

**Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists
Board Meeting
Friday April 7, 2017, 3:30 PM
Exchange Building
8407 Wall Street N-102
Austin, TX 78754**

MINUTES

Board Members Present:

George Francis, Public Member
Rick Bruhn, Professional Member
Jennifer Smothermon, Professional Member
Kenneth Bateman, Professional Member

Staff Present:

Cheryl Gomez
Georgia Norman
Tim Speer
Scott Merchant

Guests Present:

Jodie Elder
Jason Martin

Agenda Item 1 was call the meeting to order at 4:25 pm by Ms. Smothermon, chair.

Agenda Item 2 was the approval of the minutes of the January 21, 2017 Board meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Francis to approve the minutes. The motion

Agenda Item 3 was the discussion regarding reports from the following board committees:

Ms. Smothermon gave the Ethics Committee report. The committee reviewed 3 cases, of which 1 case was closed and 2 cases were proposed for reprimand. The committee also discussed the backlog of complaints and complaints closed by the Executive Director and the complaint process. A motion was made by Dr. Bruhn to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Dr. Bruhn gave the Licensing Standards Committee report. The committee reviewed 6 cases, of which 5 cases were approved and 1 case was denied. The committee also discussed new forms to be used by the department and inactive status. A motion was made by Mr. Francis to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Francis gave the Professional Development Committee report. The committee discussed the quarterly summary from the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists' Jurisprudence Examination vendor and the board's Jurisprudence Examination. A motion was made by Dr. Bruhn to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 4 was discussion on a policy to prioritize complaints.

Agenda Item 5 was the discussion on a policy to settle cases informally.

Agenda Item 6 was the discussion on a penalty matrix.

Agenda Item 7 was the discussion on the Texas Sunset Commission's recommendations.

Agenda Item 8 was the discussion on the agreed orders. A motion was made by Ms. Smothermon to accept the order. The motion was seconded and passed.

Agenda Item 9 was the report from the Board Chair and update concerning: current challenges and accomplishments; lawsuits; interaction with stakeholders, state officials, and staff; committee appointments and functions; workload of board members; conferences; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the board. Ms. Smothermon gave the report.

Agenda Item 10 was the report from the Executive Director and update concerning: program operations; customer service accomplishments, inquiries, and challenges; current and/or historical licensee statistics; media, legislative, and stakeholder contacts and concerns; workload processing; special projects assigned to executive director; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the licensure program. Ms. Gomez gave the report.

Agenda Item 11 was the Management report and update from the Professional Licensing and Certification Unit manager, including: unit organization and staffing; program costs and revenue; current operational initiatives; customer service accomplishments and challenges; workload processing and statistical information; status of rulemaking within the unit; legislative and media contacts and tracking; and general information regarding the routine functioning of the unit. Mr. Speer gave the report.

Agenda Item 12 was the discussion regarding future priorities and activities of the board. The next meeting will be July 14-15, 2017 and October 27-28, 2017 in Austin.

Agenda Item 13 was public comment. Two people addressed the board.

Agenda Item 14 was Executive Session: Consultation with Board attorney pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071 regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or settlement offers.

Agenda Item 15 was the discussion regarding pending or contemplated litigation and/or settlement offers.

Agenda Item 16 was adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 5:45 pm.