

**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  
February 27, 2009**

**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 February 27, 2009, beginning at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at 333 Willoughby Avenue, 9<sup>th</sup> floor, Juneau, Alaska.**

**Call to Order/Roll Call**

The meeting was called to order by Patricia White, Chairperson, at 9:00 a.m.

**Board Members present, constituting a quorum:**

Patricia White, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
Larry Severson, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist  
Father John Downing, Public Member  
Kimberly Horn, Public Member

**Board Members absent:**

Curtis Schlosser, Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist

Chairperson White thanked everyone for their volunteer work on the Board and welcomed the new Board Member, Kimberly Horn.

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

Lynne Smith, Director  
Jennifer Strickler, Chief  
Karen Wilke, Paralegal  
Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner  
Susan Winton, Investigator (by telephone)

**Attending from the State of Alaska Division of Legislative Audit was:**

Kimball Andresen, Auditor

**1. Review Agenda**

The Board reviewed the agenda and some changes were made.

**On a motion duly made by Larry Severson, seconded by Father John Downing, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to accept the meeting agenda as amended.**

## **2. Review Minutes**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the September 26, 2008 meeting and made some small changes.

**On a motion duly made by Father John Downing, seconded by Larry Severson, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to accept the September 26, 2008 meeting minutes as amended.**

## **3. New Business**

The Director of the Division of Corporations, Business, and Professional Licensing, Lynne Smith, met with the Board and introduced herself. She explained that work was being done and there should be more information soon regarding the debt the Board owes and the reduction of renewal rates at the next renewal period.

### **a. Report on AAMFT Conference**

Board member Larry Severson reported on the information he brought back from the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy's annual conference. He reported that the theme of the conference focused on legal and ethical issues. One of the main goals, as it applies to the Alaska State Board for Marital and Family Therapists, was to find out information on standards for approval of CEUs.

The AAMFT adheres to the NBCC (National Board for Certified Counselors) guidelines for continuing education. In their guidelines, they address instructor qualifications, approved topic areas, approved content, as well as assuring that the topics and content are relevant to the continuing education of professional counselors. Programs designed for the training of members of the general public, paraprofessional counselors or lay counselors do not qualify for NBCC approval.

Board Member Severson distributed the "NBCC Continuing Education Policies and Procedures". The Chair requested that all members read it and review the current application for CEU provider approval. It was determined that after review of both the NBCC policies and procedures, and our current application form for CEU provider approval, the Board would consider revising the current application form for CEU provider approval at our next meeting to align it with the requirements that NBCC (and AAMFT) adheres to.

### **b. Practicing with a lapsed license**

The board discussed the problem of licensees failing to renew their licenses and continuing to put themselves forward as a Marital and Family Therapist. This was also discussed with the Investigator. This discussion was related to the following statute:

**Sec. 08.63.220. License required if designation used.** A person who is not licensed under this chapter or whose license is suspended or revoked, or whose license has lapsed, who knowingly uses in connection with the person's name the words or letters "L.M.F.T.," "L.M.F.C.," "Licensed Marital and Family Therapist," "Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor," or other letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is licensed as a marital and family therapist by this state or who in any way, orally or in writing, directly or by implication, knowingly holds out as being licensed by the state as a marital and family therapist in this state is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

c. New board member recruitment

The Board discussed the current process that is going on to find and appoint qualified board members. The Chair encouraged members to contact MFTs of their acquaintance regarding the opening. The Board would like to see a member from rural Alaska.

d. Update from AMFTRB

This was an "FYI" for the Board. The Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards is encouraging state boards to follow their recommendations regarding examinations. They would like to see laws and regulations that allow an applicant/candidate who fails the national examination on the first attempt be able to retake the examination at any time and if they fail a second time, allow them to retake it after six months. AAMFT would like to see candidates who fail the third or any subsequent attempt may only retake the examination one year after their last attempt.

At this time, our statutes do not allow the Board to use the AMFTRB's recommendations. Our statute reads:

**Sec. 08.63.100. Qualifications for license to practice. ....**

(c) An applicant who fails an examination given under this section may not retake the examination for a period of six months from the date of the examination that the applicant failed.

e. Membership dues for AMFTRB

The Board received the yearly dues statement for membership to The Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards

**On a motion duly made by Father John Downing, seconded by Kim Horn, and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED to continue membership to The Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards and pay the fee.**

**4. Old Business**

a . Joint Boards discussion (update)

Father John Downing had spoken with Senator Dyson in order to ascertain why he was interested in joint boards. Larry Severson also spoke with the Senator.

Senator Dyson continues to be supportive of the MFT Board and noted that in spite of the significant cost to themselves, the board was true to its job of protecting the public by addressing the ethical infraction and he was appreciative of that. His thoughts concerning joint boards centered around costs and strength.

Regarding costs, since the MFT Board had an ethics investigation of one of its members several years ago, the costs of the investigation greatly impacted the license costs for MTF licensure. Hence, when new graduates enter the field, it is often a financial consideration for them to choose licensing as a professional counselor rather than an MFT. Consequently, the LPC board has grown much faster than the LMFT board. Senator Dyson said that when they crafted the legislation that created the boards and required them to be financially self-supporting, they never envisioned what actually happened. He is wondering if it would be more cost effective for the LPC & LMFT boards to combine. It was noted that the costs in the future would not be as expensive with the restructuring the Division has done, especially hiring Investigators and Paralegals to do so much of the work previously done by the Law Department.

Regarding strength, Senator Dyson noted that the Board of Social Workers has a long history of organization strength. His thoughts concerning a combined LPC and LMFT board were that it could add strength to both boards.

There was discussion on the increased amount of board members' time that it would take if they were on a joint board. It was also noted that from the informal information received at the regulatory board conference last fall, about half of the states that have joint boards were dissatisfied with the results and would prefer them to be separate boards. If there is further discussion on joint boards, the Board would like more information from other states on what has been successful and what has been problematic.

## **5. Investigator's Report**

Investigator Susan Winton joined the meeting via telephone. She reports that there is one on-going investigation at this time; one case has been opened and closed since the last meeting; and no licensees are on probation at this time.

The Board also discussed licensees who do not renew their professional license, but continue to practice.

Investigator Winton went over the investigative process for the Board's review and for the new member.

## **Paralegal Report**

Paralegal Karen Wilke met with the Board and introduced herself and explained her job in conjunction with the continuing education enforcement.

## **6. Correspondence**

### **a. Saada Mayhak-internet graduate course**

Ms. Mayhak had several questions regarding obtaining the required courses to become an MFT if one is already a licensed professional counselor. The Board noted that one may take graduate courses on-line, but they must be from an accredited university. There were also questions regarding her supervision. Chair White will draft a letter.

## **7. Public Comment**

There was no public comment.

## **8. Regulations**

This was an update on regulations. The Board had previously requested a change to one word in the license renewal regulation and had gone through the process of changing the word “or” to “and” in 12 AAC 19.300(b)(3)(C). This change became effective on November 14, 2008.

## **9. Statutes**

### **e. Statute Update** (Changing supervision)

The Board had previously discussed changing the statute 08.63.100(3)(C)(ii) by changing the work “and” to “or” .

(C) .....

(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;.

It was requested that it be part of the Omnibus Bill that the Division was submitting to the Governor’s Office. In the Investigator’s report, the Board was updated and informed that their request was included.

## **Chief of Professional Licensing**

Jennifer Strickler, the Chief of Professional Licensing, introduced herself to the Board and welcomed them. Ms. Strickler discussed the Omnibus Bill, which includes a statute change for this Board. It was reported that it will most likely go to the Legislature next session, not this one.

## **10. Applications/Audit Review**

The Board reviewed applications.

**On a motion duly made by Larry Severson, seconded by, Kimberly Horn,  
and approved unanimously, it was**

**RESOLVED accept the following applications:**

### **MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY ASSOCIATE**

- Noah Shields

### **CEU APPROVAL APPLICATION LIST**

#### **Co-Occurring Disorders Institute, Inc (CODI)**

- **Ethics**
- **Hippa and 42 CFR**

## CEU AUDIT APPROVAL

- **Blake, Daniel**
- **Gilbreath, Diane**
- **Wilcox, David**

### 11. Board Business

#### a. Ethics reports

There were no Ethics reports submitted.

#### b. Task List

- All Members – read the “NBCC Continuing Education Policies and Procedures”, especially pages 4-9.
- Patricia White – send email regarding the Omnibus Bill.  
– write letter to Ms. Maayak with licensing examiner
- Pat White and Larry Severson – find information regarding combined Boards while at conferences

#### c. Schedule next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Friday, July 24, 2009.

The Board would like to review the applications earlier in the day during future meetings.

#### d. Sign meeting minutes

The previous Board meeting minutes were signed.

#### e. Travel Authorizations

The travel authorizations were signed.

#### f. Board travel/conferences

There was discussion regarding future national annual meetings and attendees.

**On a motion duly made by Father John Downing, seconded by, Kimberly Horn, and approved unanimously, it was  
RESOLVED approve travel to national board meetings and conferences the following:**

**American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy Annual Conference  
10/30/08 – 11/2/08 -- Larry Severson**

**Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards 2009 Annual Meeting of State Delegates 9/9/09 – 9/10/09 -- Patricia White or Larry Severson and Father John Downing**

**American Association for Marriage & Family Therapy Annual Conference**

**Fall 2009-Sacramento -- Patricia White**

**Council on Licensure, Enforcement and Regulation Annual Conference  
September 10-12, 2009-Denver -- Kimberly Horn**

**On a motion duly made by Kimberly Horn, seconded by, Father John Downing, and  
approved unanimously, it was  
RESOLVED to adjourn meeting.**

4:05 pm

Meeting was adjourned

Respectfully Submitted by:

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Eleanor Vinson, Licensing Examiner

Approved by:

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Patricia White, Chairperson

Date: \_\_\_\_\_