



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

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

November 20-21, 2014

Thursday, November 20, 2014

Members Present: Ms. Margaret Knerr, IMFT
Dr. Alan Demmitt, IMFT, LPCC
Ms. Stephanie McCloud, Public Member

Staff Present: Ms. Margaret-Ann Adorjan, Mr. Brian Carnahan

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Knerr called the meeting to order at 9:40 a.m.

2. Discussion/Approval of Agenda

A motion was made by Ms. McCloud to approve the agenda as amended (addition of Executive Committee report, CEU Committee report, discussion items: checklist for examination; supervision requirement for IMFT; defining group supervision; practicum hours), seconded by Dr. Demmitt. Motion carried.

3. Approval of September 2014 Minutes

A motion was made by Dr. Demmitt to approve the minutes, seconded by Ms. McCloud. Motion carried.

4. **Executive Committee Report**

Ms. Knerr, reported on Thursday morning's Executive Committee meeting.

- There will be an ASWB sponsored new Board member training in Miami, Florida in March. Ms. Knerr inquired if anyone on the MFTPSC would like to go. Dr. Demmitt said "maybe."
- There was a proposal to consider switching the Board meetings from Thursday/Friday to Wednesday/Thursday. Ms. Knerr was tasked to get feedback. Dr. Demmitt (and most other academics on the Board) teaches on Wednesdays with Fridays being more flexible. Board members that live farther away from Columbus might be more anxious to rush home for work on Friday; possible solution would be to push meeting to extend later on Fridays if work still remained to accomplish.

5. **CEU Committee Meeting Report**

Dr. Demmitt gave the MFTPSC a report from the Thursday meeting of the CEU Committee, of which he is now chair.

- A question was raised: if an agency in Ohio is offering a program in Ohio, should those reviewing that program be licensed in Ohio? Is it acceptable if they are licensed in another state?
- The MFTPSC agreed that the reviewer can be licensed outside the state of Ohio as long as they are still licensed in that other state as a Marriage and Family Therapist.

6. **Ms. Broome request to speak to the Committee**

Ms. Broome, the Audit Coordinator, wished to speak to the MFTPSC regarding certain recent rule changes that might impact continuing education renewal and audits.

- The concerns centered on the new rule regarding supervision CEUs for the new supervision designation for IMFTs. Ms. Broome wanted clarification on why social worker supervision courses will not count for the IMFT-S renewal.
- Also, since the renewal of the supervision designation for IMFTs will be every five years, as opposed to the renewal cycle of every two years, Ms. Broome anticipated a problem with banking these hours. The Committee stated it is not concerned with licensees banking the hours for supervision credit, only that they can bank the hours for their overall total of 30 required in a two year renewal cycle.
- Ms. Knerr stated that she could provide the answers to these questions in writing for Ms. Broome.

7. Review of Supervision Hardship Request

The members reviewed a request for supervision hardship. The Committee denied the request as the reasons given did not constitute a hardship based upon the information presented at the meeting. The response to the licensee making the request was to contact AAMFT Supervisor Candidates via the OAMFT website and to be aware that face-to-face electronic delivery of supervision is also an option.

8. Discussion Issues

New Business

Rule regarding supervision toward IMFT license

- The rule does not address gaps in the two calendar years of supervision. Also, the rule says two calendar years and not 24 months. Does this matter? Do these two issues have to be clarified? Dr. Demmitt wondered if MFTs should enact ratio requirement like Social Workers and Counselors. However, that rigidity would be difficult for MFTs who are more likely to receive unconventional training supervision, i.e. outside of their place of employment.
- In reference to gaps in supervision, Ms. McCloud suggested the Committee ask the Board's AAG but put a section in the supervision verification form that asks the supervisor to answer whether there were any gaps in supervision longer than 4 consecutive weeks.
- What is client contact? Is this term defined? Should it be? The MFTPSC requested that the MFT Coordinator review the rules for all three license disciplines and see if it is defined anywhere.
- The MFTPSC requested the MFT Coordinator develop a checklist for IMFT applications, especially for the supervision verification requirements.
- Ms. Knerr expressed concern over whether a supervisor does or does not recommend a licensee for licensure. Ms. McCloud stated that a supervisor recommendation is just that: a recommendation, not a determination. The authority to grant a license rests solely with the Committee.

Two tier examination policy

The MFTPSC decided to end the current examination policy which created the two tier scoring, effective the end of 2014. Therefore, beginning in the January 2015 testing window, Ohio will only accept a passing score as

determined by the AMFTRB, (with no lower level cut score applied), for licensure as an MFT or IMFT. A motion was made by Dr. Demmitt to discontinue the two tier scoring policy, seconded by Ms. McCloud. Motion carried.

Practicum experience

- In light of numerous recent denials for examination request based on practicum hour insufficiency, the MFTPSC discussed this matter. The following are thoughts expressed in this discussion.
 - The rule requires that the practicum be completed within a degree program. What happens when that practicum doesn't "cut it?" Can an applicant "make it up?" Is this even possible to do? Are there any college programs that would allow this? If so, then applicants with varied degrees might want to do this so they can obtain an MFT license without an MFT degree. However, if no program allows someone to do this, perhaps this is a moot point.
 - A Committee member asked, "Why does it make sense that the practicum has to be done within a program as opposed to after?" To which a committee member replied, "To take a practicum outside of a degree program, not sure the "icing will fit that cake."
 - A defensible reason to why the practicum has to be done within a degree program is that it is coordinated with the rest of the degree requirements and integration happens. Part of the equivalency argument for non-COAMFTE programs is the "package." This then might require changing the rule to remove the additional coursework provision under 4757-25-01 (B) for related mental health degrees. However, this would preclude any applicant from qualifying for licensure even though they might simply lack the proper ethics course.
- The MFTPSC requested the MFT Coordinator research all COAMFTE approvals and examination requests in the last three years to determine how many non-COAMFTE applicants have been reviewed.
- MFTPSC requested this discussion item be kept on the agenda for January.

Friday, November 21, 2014

Members Present:

Ms. Margaret Knerr, IMFT
Dr. Alan Demmitt, IMFT, LPCC
Ms. Stephanie McCloud, Public Member

Staff Present: Ms. Margaret-Ann Adorjan

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Knerr re-convened the meeting at 10:45 a.m.

2. Approval of Applications for Licensure

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

IMFT - Three Applications Approved

MFT - Five Applications Approved

3. Review of Examination Requests

The Committee reviewed seven requests for licensing examination; two were approved and five were denied.

4. Discussion Issues

New Business

Program Request for Reconsideration

The MFTPSC reviewed a program request for re-consideration as the sponsor would be speaking at the full Board meeting on Friday afternoon.

- After reviewing the additional information submitted subsequent to the previous review and denial, the Committee approved the program for continuing education for MFTs.

Agenda for January

Ms. Knerr requested the following topics be placed on the agenda for January as discussion items.

- Checklist for IMFT licensure
- The possibility of accepting practicum experience “post-degree”
- Reviewing rules for possible changes for clarification or defining terms more specifically, such as:
 - Client contact
 - Group supervision

- o 2 calendar years (24 months)

5. Working Meeting

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

6. Meeting Adjourned

Ms. Knerr adjourned the meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Margaret Knerr, MSIMFT-S

Ms. Margaret Knerr, IMFT-S
Chairperson of the Marriage and Family Therapist
Professional Standards Committee (MFTPSC)