

## Board Meeting - Minutes

January 19, 2024

With proper and required notice having been provided to the Alabama Secretary of State's Office and with posting on the websites of the Alabama Secretary of State and the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage & Family Therapy (ABEMFT), the ABEMFT meeting was held Friday, January 19, 2024, at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, Alabama. The meeting was called to order at 10:15am by Chairman, Dr. Raven Livingston.

A quorum having been established and maintained; the following Board members were present:

1. Dr. Tim Nichols
2. Dr. Raven Livingston
3. Dr. Samuel Jones
4. Anthony (Tony) Watkins
5. Dr. Kathryn Jones – Oath of Office – 10:20 am

Also present, Claire Austin, Executive Director, Jacki Tucker – Administrator, Will Parker, Administrative Support, Laura Howell, Board Legal Counsel, and two new board attorneys, Charles McKay, and Ben Seiss. Sarah Beth Earles and Rachel Sullivan (via Zoom) from the Alabama Association Marriage & Family Therapy.

Austin stated travel vouchers had been approved.

Claire Austin administered the Oath of Office to the newest board member, Dr. Kathryn Jones, and welcomed her as the newest board member. This action was notarized by Jacki Tucker.

Chairman Livingston asked for an approval of the agenda. Dr. Nichols made the motion to approve the agenda and it was seconded by Dr. Samuel Jones. All members of the board voted in favor of the agenda.

Chairman Livingston asked for an approval of the board minutes from the November 3, 2023, meeting. Anthony (Tony) Watkins made the motion to approve the minutes, and it was seconded by Dr. Samuel Jones. All members of the board voted in favor of approving the minutes from the November 3, 2023, meeting.

Chairman Livingston asked for introductions given new attendees of the board meeting. Introductions were done with everyone in the room and the one person on Zoom.

Claire Austin welcomed everyone to the meeting stating appreciation for full board attendance. Austin presented a letter mailed in October 2023 on behalf of the ABEMFT to Commissioner of Medicaid, Stephanie Azar. She also indicated that the Association spoke with the Deputy Commissioner Stephanie Logan, on Thursday, January 18, and that Medicaid is working towards trying to get this payment covered by the agency solved before the end of January or early February.

Austin then gave an administrative update on current operations of the board. Austin stated that the Board has 463 Active Licensees, 28 Pending Applicants, and 31 expired licenses as of December 31, 2023, and that these 31 licensees have until March 1, 2024, to renew their license. Austin thanked Legal Counsel Laura Howell for her work with the board noting that this would be her last meeting as she has accepted a new position in state government.

Will Parker then presented the financial report and update, specifically citing the streamlined nature of board expenses and noting once yearly fees that were charged this quarter.

Laura Howell presented a negotiated consent decree to the board on a pending case from June 2023. The Board had much discussion about the goal of the CEU's assigned to the licensee. The board felt strongly there should be a focus on ethics and scope of practice.

Howell stated this matter warranted an Executive Session to discuss the good name and character of a licensee. It was determined that the Executive Session would last 10 minutes. The Board moved into Executive Session with Dr. Tim Nichols making the motion and Dr. Samuel Jones seconding the motion for the Board to go into Executive Session. There was a roll call vote with each member of the Board voting yes to move into Executive Session @ 11:23 am, Dr. Tim Nichols – Yes, - Dr. Raven A. Livingston – Yes – Dr. Samuel Jones - Yes, Tony Watkins – Yes. Dr. Kathryn Jones abstained from voting.

All Board attendees left the room except for 4 Board members: Nichols, Livingston, and S. Jones, legal counsel, L. Howell, and Executive Director, C. Austin. The session began @ 11:23 am CST. The Executive Session finished at 11:44 am CST. There was a motion to end the executive Session and a unanimous vote by Dr. Raven Livingston, Dr. Samuel Jones, Dr. Tim Nichols, and Anthony (Tony) Watkins return to the regular order of Board business @ 11:44 am CST.

The regular board meeting resumed, Dr. Kathryn Jones, Sara Beth Earles, Will Parker, and Jacki Tucker returned in person. Rachel Sullivan returned via zoom.

A motion was made by Dr. Tim Nichols and seconded by Dr. Tony Watkins to amend the proposed terms of the consent in 2023-004. The board voted yes to amend the consent in 2023-004 unanimously, with four board members voting yes: Dr. Tim Nichols, Dr. S. Jones, Dr. R. Livingston, and Anthony (Tony) Watkins, Dr. Kathryn Jones abstained from voting. Dr. Tim Nichols Board Member departed from the Board meeting @ 12:40 pm.

Under new business, the board discussed internship hours rolling over to hours for an associate license.

Legal Counsel, Laura Howell had to leave the meeting at 12:50 pm due to another scheduled meeting at 1:00pm

The Board then moved to reviewing applications. Out of 28 applications requiring review, there were 10 applications that did not have a completed review by the subcommittee that met earlier that morning from 730 am until 10:15. These were divided between board members for review. There was much discussion of applicants and items needed for approval. The syllabi provided by an applicant from Montevallo was reviewed to aid in determination.

A motion was made by i Anthony (Tony) Watkins to approve the applications that were determined to meet requirements for the level of licensure indicated by the application. This motion was seconded by Dr. Samuel Jones. There was roll call vote in favor from all board members: Dr. Raven Livingston, Dr. Samuel Jones, Anthony (Tony) Watkins, and Dr. Kathryn Jones voted in favor of accepting the applicants listed below:

**Intern Applications Approved:**

Amanda Martin  
Leanne Reed

**Permission to Sit for the Exam**

LaKristie Echols  
Tanika Montgomery – pending  
Melvia Moye  
Sabrina Shaw – pending

**Associate**

Magdaline Braxton  
Jessica McKay  
Tanika Montgomery - pending  
Melvia Moye  
Isaac Munoz  
Sabrina Shaw – pending

**LMFT**

Leah Elliott  
Tammie McCurry  
Dalai Shahid

**LMFT by Endorsement**

Jessica Kelley  
Kristin Stark

**SIT: Supervision in Training**

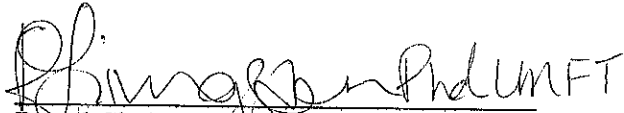
Tiffany Elliott  
Judith Harrington  
Abigail Stockman

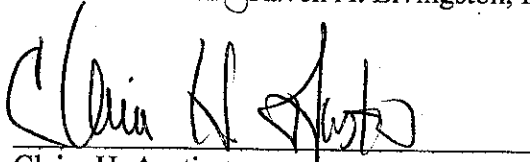
**Supervisor of Supervision**

Anne Chipman

With no further business before the board, Chairman Livingston requested a motion to adjourn. A motion was made by Dr. Kathryn Jones and seconded by Dr. Samuel Jones. The meeting adjourned at 1:58 pm.

The next Board meeting will be held on March 8, 2024 @ 11:00 AM CST – at the ABEMFT office located downtown at 60 Commerce Street, Suite 1440, Montgomery, AL 36104.

  
Board Chairman – Raven A. Livingston, PhD

  
Claire H. Austin  
Executive Director