

**KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
MEETING MINUTES**

January 16, 2025

A meeting of the Kentucky Board of Licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists held In-Person/virtually through Teams on January 16, 2025.

MEMBERS PRESENT

Michelle Oak, *Chair*
Michelle Stillwagon
Karen Sheets-Mobley
Amanda Villaveces
Nicole Ward
Jennifer Kendrick
Lilian Ball

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT

DEPARTMENT OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING

April Alsabrook, Administrative Supervisor
Kristen Lawson, Commissioner
Chasity Wray
Courtney Cook
Daniel Leffel, Board Counsel

GUESTS

Karen Luis, Kim Wilhoit, Amara Ukaonu, Karen Berg, Patricia Sheldon, Dale Bertram, Allison Howell, Tina Hacker, KJ

CALL TO ORDER

Michelle Oak called the meeting to order at 12:01 p.m.

MINUTES

A motion made by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick to approve the 12/19/24 Complaints meeting minutes. Motion, seconded by Amanda Bommer-Villaveces, carried.

A motion made by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick to approve the 12/19/24 Board meeting minutes as amended. Motion, seconded by Amy Bommer-Villaveces, carried.

A motion made by Karen Sheets-Mobley to approve the 1/9/25 Applications Meeting minutes. Motion, seconded by Michelle Stillwagon, carried.

MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial statement for FY24 December was presented to the Board for review. No further action is required.

Courtney Cook introduced Chasity Wray, who will be taking over the financials for the MFT Board.

DPL UPDATE

Commissioner Lawson reported that the register for the Administrative Specialist Senior position has been posted, and we are expecting a lot of applicants. The timeline will be faster than previous, as HR has introduced hard deadlines for each step in the process. Additionally, Commissioner Lawson said that PPC is rolling out board member training for all boards twice a year. February and March will be the first dates this year and she will distribute the information through the Administrative Supervisor at that time. The training will be available in-person or through Microsoft Teams.

LICENSURE STATUS REPORT

The Licensure Status report for the month of December 2024 through January 15, 2025, was presented to the Board for review. No further action is required.

KENTUCKY BOARD OF LICENSURE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS

LICENSURE STATUS REPORT

January 15, 2025

LICENSED MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS 665

MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY ASSOCIATES 189

TOTAL ACTIVE LICENSES AND PERMITS 854

TOTAL INACTIVE LICENSES 12

FROM LAST MONTH

THERAPISTS: down 3

ASSOCIATES: down 1

TOTAL: down 4

INACTIVE STATUS: same

LEGAL

Board Counsel informed Board members that regulations are moving forward in review. At this time, we are tabling reviewing HB 49 and HB 79.

A motion made by Amy Bommer-Villaveces to move into closed session at 1:14 p.m. Motion, seconded by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick, carried.

A motion made by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick to go into open session at 1:40 p.m. Motion, seconded by Amy Bommer-Villaveces, carried.

NEW BUSINESS

Senator Berg was in attendance to address the MFT Board with issues brought to her attention from constituents. Sen. Berg informed the Board that three of her constituents cannot seem to get licensed by the MFT Board in Kentucky. One decided to forgo getting a license in Kentucky and stayed practicing in Colorado. Secondly, one had been denied a license after practicing for 9 years in California. To her understanding, there are two national accreditation boards, and Kentucky only accepts one. She stated that Campbellsville University will not accept their instruction. Sen. Berg inquired as to what is holding back licensure for her constituents. She continued that Kentucky does not have the licensees to meet the mental health needs of constituents. Sen. Berg mentioned that other states have compact agreements, yet Kentucky does not. She insists that the Board limits their willingness to license people with “alternate accreditation.” Sen. Berg vocalized her desire for a reciprocity agreement for MFT. Sen. Berg

stated that she felt the MFT Board was unwilling to change and wants a definition of “adequately trained.”

Michelle Oak explained the licensure process to Sen. Berg, with each state having their own distinct licensure requirements for in state and out-of-state applicants. The COAMFTE accreditation body that is believed to be the accreditation body the Senator referenced, is an accreditation body for marriage and family therapy Master’s degree programs and not an avenue for independent licensure in any state. Ms. Oak went on to explain that the constituent from California, if she remembers correctly, did not meet the Kentucky Revised Statutes and was informed as such.

Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick added that the biggest barrier for out-of-state applicants is that they are not supervised by licensed MFTs, with systemic supervision from a systemic therapist.

Amy Bommer-Villaveces continued that she completed a study of the license requirements in every state (for MFT), and they are different and not necessarily comparable. Ms. Bommer-Villaveces informed the Board that she came from California herself and had to abide by the Kentucky regulations and received additional supervision and coursework to become licensed in the state. She stated the board is in the process of updating regulations to be more in line with other states.

Dale Bertram was invited to speak to the Board and Sen. Berg, to explain more about Campbellsville University and other COAMFTE schools. Dr. Bertram explained that COAMFTE does not license anyone, and in most states COAMFTE is not required for licensure. He continued that the issue with California, the BBS (Board of Behavioral Services) has a different set of educational requirements, and their licensure tests are not the same as Kentucky’s. Generally, an MFT Board will accept the applicant as an associate MFT until they pass the national exam or complete coursework to meet requirements. MFT licensure in all states are independent of each other, along with Guam, Puerto Rico, Micronesia, and D.C. There are 54 sets of licensure laws, yet graduates from Campbellsville University can get licensed in any state *except* California, even though Campbellsville University operates a COAMFTE MFT program in California.

Michelle Oak reminded Sen. Berg that Board members job is to protect the public and follow the statutes and regulations as written. When a mistake is made, the board apologizes and rectifies the mistake. The constituents are not accurately reflecting what the MFT Board does. Ms. Oak explained that we (MFT Board) do not like to deny licenses, but if documents aren’t provided or the applicant doesn’t meet the requirements, our hands are tied. Ms. Oak requested the names of the constituents who contacted Sen. Berg be sent to the board so the board can follow up.

OLD BUSINESS

No Old Business was discussed as time did not permit.

APPLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Nicole Ward and Karen Sheets-Mobley resigned from the Applications Committee.

Michelle Oak called for volunteers to serve on the committee. Amy Bommer-Villaveces volunteered. The committee is short one member.

A motion made by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick to appoint Amy Bommer-Villaveces to the Applications Committee. Motion, seconded by Karen Sheets-Mobley Carried.

The Committee makes the following recommendations:

Associate Applications

- Approved: 3
- Deferred: 1
- Denied: 1

Licensure Applications

- Approved: 2
- Deferred: 0
- Denied: 0

Reinstatement Applications

- Approved: 0
- Deferred: 0
- Denied: 0

Sponsor Applications

- Approved: 1
- Deferred: 2
- Denied: 3

COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE

The Complaints Committee makes the following recommendations:

- 2025MFT00001 – send notification letters.
- T.T. – begin Board-initiated complaint.

A motion made by Amy Bommer-Villaveces to accept recommendations. Motion, seconded by Karen Sheets-Mobley, carried.

PER DIEM

Motion made by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick to approve today's meeting and Per Diem for the following:

- 12/20/24 – Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick, Applications
- 12/27/24 - Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick, Applications
- 1/3/25 - Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick, Applications
- 1/10/25 - Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick, Applications
- 12/30/24 – Nicole Ward, eServices
- 1/5/25 - Nicole Ward, eServices
- 1/9/25 – Nicole Ward, Applications Committee
- 1/14/25 - Nicole Ward, eServices
- 1/15/25- Nicole Ward, eServices
- 1/16/25 – Nicole Ward, Complaints Committee
- 1/9/25 – Karen Sheets Mobley, Applications Committee
- 11/20/24 - Karen Sheets Mobley, eServices
- 1/6/25 - Karen Sheets Mobley, eServices
- 1/7/25 - Karen Sheets Mobley, eServices
- 1/8/25 - Karen Sheets Mobley, eServices
- 11/20/24 – Michelle Stillwagon, eServices
- 11/21/24 - Michelle Stillwagon, eServices
- 12/14/24 - Michelle Stillwagon, eServices
- 1/11/25 - Michelle Stillwagon, eServices

*Some members may have been in person and filled out the paper forms for Per Diem dates.

Motion, seconded by Amy Bommer-Villaveces, carried.

ADJOURN

A motion made by Jennifer Schinke-Kendrick to adjourn the meeting at 2:02 p.m. Motion, seconded by Amy Bommer-Villaveces, carried.