you for this opportunity to address your concern.

4. Investigator's Report

Investigator Susan Winton joined the meeting. She reported that there is one complaint open at this time. She also distributed the information regarding the history of disciplinary actions that the Board had previously requested. The Investigator reported on complaints, cases and disciplinary action taken by the MFT board from January 2001, to the present.

Investigator Winton also reported on an Omnibus Bill that the Department is working regarding centralized statutes for all Boards.

The Board advised her concerning the changes in 08.63.100 (3)(C)(ii) that they would like to see included.

Lunch break 12:00 pm

5. Correspondence

a. Hanna

Mr. Paul Hanna had written with questions about the masters program he is attending. The Board referred him to **Sec. 08.63.100. Qualifications for license to practice.**

6. Regulations

The Board had previously requested a change to one word in the license renewal regulation. They wish change the word "or" to "and" on 12 AAC 19.300 (3) (C). Regulations Specialist Maiquis had prepared the new language for the Board's review. The Board reviewed the proposed changes to the regulation.

It is the Board's wish to have the regulation change public noticed.

**On a motion duly made by Larry Severson, seconded by Father John Downing, and approved unanimously, it was
RESOLVED public notice the proposed changes to 12 AAC 19.300(3)(C)
as written and presented by the Regulations Specialist.**

7. Budget Report

Christine Wyatt, Administrative Manager joined the meeting by telephone. She reported that the pre-fee analysis showed the board was doing well and should pay off its deficit with the upcoming renewal. A fee analysis will be done this summer before the license renewal. Based on past performance, the fees should be reduced.

The report showed that the Board had expenses of \$49,800.00 for fiscal year 2007. Since this was more than double the previous year, which was \$20,900.00, the Board questioned this amount. Ms. Wyatt responded that the report was incorrect and she would double check and report back to the Board with the corrected amounts.

8. New Business

a. Standards for CEU providers

There was discussion regarding standards for CEU presenters. Some Board members do not like seeing CEUs presented by persons without at least a Master's Degree. Some Board members would like to see what AMFT has to say about it. Whoever is going to the conference is the person to find more information regarding requirements for CEU presenters. It would be checked to see if the national organization has a list serve to send the question to.

Board member Severson wanted to be sure that our standards are consistent with AAMFT. There was question on whether or not such information can be requested according to regulations or statutes. They can follow the regulation on approved continuing education activities, but there is nothing regarding specifically who they are taught by. What the regulations states is:

12 AAC 19.320. APPROVED CONTINUING EDUCATION ACTIVITIES. (a) To be accepted by the board, continuing education must contribute directly to the professional competency of a marital and family therapist and must be directly related to the skills and knowledge required to implement marital and family therapy principles and methods.

At this time, the only information required is:

(3) submit a statement of the continuing education contact hours completed during the concluding license period; the statement must include the following information, when applicable, for each course, seminar, or workshop:

- (A) the name of the sponsoring organization;
- (B) the location of the course, seminar, or workshop;
- (C) the title or a brief description of the course, seminar, or workshop;
- (D) the principal instructor;
- (E) the dates of attendance;
- (F) the titles, issues, and dates of publications or presentations; and
- (G) the number of continuing education contact hours claimed.

The Board still requested the information on a CEU provider request. They still wish to obtain information on what is done nationally regarding requesting information on the person teaching the class and their education.

9. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

10. Applications

**On a motion duly made by Dorothy Stanton, seconded by Father John Downing, and approved unanimously, it was
RESOLVED accept the following applications:**

For Marital and Family Therapist By Credentials:

- Gilman, Sara

For the Following CEU Providers:

Beyond Borders

- The Healing Leader: Marriage & Families -- 12.0 CEUs

UAF-Alaska Rural Behavioral Health Training Academy

- Clinical Supervision & Self Care for Advanced Providers -- 22.0 CEUs
- Developmentally & Culturally Appropriate mental Health Services for Children 0 to 12 Years -- 20.0 CEUs

Co-Occurring Disorders Institute, Inc. (CODI)

- ADHD & Bipolar Disorder in Children -- 7.0 CEUs
- Billable Mental Health Medicaid Codes Related to Traumatic Brain Injury -- 0.5 CEUs
- FASD -- 7.0 CEUs
- FASD: Practice, Pragmatics & Clinical Wisdom -- 6.0 CEUs
- Risk Assessment & Mental Status -- 7.0 CEUs
- Trauma Informed Services -- 7.0 CEUs

**On a motion duly made by Father John Downing, seconded by Larry Severson, and approved unanimously, it was
RESOLVED accept the following application:**

Rural Alaska Community Action Program

- Adolescents with FASD: navigating the Rapids to Adult Life -- 1.5 CEUs
- Understanding & Caring for Ourselves -- 1.5 CEUs
- HIV Risk and What to Do About It -- 1.5 CEUs

11. Board Business

a. Ethics reports

There were no Ethics reports submitted.

b. Task List

Curtis Schlosser – find out dates of AMFT meeting in Anchorage & contact the state AMFT regarding out meeting dates.

c. Schedule next meeting

September 26, 2008

The Board would like the September 2008 meeting in Anchorage in conjunction with the AMFTRB national meeting that will be held in Anchorage on September 24-25. The MFT meeting will be held Friday, September 26, 2008. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m.

d. Sign meeting minutes

The previous Board meeting minutes were signed.

e. Travel Authorizations

The travel authorizations were signed.

f. Board travel/conferences

The national conference AMFT is meeting in Anchorage

On a motion duly made by Larry Severson, seconded by Father John Downing, and approved unanimously, it was RESOLVED to adjourn the meeting.

5:00 pm Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by:

Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved by:

Curtis Schlosser, Acting Chair

Date: _____