



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

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

May 21-22, 2015

Thursday, May 21, 2015

Members Present:

Ms. Margaret Knerr, IMFT-S
Dr. Alan Demmitt, IMFT-S, LPCC-S
Mr. John Heaton, MFT
Ms. Stephanie McCloud, Public Member

Staff Present:

Ms. Margaret-Ann Adorjan, Mr. Bill Hegarty, Ms.
Melissa Wilburn, AAG

Guest Present:

Ms. Ashley Hicks, OAMFT Board member

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Knerr called the meeting to order at 9:55 a.m. She welcomed the newest member of the MFTPSC, John Heaton. Introductions were made around the table. Dr. Demmitt disclosed that he is providing Mr. Heaton with training supervision toward Mr. Heaton's independent MFT license. Ms. Knerr thanked him for the transparency and noted that such would not be a concern.

2. Discussion/Approval of Agenda

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

3. Approval of March 2015 Minutes

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

4. **Goldman Review (Licensure)**

Michael Moebs – A motion was made by Ms. McCloud to deny Mr. Moebs' licensure application for not possessing the educational requirements to sit for the MFT examination. Seconded by Dr. Demmitt. Motion carried.

James Simpson – A motion was made by Ms. McCloud to deny Mr. Simpson's licensure application for not possessing the educational requirements to sit for the MFT examination. Seconded by Mr. Heaton. Motion carried.

L. Fawn Spencer – A motion was made by Ms. McCloud to deny Ms. Spencer's licensure application for not possessing the educational requirements to sit for the MFT examination. Seconded by Mr. Heaton. Motion carried.

5. **Executive Director's Report**

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

- HB184 has been introduced that would allow for the licensing of music therapists. As written, the Medical board would have them (music therapists) as a sub-committee. However, if they mainly work under this Board's licensees, perhaps the CSWMFT Board should consider having them join this board. Some of the discussions the committee focused on:
 - The MFTPSC would still want the licensees of CSWMFT to be able to practice music therapy, without the additional credential.
 - Having title protection and licensure of music therapists might protect the public, especially children and the elderly, and provide legitimacy to this field as they would then need specific training.
 - The MFTPSC is open to a further discussion on this matter regarding specific regulation and if this Board is the location for these potential licensees to reside.
 - A motion was made by Dr. Demmitt to insure that any possible legislation will not exclude the CSWMFT licensees from practicing music therapy, seconded by Ms. McCloud. Motion carried.

6. **Discussion Issues**

Definition of client contact hour

- The Committee had a lengthy discussion on whether defining a client contact hour as 60 minutes should be placed somewhere, such as a rule.

- All three committees are in agreement that a client contact hour is to be sixty minutes; however, many billable “hours” are 45 minutes or 50 minutes. Ms. McCloud stated that when we say “an hour” the plain meaning is sixty minutes.
- Ms. Knerr wondered if instead of putting client contact in 4757-3-01 Definitions, instead just explain this term’s use in the rules that pertain to supervision and client contact accumulation.
- If not placed in a rule, perhaps included in an article for the newsletter? Maybe institute a Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) section for the website and include this information there?
- Also mentioned is the potential this will create confusion intentionally, where there was none previously.
- The MFTPSC decided the matter should be referred back to the Executive Committee for further direction.

Conversion Therapy

- The MFTPSC engaged in a discussion surrounding an upcoming presentation expected at the full Board meeting on Friday afternoon (by NASW Executive Director, Danielle Smith) regarding pending legislation, SB74, as it relates to conversion therapy or SOCE (sexual orientation change efforts).
 - The CSWMFT Board was named in SB74, therefore the legislation would affect this Board’s licensees.
 - All three professional organizations of this Board’s licensees (NASW, OCA, and OAMFT) have made statements on their position and what they would like this Board to do.
 - The MFTPSC is confident that any practice considered to be conversion therapy (SOCE) would be disallowed under our current rules which require that any techniques used must be evidence-based and not cause harm. Since this type of “therapy” is not evidence-based and the research shows it to cause harm, this Board would duly investigate a complaint filed.

Correspondence

- An MFT licensee wrote to the Committee requesting pre-approval of out-of-state training supervision hours since he is currently residing outside Ohio.
 - The Committee will allow the hours to count toward his IMFT license; however, if he moves into Ohio before completion of

the hours, the matter will need to be re-visited since he would now be practicing in Ohio.

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.
 - Eleven students were awarded the MFT trainee registration.
- At the March meeting, the MFTPSC requested that Ms. Adorjan further research and compile information as it relates to:
 - The distribution of which schools are represented by the students requesting MFT trainee status.
 - Each month's examination results categorized by pass/fail and which degree programs are represented in those scores.
 - Contact AMFTRB to find out what data is allowed to be collected and dispersed regarding the school breakdown of exam applicants.
 - The information collected as the result of this research and compilation was presented at the May meeting.

7. Approval of Applications for Licensure

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

IMFT - One Application Approved

MFT - Four Applications Approved

8. Review of Examination Requests

The Committee reviewed two requests for licensing examination; one was approved and one was denied.

9. CEU Committee Meeting Report

Dr. Demmitt gave the MFTPSC a report from the Thursday meeting of the CEU Committee.

- The Chemical Dependency Board would like for the CSWMFT Board to accept their CEUs for our licensees. They would like to work on some form of reciprocity for continuing education approval.

- Ms. Broome, the Audit Coordinator, reported that the number of audit failures has dropped, possibly due to increased awareness of the penalties.
- CE Broker, a national company that handles a database of continuing education for licensees, was mentioned again in regard to possible Board participation. Would this Board be interested in doing a pilot of the program?
 - The MFTPSC discussed CE Broker in this regard and has reservations. This committee would like to wait until we have the new e-licensing system in place since it might provide our own way of cataloguing certificates without the need for a third party.
- The Inactive status has become a “big hit” since its implementation earlier this year. There are currently 170 licensees with this status and 35 more in process as of this meeting.

Friday, May 22, 2015

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

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

1. Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Knerr re-convened the meeting at 9:35 a.m. The Committee was informed that a new MFTPSC chair would need to be elected at the July meeting, as Ms. Knerr has fulfilled her two consecutive terms as Committee chair. Ms. McCloud would be the most senior committee member; whereas Dr. Demmitt would be a clinician and educator. A decision would need to be made at the July meeting.

2. Executive Committee Report

Ms. Knerr reported on Friday morning's Executive Committee meeting.

- The board meeting dates for the September meeting have been moved, per agreement among the three committees. The September meeting will now convene one week later than originally scheduled, on September 24-25, so as not to conflict with the annual AMFTRB conference.
- It was discussed that the Executive Committee should look at the dates in July for the next year to see if any potential conflicts might occur; however,

it was decided that dates would not be scheduled out for the whole year yet.

- A proposed Telework Policy presented and discussed at the March meeting has been approved by all three committees.
- The topic of conversion therapy was discussed again, in light of further discussion that took place on Thursday in the separate committees and at the Executive Committee meeting Friday morning.
 - Each committee is confident this practice violates all three disciplines' codes of ethics and should a complaint be made to this Board, we would investigate.
 - This Board contends that the use of conversion therapy methods is not good practice and does do harm.
 - While this is the Board's position, this Board can act only with legislative authority and therefore it is the professional associations' role to advocate for legislative action on this issue.
 - The MFTPSC offered to compile a statement to this effect and to ask Mr. Carnahan to read it at the full Board meeting in response to the speaker's presentation.

3. **Discussion Issues**

Rule revisions

- 4757-25-01 Education requirements for admission to the examination for marriage and family therapist
 - Several stylistic changes made to the course descriptions under paragraph (A)
 - Remove paragraph (B) and replace with new wording on supplemental coursework and/or practicum experience taken after the completion of an MFT degree program.
 - The Committee voted on authorizing a consent agreement with an applicant that would meet these new qualifications, save that the new rule is not in place as yet. The committee also authorized Mr. Carnahan as Executive Director to sign the consent agreement on behalf of the Committee, if it is returned by the applicant before the next Board meeting. A motion was made by Ms. Knerr to approve the consent agreement and signature authorization, seconded by Ms. McCloud. Motion carried.
- 4757-25-08 Marriage and family therapist trainee registration
 - In light of the proposed changes to 4757-25-01, wording will need to be revised in paragraph (A) as such:
 - Students enrolled in a marriage and family therapy practicum or internship ~~prior to receiving their marriage and family therapy degree~~ are eligible to

register as a "marriage and family therapist trainee"
as authorized in section...

4. **Working Meeting**

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

5. **Meeting Adjourned**

Ms. Knerr adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m.

Margaret Knerr, MS, IMFT-S

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