

# *Annual Report*

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# *Fiscal Year 2021*

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy**



**Department of Commerce, Community  
and Economic Development**

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**Division of Corporations, Business  
and Professional Licensing**

This annual performance report is presented in accordance with  
Alaska statute AS 08.01.070(10).

Its purpose is to report the accomplishments, activities, and the  
past and present needs of the licensing program.

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
FY 2021 Annual Report**

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**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
FY 2021 Annual Report**

**Identification of the Board**

<b>Board Member</b>	<b>Duty Station</b>	<b>Date Appointed</b>	<b>Term Expires</b>
<b>Karen Cunningham</b> Licensed Marital & Family Therapist	Anchorage, AK	Mar 01, 2017	Mar 01, 2021
<b>Noah Shields</b> Licensed Marital & Family Therapist	Kenai, AK	Mar 01, 2019	Mar 01, 2023
<b>Nicole Jenkins</b> Licensed Marital & Family Therapist	Palmer, AK	Mar 01, 2017	Mar 01, 2021
<b>Joy Collins</b> Licensed Marital & Family Therapist	Anchorage, AK	January 26, 2021	Mar 01, 2025
<b>Richard Clampitt</b> Licensed Marital & Family Therapist	Palmer, AK	Mar 01, 2021	Mar 01, 2025
<b>Kayla Green</b> Licensed Marital & Family Therapist	Eagle River, AK	Mar 01, 2020	Mar 01, 2024

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**Identification of Staff**

**Lauren Bales – Licensing Examiner**

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Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing  
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**Andy Khmelev – Records & Licensing Supervisor**

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**Lacey Derr – Records & Licensing Supervisor**

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**Josh Hardy – Investigator**

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**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Narrative Statement**

The board of Marital and Family Therapy (BMFT) is staffed by the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing (CBPL). The board consists of three licensed marital and family therapists and one public member. This year the board experienced significant changes with several board members exiting and the confirmation of two new board members. Board members are appointed by the governor and confirmed by the legislature.

The board adopts regulations to carry out laws governing the practice of marital and family therapy in Alaska. It makes final licensing decisions and takes disciplinary actions against individuals who violate licensing laws. The board meets at least once a year and offers a public comment period at each meeting. Meeting agendas are available from the licensing examiner.

The board reviewed the fiscal budget and the amount of renewals the board received during the past fiscal year. The board began FY21 with a deficit of \$4,604. At the end of the third quarter of FY21, the board will carry a surplus into the non-renewal year. The board works diligently to improve the amount of license renewals and maintain a surplus in the budget. One avenue it has worked on to increase board revenue is encouraging applicants who were licensed under the Emergency Courtesy License to transition to full licensure in the state and to investigate ways to increase accessibility for MFT professionals to provide services to hard-to-reach communities through telehealth and other distance options.

Due to the pandemic, the board was also tasked with enacting emergency provisions to ensure accessibility between MFT professionals and individuals seeking services. The board extended the Emergency Courtesy License, until it was appropriate to end it on June 4, 2021, and established permanent emergency regulations to be enacted in case of future emergencies.

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022**

The Budget Recommendations section anticipates the board’s fiscal priorities for the upcoming year. Please complete all parts of this section with details about anticipated meetings, conferences, memberships, supplies, equipment, to other board requests. Meeting expenses that are being funded through third-party reimbursement or direct booking must be identified separately from expenses paid through license fees (receipt-supported services or RSS). Be sure to explain any items listed as “other” so they may be tracked appropriately.

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
September 20, 2021	Anchorage, AK	4	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$2,100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$700.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$360.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$3,560.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
January 2022	Juneau, AK	4	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$2,000.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$800.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$440.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$3,740.00</b>

Board Meeting Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
April 2022	Anchorage	4	1
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:			\$2,100.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:			\$700.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:			\$400.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other:			\$360.00
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$3,560.00</b>

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)**

**Travel Required to Perform Examinations**

Not applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			
<input type="checkbox"/> Airfare: \$0.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Hotel: \$0.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Ground: \$0.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Conference: \$0.00 <input type="checkbox"/> Other: \$0.00 Describe "Other" (break out all sections):			
<b>Total Estimated Cost:</b>			<b>\$0.00</b>

**Out-of-State Meetings and Additional In-State Travel** (Rank in order of importance)

#1 Rank in Importance or  Not Applicable

Date	Location	# Board	# Staff	
September 21-22, 2021	Washington, D.C.	1	1	
<b>Description of meeting and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>				
The Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) to develop and update Sanction Matrix Guidelines, review disciplinary research information, develop new policies and collaborate with other state MFT boards for best practices.				
Expenditure	License Fees (RSS)	Third-Party Reimbursement	Third-Party Direct Booked	Total
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Airfare:	\$1,200.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,200.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hotel:	\$850.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$850.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ground:	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Conference:	\$500.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$500.00
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other	\$300.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$300.00
Describe "Other" (break out all sections):				
<b>Net Total:</b>	<b>\$3,150.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>	<b>\$3,150.00</b>

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)**

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable                       Resources                       Examinations  
 Membership                       Training                       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
AMFTRB Membership	AMFTRB	\$500.00

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

This association is organized (1) to facilitate communication among its member boards concerning the regulation of marital and family therapists; (2) to sponsor collaboration among the member boards in developing compatible standards for marital and family therapy services; (3) to interface with other marital and family therapy organizations, with legislative, judicial, regulatory, and executive governmental bodies and with other groups or associations whose areas of interest may coincide with those of the association; (4) to aid its member boards in fulfilling statutory, professional, public, and ethical obligations; (5) to develop, conduct and maintain the "Marital and Family Therapy National Examination"; and (6) to engage in and encourage research on matters related to the legal regulation of marital and family therapists.

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable                       Resources                       Examinations  
 Membership                       Training                       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
		\$0.00

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**

**Non-Travel Budget Requests**

- Not Applicable                       Resources                       Examinations  
 Membership                       Training                       Other

Product or Service	Provider	Cost Per Event
		\$0.00

**Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:**



**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Budget Recommendations for FY 2022 (continued)**

<b>Other Items with a Fiscal Impact</b>		<b>Cost Per Event:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Applicable</b>		<b>Number of Events:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Product or Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	
		\$0.00	
<b>Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			

<b>Other Items with a Fiscal Impact</b>		<b>Cost Per Event:</b>	<b>\$0.00</b>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Not Applicable</b>		<b>Number of Events:</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Product or Service</b>	<b>Provider</b>	<b>Total Cost</b>	
		\$0.00	
<b>Description of item and its role in supporting the mission of the Board:</b>			

<b>Summary of FY 2022 Fiscal Requests</b>	
Board Meetings and Teleconferences:	\$10,860.00
Travel for Exams:	\$0.00
Out-of-State and Additional In-State Travel:	\$3,150.00
Dues, Memberships, Resources, Training:	\$500.00
Total Potential Third-Party Offsets:	-\$0.00
Other:	\$0.00
<b>Total Requested:</b>	<b>\$14,510.00</b>

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Legislation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed legislation at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed legislation:

During the coming fiscal year (FY22), the board will pursue amendments to legislation and statutes, specifically A.S. 08.63.120, to ensure the statute is sufficiently tailored to allow and promote the ability of unlicensed individuals seeking to be licensed in this state to obtain supervision by out of state supervisors, who meet the same or similar standards as in this state, as in the public interest.

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Regulation Recommendations Proposed Legislation for FY 2022**

**No Recommendations**

The Board has no recommendations for proposed regulations at this time.

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**Recommendations**

The Board has the following recommendations for proposed regulations:

# Board of Marital and Family Therapy Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report

## Goals and Objectives

### Part I

#### **FY 2021's goals and objectives, and how they were met:**

1. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy (BMFT) FY 2019 had intended to simplify and modernize existing regulations to support ease of use and improve applicability with current practices. The board reviewed regulations related to Sec 08.63.110(f) and discussed changes to increase the amount of times an applicant can take the license examination; Sec 08.63.120 was reviewed and changes were discussed in allowing authorized supervisors from outside of Alaska that were AAMFT approved; 12 AAC 19.210 was reviewed and a proposal to drop language requiring proof of five years practicing as a licensed marital and family therapy for five continuous years was discussed.
2. The BMFT will continue to review statutes and regulations to be consistent with the practice of marital and family therapy. The board will continue to recommend other statutes and regulations as needed. The board worked specifically to create regulations for Grounds for Denial and Reinstatement. These additions were submitted to Department of Law.
3. The board will continue to review applications of marriage and family therapists by credentials, by examination, for supervisor status and for associates in an established and timely manner. This is a major function of the BMFT meetings. The board is satisfied with our process of reviewing applications.
4. The board will continue its responsibility to improve the process of approving continuing education, including supervision and continuing education, while maintaining professional standards. The board is satisfied with our process and continues to review and vote on applications in a timely manner.
5. The board will continue to work closely with the investigator assigned at their request. At every meeting, the investigator assigned to this board gives a report on their work related to the BMFT. The board will continue to be updated on the functions of the investigator's office. The investigator reported at each meeting. There were investigations reported throughout the year, and the board is satisfied with the outcome of each of the closed investigations.
6. The board will continue to work with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing with the goal to continue to reduce expenses and increase fees as is reasonable to maintain a balanced budget. The Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing has continued to work with the board to clarify budget needs including the use of licensing fees to reduce expenses while maintaining a balanced budget.
7. The board will continue to fill vacancies as they occur in a timely manner. One vacancy occurred in 2019. The governor's office was able to fill that vacancy in a timely manner. There are currently no vacancies. The board encourages, and will work with, the governor should any vacancies arise in 2020.

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part I (continued)**

**FY 2021's goals and objectives, and how they were met:**

8. The BMFT will work to standardize and streamline the approval of continuing education while maintaining the integrity of the mission of the board, which is to approve training relevant to Marriage and Family Therapy. Due to the COVID-19 emergency, the board drafted language to allow licensees the option of completing all their continuing education via distance if needed. This change will only occur during the licensing period starting January 1, 2019 and ending December 21, 2020.
9. The board will respond to unprecedented events to support professionals licensed under this chapter who provide mental health services to Alaskans. In response to the COVID-19 emergency, BMFT made several changes in accordance with Legislative Confirmation of Disaster SB 241 and the COVID-19 emergency to provide an Emergency Courtesy License, and to make changes to Continuing Education and Notarization of Application requirements.
10. The board has continued, and will continue, to collaborate with CBPL's Occupational Licensing Examiner, whose guidance has been essential to the functioning of the board.
11. The board will continue to provide information and be a source of information and support for legislators and executive branches of the state government. The board will continue to document all contacts with legislators or legislative offices on behalf of the board and report that to the board through the occupational licensing examiner.
12. The board will continue to review, research and consider new technological advances as it pertains to therapy, supervision, and training. The board will continue to make recommendations to the proposed regulations and statutes in order to enact legislation for distance therapy. The board clarified regulation changes to telesupervision that were adopted during FY19 along with teletherapy regulations.
13. The board will research and consider ways of insuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations. The primary way of insuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations is through our website. The board has approved new emergency regulations to be posted online and has been working on a Position Statement to provide MFT licensees information about Telehealth regulations.
14. The board will continue its goals to increase board education to improve its function by sending delegates to national conferences and/or trainings such as "Clear" and American Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulation Board (AMFTRB). While it was anticipated one board licensee member will attend the Clear conference and the AMFTRB, no members participated during FY19. The board endeavors to resume sending a board member to national conferences during FY20.
15. The board will continue to review and explore title vigilance. The board regularly reviews and is open to explore issues relating to title vigilance.
16. The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the American Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulations Board (AMFTRB).

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Goals and Objectives**

**Part II**

**FY 2022's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

**\*Goal 1:** The board will pursue joint recommendations from AAMFT, COAMFT, and AMFTRB regarding certification, registration, or compact agreements to facilitate license portability.

*Objective 1:* Continue to seek input from the National Organization, AAMFT, the APA and various MFT boards.

*Objective 2:* Continue to draft a proposal for legislation of statutes and regulations.

**\*Goal 2:** The Board of Marital and Family Therapy will continue to review statutes and regulations to be consistent with the practice of marital and family therapy.

*Objective 1:* Continue to recommend other statutes and regulations as needed.

**\*Goal 3:** The board will continue to review applications of marriage and family therapists by credentials, by examination, or supervisor status, and for associates in an established manner.

**\*Goal 4:** The board will continue its responsibility to improve the process of approving continuing education, while maintaining professional standards.

*Objective 1:* Continue to approve training relevant to the profession in a changing post-modern world.

*Objective 2:* Continue to standardize and streamline the process for approval of continuing education while maintaining the integrity of the mission of the board.

**\*Goal 5:** The board will continue to work closely with the investigator assigned at their request.

**\*Goal 6:** The board will continue use of brief evaluations with each board meeting.

**\*Goal 7:** The board will continue to work with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing with the goal to continue to reduce fees as is reasonable to maintain a balanced budget.

*Objective 1:* Continue to clarify budget needs.

*Objective 2:* Continue to review expenses at each regular scheduled board meeting.

**\*Goal 8:** The board will continue to work with the governor's office to fill vacant board seats in a timely manner.

*Objective 1:* Continue to encourage the governor's office to reappoint current members or appoint a new member in a timely manner.

**\*Goal 9:** The board will continue collaborative relations with the Division of Corporations, Business and Professional Licensing.

*Objective 1:* Continue to communicate with the licensing examiner.

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II (continued)**

**FY 2022's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

**\*Goal 10:** The board will be a presence and information source for legislators and executive branches of the state government.

*Objective 1:* Complete forms provided to board members after each contact made with a legislator or legislative office on behalf of the board.

*Objective 2:* Continue to be updated on the functions of the investigator's office.

**\*Goal 11:** The board will continue work on distance therapy and teletherapy to allow for therapists not licensed in Alaska, and not establishing a practice in Alaska, to do limited sessions with people residing in Alaska.

*Objective 1:* Continue to review and propose regulations to support telehealth in Alaska.

**\*Goal 12:** The board will continue to review research and consider new technological advances as it pertains to therapy, supervision, and training.

*Objective 1:* Continue to address these issues during the legislative session.

*Objective 2:* Seek support, awareness, and endorsements by legislative members and the governor.

*Objective 3:* Increase flexibility of CEUs by use of live online training through change in regulations.

**\*Goal 13:** The board will continue to require licensing as an MFT associate before acquiring clinical and supervision hours.

*Objective 1:* Continue to address the issue of previous experience and labor mobility before this change.

*Objective 2:* Continue to review current statutes and regulations and propose changes necessary to match national trends.

*Objective 3:* Make supervision more flexible and obtainable for associates.

**\*Goal 14:** The board will research and consider ways of ensuring MFT licensees have knowledge of their statutes and regulations.

*Objective 1:* Send mail outs to licensees to update and inform them of current statutes and regulations.

**\*Goal 15:** The board will continue their affiliation and full membership with the Association of Marital and Family Therapy (AAMFT) and the Regulation Board (AMFTRB).

*Objective 1:* Continue to attend annual meetings to maintain an Alaska perspective and stay informed of what is occurring nationwide.

**\*Goal 16:** The board will continue its goals to increase board education to improve its function by sending delegates to national conferences and/or trainings such as the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's yearly conference, the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's (AAMFT) yearly Regulatory Board (AAMFTRB) meeting, and the Council on Licensure, Enforcement & Regulation's (CLEAR) annual conference.

**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
Fiscal Year 2021 Annual Report**

**Goals and Objectives (continued)**

**Part II (continued)**

**FY 2022's goals and objectives, and proposed methods to achieve them.**

**Describe any strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats and required resources:**

**\*Goal 17:** The board will continue to review and explore title vigilance.

*Objective 1:* Continue to regularly review and be open to exploring issues relating to title vigilance.

**\*Goal 18:** Determine LMFT's ability to use Medicare (requested by Rep. McCarty) in private practice.

*Objective 1:* Investigate when/how LMFT's can use Medicare in private practice.

**\*Goal 19:** Increase the amount of LMFT's in the state.

*Objective 1:* Increase board revenue to encourage applicants who were licensed under the Emergency Courtesy License to transition to full licensure in the state.

*Objective 2:* Investigate ways to increase accessibility for MFT professionals in providing services to hard-to-reach communities through telehealth and other distance options.

**\*Goal 20:** Increase awareness of Marital Family Board and their duties due to uncertainty of some professionals not knowing board still exists and who to contact.

*Objective 1:* Problem solve cost efficient ways to enhance awareness of the Marital Family Board.



**Board of Marital and Family Therapy  
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**Sunset Audit Recommendations**

**Date of Last Legislative Audit:** May 9, 2017  
**Board Sunset Date:** June 30, 2026

**Audit Recommendation:** No new recommendations were made as part of this audit

**Action Taken:** N/A

**Next Steps:** N/A

**Date Completed:** N/A