

MINUTES

**UTAH
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST
LICENSING BOARD MEETING**

September 10, 2009

**Room 402 – 4th Floor – 9:00 A.M.
Heber Wells Building
Salt Lake City, UT 84111**

CONVENED: 9:09 A.M.

ADJOURNED: 12:04 P.M.

Bureau Manager:
Board Secretary:

Rich Oborn
Lee Avery

Board Members Present:

Richard Nielsen, Ph. D., Chairperson
Scot M. Allgood, Ph. D.
Veon G. Smith, DSW
Jean N. Soderquist, Ph. D
Karen Feinauer

Guests:

Benjamin Weinheimer

DOPL Staff Present:

Susan Higgs, Compliance Specialist

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

DECISIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

Consideration of option to elect a new chairperson.

The Board discussed the option to elect a new chairperson. Dr. Soderquist moved to retain Dr. Nielsen as the chairperson, seconded by Dr. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

MINUTES:

The Board reviewed the minutes from the June 11, 2009 Board meeting. Dr. Allgood motioned to approve the minutes, seconded by Dr. Smith. The motion carried unanimously.

Susan Higgs, Compliance Specialist

#1. Linda Helquist complies with her stipulation. Her probation started August 12, 2008. Her probation is scheduled to end August 12, 2011. She submits her supervisor reports on time and they are positive. She is asking to move her supervisor reports to quarterly.

APPOINTMENTS:

Linda Helquist, Probation Interview

Ms. Helquist's probation interview with the Board was held telephonically. Dr. Smith conducted the interview. Ms. Helquist stated that she is continuing to meet with her group. They have formed a formal partnership; however, she works alone. The group meets monthly and as needed. She ensures that the appropriate releases from clients are obtained. The Board encouraged Ms. Helquist to work with her group and develop by-laws. Ms. Helquist stated that she finds the meetings very helpful. She meets monthly with her supervisor. Ms. Helquist requested the Board to move her supervisor reports to bi-monthly. Dr. Smith motioned to allow Ms. Helquist to submit her supervisor reports bi-monthly, seconded by Dr. Allgood. After a brief discussion, the motion carried unanimously. The Board advised Ms. Helquist that it would like to meet with her telephonically December 10, 2009 and then meet with her on March 11, 2010. **Ms. Helquist is in compliance with her stipulation.**

Adrian Bauers, MFTI licensee interview and discussion of AAMFT exam.

Mr. Oborn introduced Mr. Baures to the Board. The Board introduced itself. Mr. Baures received a letter to the Board. Mr. Barnes stated that he has completed over seven thousand (7,000) hours of clinical supervision. He has held his MFTI license for over three (3) years. He has been working as the primary therapist for Utah County Division of Substance Abuse. Dr. James Harper is his supervisor. Mr. Baures advised the Board that he has taken and failed the AAMFT exam four (4) times. Mr. Baures stated that he has dyslexia and job related PTSD. The disabilities act only allows extra time to take the exam. This has not been helpful to him. Mr. Baures expressed concerns regarding the way Prometric conducts the examination in-take process. Mr. Barnes stated that he filed complaints with Prometric and the AAMFT Regulatory Board. Mr. Baures is requesting the Board to grant him a license without passing the AAMFT exam. The Board reviewed the letter submitted by Dr. Harper. The Board reviewed the Marriage and Family Therapist Statute and rule statutes. The Board noted that the current law does not give the Board the discretion to waive the exam requirement. The Board encouraged Mr. Baures to join a study group and contact Argosy University.

The Board noted that studying in a classroom is different from what he has done in the past. The Board encouraged Mr. Baures to obtain a current evaluation regarding dyslexia and PTSD. The Board referred Mr. Baures to the University of Utah Counseling Services. Because Dr. Harper is his supervisor, he should not do the evaluation. The Board noted that even though Mr. Baures has completed his one hundred (100) hours of face-to-face supervision, he still needs a supervisor. Mr. Baures' MFTI license expires in February 2010. The Board noted that intern licenses may be extended for up to two (2) years from the date the four thousand (4,000) hours of experience is completed. Mr. Oborn stated he will do some research to see if there are other accommodations available to help Mr. Baures. Mr. Baures thanked the Board for meeting with him.

DISCUSSION:

Titles used by Marriage and Family Therapists (MFT) and Marriage and Family Therapist Interns. (MFTI).

Mr. Ben Weinheimer, Marriage and Family Therapist Intern, (MFTI), introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Wienheimer presented a proposal to modify the titles used by mental health therapists in the State of Utah. According to Mr. Weinheimer, most people assume a Certified Marriage and Family Therapist Intern (CMFTI) is a student because social work students routinely represent themselves as MSWI's or interns. Mr. Oborn stated that acceptable titles for Marriage and Family Therapists in Utah include "MFT" or "LMFT." Acceptable titles for Certified Marriage and Family Therapists include "CMFTI" or "MFTI." These titles will continue to be used unless the Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Act is amended by the legislature. Mr. Wienheimer provided a summary of titles used by mental health therapists in other states. The Board and Division recommended that Mr. Wienheimer contact the various mental health therapist professional associations or one of his legislators regarding his proposal. Mr. Weinheimer thanked the Board for meeting with him.

Governor's Ethics Policy for Executive Branch Employees

Mr. Oborn reviewed the Governor's ethics policy with the Board.

Update regarding Marriage and Family Therapist Act Rule change

Mr. Oborn reviewed the proposed rule changes with the Board. The approval of the rules allowing for ten (10) hours of internet based continuing education (CE)

rather than just six (6) hours. A rule change hearing will be held on October 14, 2009 at 9:00 A.M. in Room 210.

Conflicts between definitions of unprofessional conduct

Mr. Oborn reviewed the unprofessional conduct memorandum with the Board. Mr. Oborn asked the Board to advise him with any suggestions.

APPLICATIONS:

None at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None at this time.

NEXT MEETING SCHEDULED FOR:

December 10, 2009

2010 Board Meetings Tentatively Scheduled:
March 11, June 10, September 9, December 9.

ADJOURN:

The Board adjourned at 12:04 P.M.

Note: These minutes are not intended to be a verbatim transcript but are intended to record the significant features of the business conducted in this meeting. Discussed items are not necessarily shown in the chronological order they occurred.

Date Approved

Richard Nielsen, Ph.D. Chairperson, Utah Marriage and Family Therapy Licensing Board

Date Approved

Richard Oborn, Bureau Manager, Division of Occupational & Professional Licensing