



# ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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## MINUTES Board Meeting January 22, 2021

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy met on Friday, January 22, 2021 at the Board's office in Montgomery to conduct Board business. The meeting was held virtually during the COVID 19 State of Emergency. Members present on the video-conference call were Dr. Luciana Silva (Board Chair), Mr. Douglas Cooke (Vice Chair), Dr. Mark Westfall (member) and Dr. Karley Downs (member). Member absent was Ms. Raven Pyle. Also present on the call was Ms. Bettie Carmack (Board Legal Counsel). Participating in the meeting onsite were Ms. Hope Childers (Board Administrator), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary).

The regularly scheduled meeting was advertised on the Board's website, [www.mft.alabama.gov](http://www.mft.alabama.gov), and the Secretary of State's website, [www.sos.alabama.gov](http://www.sos.alabama.gov), in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

The meeting was called to order by Dr. Silva, Board Chair, at 10:07 a.m. and welcomed everyone participating in the meeting.

Ms. Childers called Board roll and announced that a quorum of the members was present to conduct business.

Chairperson Silva presented the October 16, 2021 Board meeting minutes for the Board's approval. A copy of the minutes was provided to the Board prior to the meeting for their review. Dr. Westfall made a motion to approve the October meeting minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairperson Silva commented on changes to the AMFT regarding internship clinical hours for students. She indicated that changes in the accreditation process would begin in 2022 and the Board discussed the reduction in internship hours effecting the Board's rules. Chairperson Silva appointed a committee comprised of Mr. Cooke, Dr. Downs and the Board Chair for the purpose of collecting information from other State Boards regarding the affect these changes have on their licensure requirements.

The Board discussed changing the Board meeting schedule to approved applications from individuals graduating in May. Dr. Downs made the motion to meet on June 4, 2021 for the purpose of approving applications only. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board recommended that this meeting schedule be considered for 2022.

Ms. Childers presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the financial activities of the Board for the period ending December 31, 2020. The financial report also included a line-item summary of expenses for the same period. She reported on the total number of licensees (#445), along with the total number of complaints received during FY 2020 and FY 2021 (copy of the report available for

review in Official Book of Minutes). Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and was unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers presented the Administrator's Report listing activities performed by the staff since the last Board meeting held in October, along with a list of 11 new licenses issued during this reporting period (reports available for review in Official Book of Minutes).

Ms. Carmack presented the Legal Counsel report and explained the role of the Investigative Committee, comprised of the Board Attorney, Investigator, Executive Director and one Board member.

Ms. Childers presented the proposed Rule 536-X-1 Definition of Terms for adoption as a Final Rule. Ms. Reames reported that the Rule had been advertised and no comments had been received from the public. Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the Final Rule 536-X-1 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers presented the proposed Rule 536-X-8-.09 Technology-Assisted Training Education Requirement of Profession for adoption as a Final Rule. Ms. Reames reported that the Rule had been advertised and no comments had been received from the public. Mr. Cooke made the motion to approve the Final Rule 536-X-8-.09 with the amendment to item (7) to change the word intern to associate. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairman Silva reported that the Emergency Rule approved at the March 27, 2020 Board meeting was scheduled to expire March 2021. The Board discussed the Emergency Rule to allow licensees to obtain CE credits online. Dr. Downs made the motion to continue the Emergency Rule until the Governor lifted the State of Emergency due to the pandemic. The motion was seconded by Dr. Westfall and unanimously approved by the Board.

Ms. Childers presented a list of applicants for the Board's approval, consisting of one (1) Associate, two (2) LMFT, one (1) Supervisor In-Training and one Change in Supervisor. Dr. Downs made the motion to approve the applications as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cooke and unanimously approved by the Board.

Chairperson Silva announced that the next meeting of the Board was scheduled for Friday, April 23, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. She indicated that the Board would be notified about any changes in the meeting platform of continuing with virtual meetings while under a State of Emergency or to meet in person on site.

With no further business to discuss and Chairperson Silva adjourned the meeting at 11:05 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Keith E. Warren  
*Executive Director*

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