

ALABAMA BOARD OF EXAMINERS IN MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

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MINUTES Board Meeting June 2, 2023

The Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy met on Friday, Friday, June 2, 2023, at the Board's office located at 2777 Zelda Road in Montgomery. Members present were Mr. Douglas Cooke (Board Chair), Dr. Karly Downs (Board Vice Chair), and Dr. Samuel Jones (member). Members absent were Dr. Timothy Nichols (member) and Mrs. Raven Pyle Livingston (member). Others attending were Mr. Keith Warren (Executive Director), Ms. Laura Howell (Legal Counsel), Ms. Karen Harlow (Legal Assistant) and Ms. Renee' Reames (recording secretary). Guests attending were Ms. Rachel Sullivan and Ms. Sarah Beth Earles, both from the Alabama Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

The rescheduled meeting was advertised on the Board's website, www.mft.alabama.gov, and the Secretary of State's website, www.sos.alabama.gov, in accordance with the Alabama Open Meetings Act.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 a.m. by Mr. Cooke, Board Chair.

Mr. Warren called member roll and reported that a quorum of the members was present to conduct business. Mr. Cooke welcomed everyone in attendance and guests from the Alabama Association of Marriage and Family Therapy (ALAMFT).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Chairperson Cooke presented the February 10, 2023, 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. Jones made a motion to approve the February meeting minutes, as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Downs and unanimously approved by the Board.

REPORTS

Report by Board Chair: Chairperson Cooke indicated that he had no report at this time.

Executive Director's Report: Mr. Warren presented the Executive Director's Report and reviewed the Board's financial activities for the period ending April 30, 2023. He also presented a summary of expense obligations vs. budget (numbered object codes) for this same period. He reported that the Board had discussed with Smith Warren about reducing the fees for administrative services due to the Board's financial situation, and the Board's financial standing had improved and was no longer in decline.

Mr. Warren reviewed other activities performed by staff since the last Board meeting and reported on the number of complaints the Board had received in FY 2023 (copy of the reports are available for review in Official Book of Minutes).

Dr. Jones made the motion to accept the financial report as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Downs and was unanimously approved by the Board.

Mr. Warren reviewed the performance activities of the staff since the last Board meeting held in February. He indicated that renewal notices had been sent, along with reminder emails and late notices. Mr. Warren presented a list of new licensees, along with a list of licensees whose license had expired (list prepared as of March 7, 2023). He reminded the Board that the expired licenses could have been renewed through March 1, 2023, with a late fee. The Board agreed that postcard renewal reminders would be sent during the next renewal cycle.

Mr. Warren reported on the Executive Orders issued by Governor Ivey, to include Request for Public Records. He stated that the Board's guidelines were being developed to comply with these orders.

Mr. Warren reported that Medicaid had offered two dates in June to meet and discuss the request for LMFTs to have the authority to approve treatment plans for Medicaid patients.

Legal Counsel Report: Ms. Howell reported that the Investigative Committee (IC) had met, and she presented recommendations on the following cases. She reported that Ms. Livingston served on the IC.

- Case 2023.005 recommendation to accept withdrawal of the complaint by the complainant.
- Case 2023.006 recommendation to accept withdrawal of the complaint by the complainant.
- Case 2023.002BR remained as pending. The criminal case, under other prosecution, had not been resolved. The Board may consider this case in the future.

Dr. Jones made the motion to approve the recommendations of the Investigative Committee as presented by Ms. Howell. The motion was seconded by Dr. Downs and unanimously approved by the Board.

The Board discussed reviewing the Board's rules pertaining to advertising and awareness regarding Associate-licensees working under the supervision and not autonomously.

Ms. Howell also reported on Cases 2022-006 and 2023-001 (one Respondent) which had been discussed at the April Board meeting.

- She reported that the Respondent had counteroffered to the original terms of the Consent Agreement. The Respondent's counteroffer included a \$1,000 fine paid within 60 days, 1-year probation, and 20 hours of live attendance over a 2-year period of specific continuing education courses.

Dr. Downs made the motion to approve the conditions of the Consent Agreement as agreed to by the Respondent and presented by Ms. Howell. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board. The Board agreed not to publish the disciplinary matter in Cases 2022-006 and 2023-001 but would comply with the National Practitioner Database as a reportable matter. Ms. Howell explained that the consent in this matter was privileged, and she further indicated which information was public regarding request for public records.

RFP for Administrative Services – Ms. Howell reported that the matter of the specifications for Request for Proposals for Administrative Services was discussed at the April meeting. She reported that an error occurred in posting the email address to receive proposals. The Board considered a motion to reopen the proposal deadline through July 30th and review the proposals at the regularly scheduled August meeting. Board discussion continued regarding proposal selection date and date of final contract.

Dr. Downs made the motion to release specifications for RFP for Administrative Services, again, through July 5, 2023. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Jones made the motion to schedule a special/called meeting of the Board on July 14, 2023, at 11:00 a.m., at the Attorney General's Office to consider proposals for Administrative Services. The motion was seconded by Dr. Downs and unanimously approved by the Board.

Dr. Downs made the motion to retain the same subcommittee of the Board's Contract Review Committee, to report at the July 14, 2023, special/called meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board.

Rules Committee – Dr. Downs reported that the Rules Committee was continuing to review Board Rules and reminded the members about the changes approved to Rule 536-X-6 at the February meeting. Mr. Warren offered to assist Dr. Downs in arranging a virtual meeting of the Committee prior to the next regularly scheduled Board meeting.

ALAMFT Report – Chairman Cooke recognized Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Earles with the Alabama Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. Ms. Sullivan and Ms. Earls reported on upcoming technology-assisted training to be offered for MFT-S licensees. Also reported were efforts by the Association to have regional group meetings, along with plans to submit recommendations for Board appointments.

The Board discussed the Interstate Compact requirements for 300 hours and the Board's current requirement for 500 hours and the possible effect on other state licensees' portability of license.

OLD BUSINESS

Chairman Cooke called for any old business and there were none to report.

NEW BUSINESS

Approval of Applications –Dr. Downs reported that she had reviewed, prior to the Board meeting, twenty (20) applications comprised of 9 MFT, 3 intern, 2 Associate and 5 supervision-related applications and 1 examination request. Dr. Downs recommended approval of the following 15 applications and indicated that the other 5 applications required additional information (list available in Official Book of Minutes):

- DL – change in supervisor
- TP – change in supervisor
- MB – change in supervisor
- KS – additional supervisor
- LH – Intern
- LL – Intern
- JW – Intern
- MT – Associate
- HP – Associate
- LM – MFT
- KL – MFT
- LH – MFT
- NS – MFT
- JV – MFT
- AC – MFT

Dr. Downs made the motion to approval the 15 applications as reviewed. The motion was seconded by Dr. Jones and unanimously approved by the Board.

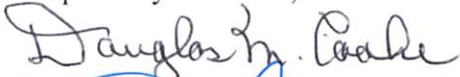
Next Board Meeting: Chairman Cooke reported that the next regular meeting was scheduled August 18, 2023, at 10:00 a.m. at the Board's office.

ANNOUNCEMENTS AND OTHER BUSINESS


He also reminded the members that a special/called meeting, to discuss Administrative Services proposal, was scheduled July 14, 2023 at 11:00 a.m. at the Attorney General's office.

Adjournment: Chairman Cooke called for other business and there were none. With no further business to discuss, Chairman Cooke adjourned the meeting at 11:36 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Douglas Cooke
Board Chair



Keith E. Warren
Executive Director

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