MINUTES

UTAH MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPIST LICENSING BOARD
ELECTRONIC MEETING
JUNE 11, 2021 9:00 A.M.
Heber M. Wells Building
160 E. 300 S. Salt Lake City, Utah

DUE TO COVID-19, NO PUBLIC ANCHOR LOCATION WAS PROVIDED.
PUBLIC ATTEND BY PHONE

MEETING OPEN: 9:01 A.M. **MEETING CLOSED:** 1:29 P.M.

DOPL STAFF PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:
Bureau Manager: Jennifer Falkenrath
Board Secretary: Jennifer Johnson

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT ELECTRONICALLY:
Chair: Dr. Adam Munk, MFT
Vice Chair: Dr. Anthony T. Alonzo, MFT
Dr. Elizabeth Fawcett, MFT
Kevin Barlow, MFT
Elizabeth Mower, Public Member

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT: N/A

GUESTS:
Jake Jones, MFT Student

Note: Others may have been in attendance but were not identified.

ADMINISTRATIVE BUSINESS:

CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Dr. Munk called the meeting to order at 9:01 A.M.

APPROVE MARCH 12, 2021 MINUTES

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 1)(00:02:35 – 00:03:22)

Mr. Barlow made a motion to approve the minutes as written.
Dr. Alonzo seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

APPROVE APRIL 22, 2021 MINUTES

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 1)(03:22 – 00:04:08)

Dr. Fawcett made a motion to approve the minutes as written
Dr. Alonzo seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

RULE REVIEW-UTAH ADMIN CODE R156-60B

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 1)(00:04:15 – 1:02:00)

The Board reviewed the draft Rules for Utah Admin. Code R156-60b, as provided.

Questions, comments, and concerns were discussed.

Dr. Munk stated for R156-60b-302a (2) (g), he wanted to know if an update needed to be made to indicate the following:
(g) a clinical practicum under supervision which includes at least 400 hours as follows:
(i) at least 100 hours of direct supervision; and
(ii) at least 300 direct contact hours of direct supervised clinical practice, that at least 150 hours shall be with couples or families.

Ms. Falkenrath stated that information can be updated.

Mr. Barlow stated the change from 500 to 300 direct contact hours of direct clinical practice was a surprise. Mr. Barlow asked if the universities were making the change to this requirement.

Dr. Fawcett stated the COAMFTE accredited programs are reducing the hours required for their standards and the changes will be officially published and go into effect in January of 2022.

Dr. Fawcett stated a majority of the states require at least 300 hours and there are very few states that still require 500 hours. Dr. Fawcett stated there isn't any research that shows programs that require 500 hours produce better clinicians than those that only require 300 hours.

Dr. Fawcett stated if Utah choses to maintain the requirement of 500 hours, the COAMFTE programs would be required to meet that requirement. However, those states that only require 300 hours would still be able to license by endorsement having only completed 300 hours.

Mr. Barlow stated he understood and was okay with changes if it was the standard.

Dr. Alonzo stated he was in agreement with the change in the education requirements if Utah was aligning with the national standard and COAMFTE requirements.

Dr. Munk stated the change in language that indicates direct supervision and allows technology based supervision while removing the requirement for direct face to face is a positive change.

Mr. Barlow stated with regards to the supervised hour training requirements, he would like to keep the current requirement of 4,000 hours of supervised marriage and family therapy training, including 1,000 hours of supervised training in mental health therapy,

with at least 100 hours under direct supervision and at least 500 hours in couple or family therapy. Mr. Barlow stated he was not sure if there had been a discussion to adjust the 4000 hours to 3000 hours.

Ms. Falkenrath stated the hour requirement is identified in statute and would require a legislative change to make ammendments. Ms. Falkenrath stated she was not aware if the hours would be reduced or is being looked at for an area of research as part of the Executive Order.

Mr. Barlow stated he had received feedback from some of the MFT conferences he has attended that was an area they were interested in seeing adjusted.

Dr. Alonzo stated he would like to see the rules align the hours based on what individuals are actually doing versus the ambiguity with the area of "other hours". Dr. Alonzo stated he would like to see "the hours" more defined if they are going to continue to count towards the requirement.

Mr. Barlow stated there are still a lot of therapists that are unaware that CE's are now required for AMFT's. Mr. Barlow stated this was additional feedback he has received from the conferences he has been attending.

Ms. Falkenrath stated Utah Code R156-60, does state any person licensed under this title is required to complete CE's. This includes ACMHC's, AMFT's and CSW's. Ms. Falkenrath stated the only difference is that ACMHC's and AMFT's do not renew their licenses and therefore do not attest that they are meeting CE requirements, but they are still required to complete CE's.

The Board discussed the 10:1 ratio.

Mr. Barlow stated it is his understanding the MFT profession is the only one to have this specific ration requirement.

Ms. Falkenrath stated that is correct. The other mental health professions require a minimum of 100 direct supervision hours spread throughout the training.

Dr. Fawcett stated it's her understanding this was a Utah state specific concept and the 10:1 ratio is not connected to accreditation or school standards. Dr. Fawcett stated in previous accreditation standards it was a 5:1 ratio at one time.

Ms. Falkenrath stated the ratio is identified in Rule and is area the Board could look at amending, changing, or removing.

Mr. Barlow stated he personally likes the requirement and has not has any issues with his supervisees, however, wants to make sure our standards are level with other states and not create a burden.

Additional questions, comments, and concerns were discussed with the proposed language changes.

Ms. Falkenrath stated she would review and make the changes as recommended by the Board and can provide for the Board to review in the afternoon session. Ms. Falkenrath discussed the process regarding making Rule changes.

(Audio) 2 1:40 – 2:13:00
The Board reviewed the updated changes proposed during the morning session.

Questions and comments were discussed.

Mr. Barlow made a motion to accept the current proposed changes to the Rule
Dr. Fawcett seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

APPOINTMENTS:

BOONE CHRISTIANSON, QUESTIONS FOR THE BOARD

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 1) (1:02:00 – 1:30:47)

The Board welcomed Mr. Christianson and his employer, Dr. Edgington to the meeting.

Mr. Christianson met with the Board to discuss concerns with the 10:1 ratio for direct Supervision as defined in Rule. Mr. Christianson asked for clarification of the requirement based on his understanding and also expressed his concerns with the requirement stating he found it problematic since other mental health professions do not have as stringent of a requirement for direct supervision.

Mr. Christianson stated due to he and his supervisors misunderstanding of the requirement he was concerned he received fewer hours than what should have been provided.

The Board provided clarification to the requirement stating for every 10 hours of client contact, one hour of supervision needs to be provided. The Board indicated countable hours need to be provided by a qualified supervisor.

The Board stated moving forward Mr. Christiansen will need to make sure he is accruing the hours appropriately and by a qualified supervisor in order to be considered practicing appropriately and ethically.

Questions, comments, and concerns were discussed.

Mr. Christiansen and Dr. Edgington thanked the Board for their time.

BREAK
The Board adjourned for a break at 10:49 A.M.
The Meeting resumed at 11:15 AM

DOPL REPORT

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (00:00 - 00:08:00) Out of Order

Ms. Johnson presented the DOPL Report, as provided.

Questions and comments were discussed.

JOSEPH HANNAN, EXTENSION

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (00:10:30 - 00:14:40) Out of Order

The Board welcomed Mr. Hannan to the meeting.
Introductions were made.
Ms. Mower conducted the interview.

Mr. Hannan met with the Board to request an extension of his AMFT license in order to allow him time to complete the remaining hours needed for MFT licensure.

Mr. Hannan provided an update to the Board regarding his circumstances and stated he is scheduled to take the exam in June.

Questions and comments were discussed.

Ms. Mower made a motion to extend Mr. Hannan's AMFT license until September 10, 2021.
Dr. Fawcett seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

The Board wished Mr. Hannan good luck.

Mr. Hannan thanked the Board for their time.

ALEX JAY PRATT, EXTENSION

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (00:15:00 – 27:17) Out of Order

The Board welcomed Mr. Pratt to the meeting.
Introductions were made.
Dr. Alonzo conducted the interview.

Mr. Pratt met with the Board to request an extension of his AMFT license in order to allow him time to complete the remaining hours needed for MFT licensure. Mr. Pratt provided an update to the Board regarding his circumstances and stated he is scheduled to take the exam in July.

Questions and comments were discussed.

Dr. Alonzo made a motion to extend Mr. Pratt's AMFT license until December 10, 2021, with the expectation Mr. Pratt sign up to take the exam and provide reasonable progress on hours.

Mr. Barlow seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

Mr. Pratt thanked the Board for their time.

MONICA TIZNADO, APPLICATION REVIEW

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (00:27:20 – 00:47:30) Out of Order

The Board welcomed Ms. Tiznado to the meeting.
Introductions were made.
Mr. Barlow conducted the interview.

Ms. Tiznado met with the Board to review her application for MFT by endorsement from California. Ms. Tiznado provided an update to the Board stating she has been licensed as a MFT in California since 2014 and discussed her practice in California with the Board.

Questions and comments were discussed.

Ms. Falkenrath stated the application was requested for Board review because information was not provided attesting to the hours of active practice obtained in another state as an MFT.

Ms. Tiznado stated her place of employment does not complete forms provided by other states and provided a letter from an employer.

Mr. Barlow made a recommendation to have a colleague sign off and verify Ms. Tiznado met the license by endorsement requirements verifying 4000 hours of active practice including 1000 hours in mental health therapy were completed.

Ms. Falkenrath stated at this time Ms. Tiznado will need to send in the form, with the information discussed, in order for the Division to issue her the license.

Ms. Tiznado thanked the Board for their time.

ROBIN O'DELL, EXTENSION

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (00:47:36 – 00:56:45)

The Board welcomed Ms. O'Dell to the meeting.
Introductions were made.
Ms. Mower conducted the interview.

Ms. O'Dell met with the Board to request an extension of her AMFT license in order to allow her time to retake and pass her exam. Ms. O'Dell stated she took the exam in May and did not pass and will need to wait to be able to reregister to retest and anticipates she will retake it after she has had more time to study. Ms. O'Dell completed her hours January 31, 2021.

Questions and comments were discussed.

The Board recommended Ms. O'Dell sign up for the exam by the September 10, 2021, meeting.

Ms. Mower made a motion to extend Ms. O'Dell's AMFT license until December 10, 2021. Request Ms. O'Dell submit evidence of exam registration for the September meeting.
Mr. Barlow seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

The Board wished Ms. O'Dell good luck.

Ms. O'Dell thanked the Board for their time.

JOSH CALLISTER, EXTENSION

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (00:56:50 – 1:34:00)

The Board welcomed Mr. Callister to the meeting.
Dr. Fawcett conducted the interview.

Mr. Callister met with the Board to request an extension of his AMFT license in order to allow him time to complete the remaining 290 relational hours required to apply for full licensure. Mr. Callister is requesting another 6-12 month extension in order to complete the remaining relational hours.

Mr. Callister provided updated information to the Board regarding his circumstances.

Dr. Fawcett expressed the Board's concerns with the amount of time it will take Mr. Callister to complete his remaining hours based on his current position as a clinical director. Dr. Fawcett stated there is an urgency for Mr. Callister to try to obtain the remaining hours as soon as possible and she is hesitant to continue to extend the license with very minimal progress being made with his hours due to his current employment.

Questions, comments, and concerns were discussed.

Dr. Fawcett made a motion to extend Mr. Callister's AMFT license until September 10, 2021, with the expectation Mr. Callister has completed 300 relational hours by that time.
Mr. Barlow seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

The Board wished Mr. Callister luck over the next few months.

Mr. Callister thanked the Board for their time.

Mr. Callister will need to meet with the Board on September 10, 2021

STEPHANIE MENDEZ, EXTENSION

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (1:34:00 – 1:38:00)

The Board welcomed Ms. Mendez to the meeting.
Introductions were made.
Dr. Fawcett conducted the interview.

Ms. Mendez met with the Board to request an extension of her AMFT license in order to allow her time to complete the remaining hours needed for MFT licensure and take the exam. Ms. Mendez stated she has the exam scheduled for June 23rd.

Ms. Mendez will need provide confirmation of the date her minimum hours were completed to the Division.

Questions and comments were discussed.

Mr. Barlow made a motion to extend Ms. Mendez's AMFT's license for September 10, 2021.
Dr. Fawcett seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

The Board wished Ms. Mendez good luck.

Ms. Mendez thanked the Board for their time.

NIECIE JONES, EXTENSION

Refer to audio for specifics. (Audio 2) (1:38:00 – 1:39:30)

The Board welcomed Ms. Jones to the meeting.
Mr. Barlow conducted the interview.

Ms. Jones met with the Board to request an extension of her AMFT license in order to allow her time complete the hours needed for MFT. Ms. Jones was completing a doctoral program which led to an extended time to completer her hours. Ms. Jones has minimal hours to complete and anticipates they will be completed by the end of June. Ms. Jones has passed her exam.

Questions, comments, and concerns were discussed.

Mr. Barlow made a motion to extend Ms. Jones AMFT license until September 10, 2021.
Dr. Fawcett seconded the motion.
The Board motion passed.

The Board wished Ms. Jones good luck.

Ms. Jones thanked the Board for their time.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING: SEPTEMBER 10, 2021

ADJOURN:
Meeting adjourned at 1:29 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.

09/22/2021
_____ (ss) Anthony T. Alonzo
Anthony T. Alonzo (Sep 22, 2021 21:16 MDT)
Date Approved Dr. Anthony Alonzo, Vice Chairperson
Marriage & Family Therapist Licensing Board

09/23/2021
_____ (ss) _____
Jennifer Falkenrath (Sep 23, 2021 08:31 MDT)
Date Approved Jennifer Falkenrath, Bureau Manager, DOPL