



**State of Ohio Counselor, Social Worker and Marriage & Family
Therapist Board**

**Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee
Minutes**

May 19-20, 2016

Thursday, May 19, 2016

Members Present: Dr. Alan Demmitt, IMFT-S, LPCC-S
Mr. John Heaton, MFT
Ms. Margaret Knerr, IMFT-S
Ms. Stephanie McCloud, Public Member
Dr. Sara Blakeslee Salkil, IMFT

Staff Present: Ms. Margaret-Ann Adorjan, Mr. Bill Hegarty

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. McCloud called the meeting to order at 9:42 a.m.

2. Discussion/Approval of Agenda

Agenda stands as distributed.

3. Approval of March 2016 Minutes

Minutes stand as distributed.

4. Executive Committee Report

Ms. McCloud led a discussion of the Executive Committee meeting.

- Discussion of correspondence from OAMFT regarding SOCE
 - The letter from OAMFT posits there is potential need for students/trainees as well as guidance for supervisors/educators, on the issue of SOCE (sexual orientation change efforts). The letter seeks to elicit a response from this Board on its stance of this topic.
 - The Ohio Psychology Board recently issued an official statement regarding SOCE so OAMFT would like something similar from the CSWMFT Board. An MFTPSC member remarked the Psychology Board is more socially reactive than this Board.
 - An MFTPSC member suggested MFTs consult the AAMFT Code of Ethics; Dr. Demmitt pointed out that non-members of AAMFT might just ignore that code.
 - The question was raised from previous discussions on this topic: why have the professional associations, including AAMFT, not covered this matter in their codes of ethics? If they did, it would create simplicity for this Board as our code of ethics makes reference to all three professional organizations' codes.
 - Dr. Blakeslee Salkil mentioned there are many holes in the area of cultural competency – why is this issue being singled out?
 - Dr. Demmitt remarked that there is a strong past of pastoral/religious undercurrents to MFT which might make this field susceptible to those seeking to possibly use SOCE.
 - A MFTPSC member pointed out the letter from OAMFT is not specifying what questions and/or concerns are being encountered by students/supervisors/educators; therefore, how can the Board respond and adequately address the issue?
 - MFTPSC members were able to locate related topics in the AAMFT Code under responsibility to clients and non-discrimination; however, these areas are generalized so why must the CSWMFT Board be more specific in regard to the singular topic of SOCE? The AAMFT does have a statement regarding SOCE under “clinical care guidelines” in their Social Policies section, but not in their actual code.
 - Should the response to the OAMFT reference the stance of AAMFT on this topic?
 - This matter will be referred back to the Executive Committee for further discussion and a possible decision reached at Friday's meeting.
- A recent change to Medicaid rules has the reimbursement rate of this Board's licensees as 80-85%. Mr. Carnahan is monitoring this restructuring process.
- The State Auditor has completed their audit and report; a recommendation for better controls for the credit card processing has been suggested.
- The final filing for the recent rule changes will be after May 20. The rules are expected to become effective July 1, 2016.

- The policy memo regarding teleworking is completed and requires an official vote from the full Board at the Friday afternoon meeting.
- The agenda for the Thursday afternoon planning meetings was discussed. To have a topic added to that agenda, a Board member just needs to contact Mr. Carnahan (as Executive Director) or Ms. Knerr (as Board Chairperson). Anyone can make suggestions for those topics. The Planning Meeting is to be used to discuss any necessary topics before official voting at the full Board meeting on the subsequent Friday afternoon.
- The review and compensation for the Executive Director was discussed. Ms. Knerr received feedback; would like more generalizations for comments; the goal will be to have a review each May and completion by July. The full Board needs to vote at the Friday afternoon meeting on approval for Mr. Carnahan's suggested compensation.

5. Investigations

Closed cases

- The MFTPSC had a closed investigative case to review; no motion was made as a result of a policy discussion. See below.

Investigative Case Review Procedure

- Ms. McCloud inquired as to why the Committee members do not review an investigative case their liaison approves to close. She has concerns with this policy for two reasons, 1) she does not want to vote on a file she has not reviewed, and 2) because she has not reviewed the file, she is unaware of any potential ethical conflict.
- Ms. McCloud would like to know if these issues are covered by statute 4757.38. She would like to consult with the Board's Assistant Attorney General (AAG), Melissa Wilburn.

6. Executive Director's Report

Ms. McCloud led a discussion of the Executive Director's report.

- Board members who have not already completed their annual ethics training must do so. The Ohio Ethics Commission makes the training available online.

7. Statistics from MFT Coordinator

- Ms. Adorjan reported on exam and application statistics compiled since the March Board meeting:
 - Seven examination eligibility letters were issued to COAMFTE applicants.

- Five applicants have taken and passed the national examination in the March and April windows.
- Three applicants have taken and failed in the same windows.

8. Correspondence

The MFTPSC reviewed a request to revise a current rule regarding client contact hours as it relates to the training requirement for independent licensure. The applicant is currently out of state accumulating her hours toward independent licensure; the relational component of the client contact requirement is not required in the state she is currently accruing her time/hours and she requests the relational component not be required of her for Ohio IMFT license. There is no separate rule for out of state applicants who do not hold a license, therefore Ohio's rule must be met with no exceptions. The MFTPSC denied the applicant's request but responded with advice to locate documentation which would show the relational hours completed, whether it is to look at calendars, progress notes, records, etc., to discern which client contact hours might be relational. The other option available to the applicant is to gain independent licensure in their current state of residence and then seek endorsement of that license from Ohio.

9. Approval of Applications for Licensure

A motion was made by Dr. Demmitt to approve the following applications for licensure, seconded by Mr. Heaton. Motion carried.

IMFT - Three Applications Approved

MFT - Three Applications Approved

10. Review of Examination Requests

The Committee reviewed and denied one request for licensing examination but deemed the applicant eligible for the supplemental coursework provision under 4757-25-01 (B).

11. Discussion Issues

Supervision Evaluation Form

- Ms. Adorjan asked the Committee to consider adopting a policy similar to one employed by the Social Work department regarding additional paperwork related to the supervision evaluation forms needed for IMFT licensure.
- Each applicant for IMFT licensure will be asked to submit a job position description of employment held while undergoing training

supervision. The intent is to insure the applicant was employed in a position that required licensure and therefore was practicing as an MFT.

- The evaluation form requires the training supervisor to verify the client contact hours of the applicant, with the work supervisor (if the training supervisor was not also said work supervisor). Ms. Adorjan will insure compliance with this requirement by confirming with the work supervisor that the training supervisor did in fact contact the work supervisor and verify the applicant's dates of practice and contact hours.

AMFTRB - ELL

- At the March meeting, Ms. Adorjan discussed with the Committee the policy and request form created by AMFTRB regarding ELL (English Language Learner) arrangements for taking the national MFT examination. The MFTPSC was supportive of the form for such arrangements. However, Ms. Knerr had a question regarding the use of a dictionary and what the process would be if allowed. Other questions related to why New York refuses to allow any ELL arrangements and what is the process for the LPC examination, if any.
- Ms. Adorjan was tasked with finding this information and putting this topic on the agenda for the May meeting.
- At this meeting, Ms. Adorjan reviewed with the Committee the AMFTRB responses to their inquiries:
 - New York refuses to allow any ELL arrangements because it is in their law and also that it would make the exam a 'non-standard administration' of a standardized exam, therefore psychometrically the exam score is affected.
 - Use of a dictionary will not be allowed "as it must be something all states do, not a special program written for one state. This programming would be a very expensive cost the state would have to bear."
 - Answer to what is the process for LPC examination:
 - NBCC allows ELL as an arrangement, with the use of "two additional hours of exam time and/or permission to bring a non-electronic, word-to-word translation dictionary."

12. CE Committee Report

Dr. Blakeslee Salkil reported to the MFTPSC from the CE Committee meeting.

- The analysis of the Social Work CE survey is ongoing and the results are pending.

- Ms. Broome distributed a report on CE Audits and the process was discussed.
- Ms. Franklin gave an update on the Inactive status. Those licensees that hold a supervision designation will need to take six hours in clinical supervision continuing education to bring their supervisory designation back to active status.

Friday, May 20, 2016

Members Present: Dr. Alan Demmitt, IMFT-S, LPCC-S
 Mr. John Heaton, MFT
 Ms. Margaret Knerr, IMFT-S
 Ms. Stephanie McCloud, Public Member
 Dr. Sara Blakeslee Salkil, IMFT

Staff Present: Ms. Margaret-Ann Adorjan

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. McCloud re-convened the meeting at 9:49 a.m.

2. Executive Committee Report

Ms. McCloud led a discussion of the Executive Committee meeting.

- In response to the letter from OAMFT regarding SOCE, it has been agreed by all three committees of this Board that Mr. Carnahan will e-mail a response to their correspondence. The email will contain language crafted and agreed upon by all three committees.
- The MFTPSC discussed the budget figures; Mr. Carnahan is available to answer any questions. [Before the meeting adjourned later that morning, Mr. Carnahan did join the Committee's meeting and answered questions regarding the budget and changes to Medicaid that might affect licensees.]
- The Thursday afternoon planning meetings were discussed; are they working? What are the pros and cons? Do those meetings need more formalizing? Should it cover the agenda for the next day's meeting? The Executive Committee will evaluate it more at the July meeting.

3. Discussion Issues

Investigative Case Review Procedure (Update)

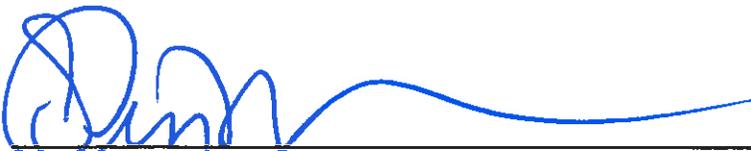
- After the Thursday meeting, Ms. McCloud had a chance to meet with Ms. Wilburn, the Board's AAG.
- Ms. Wilburn assured Ms. McCloud that Board members are offered immunity from civil actions; Ms. McCloud requested a written opinion on the matter.
- Ms. McCloud clarified the wording in 4757-11-04(A) (7) regarding "shall not" as it relates to recusal from a hearing; a Board member can make the choice to recuse but is not required to do so. Her understanding is if a Board member would like to see the investigative file, it might require a policy change, but may or may not recuse themselves if the case gets re-opened (or another committee would preside at a possible hearing).
- As for the ethics concerns Ms. McCloud had, it was requested to receive an ethics opinion from our AAG or the ethics commission allowing for a Board member to vote on closing a case without review; OR permission to review the case file; OR permission to view only the name and place of employment of the licensee named in the case, to avoid any potential ethical violation. Ms. McCloud posited the best policy would be to allow Board members to review the case file before voting.
- Ms. McCloud noted the current complaint form online contained inconsistent information related to investigative policy. This needs to be corrected.

4. Working Meeting

The MFTPSC proceeded with a working meeting to review CEU Programs and Providers.

5. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. McCloud adjourned the meeting at 11:21 a.m.



Ms. Stephanie McCloud
Chairperson of the Marriage and Family Therapist Professional Standards Committee
(MFTPSC)