

**Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists  
Board Meeting  
Saturday, January 23, 2016, 9:30 AM  
Texas Department of State Health Services, Exchange Building  
8407 Wall Street, Room N-102  
Austin, TX 78754**

**MINUTES**

**Board Members Present:**

Michael Puhl, Public Member  
Jennifer Smothermon, Professional Member  
Rick Bruhn, Professional Member  
Michael Miller, Public Member  
George Francis, Public Member  
Joe Ann Clack, Public Member  
Beverly Womack, Professional Member

**Staff Present:**

Cheryl Gomez  
Amanda Stallings  
Molly Fuedell  
Tim Speer

**Guests Present:**

Jodie Elder  
Thao Phan

**Agenda Item 1** was to call the meeting to order at 10:45 am by Mr. Puhl, chair.

**Agenda Item 2** was the approval of the minutes of the October 10, 2015 Board meeting. A motion was made to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded and passed.

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

Dr. Bruhn gave the Licensing Standards Committee report. The committee reviewed 17 cases, of which 12 were approved and 5 cases were denied. The committee also discussed 22 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §801.236. Inactive Status, regarding 22 TAC §801.174. Licensure and Jurisprudence Examinations, and the status of a LMFT Associate who has completed all experience requirements while she or he is waiting for DSHS staff to process the upgrade to full licensure. A motion was made by Mr. Francis to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Ms. Smothermon gave the Ethics Committee report. The committee reviewed 10 cases, of which 8 cases were closed, 1 case was tabled and 1 case was proposed for disciplinary action. The committee also

discussed cases awaiting hearings or resolutions through formal and informal conferences. A motion was made by Mr. Francis to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

Ms. Smothermon gave the Rules Committee report. The committee discussed 22 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §801.204, 22 TAC §801.115– Academic Requirements and Supervised Clinical Practicum Equivalency for Applicants Currently Licensed in Another Jurisdiction, potential amendments to rules regarding training, education, and other specific requirements for supervisors providing supervision to licensees who are subject to a board order, and licensees who conduct or receive telepractice and/or telesupervision. 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 continuing education providers' audit. A motion was made by Mr. Bruhn to approve the report. The motion was seconded and passed.

**Agenda Item 4** was Discussion and possible action related to proposed amendments to the board's rules in 22 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) §801.204 (Licensing of Military Service members, Military Veterans, and Military Spouses) for publication in the Texas Register. No action taken.

**Agenda Item 5** was Executive Session and consultation with Board attorney pursuant to TEX. GOV'T CODE § 551.071 regarding Texas Medical Association v. Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. No action taken.

**Agenda Item 6** was the discussion regarding Texas Medical Association v. Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. No action taken.

**Agenda Item 7** 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. Mr. Puhl gave the report.

**Agenda Item 8** 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 9** 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 10** was the discussion regarding the Orders for Final Action for # 1062-15-0029 & 1062-13-0025

**Agenda Item 11** was the discussion regarding future priorities and activities of the board.

**Agenda Item 12** was public comment. One person addressed the board.

**Agenda Item 13** was to set the upcoming meeting dates and locations. The next meeting will be April 15-16, 2016 in Austin, TX

**Agenda Item 13** was adjournment. The meeting adjourned at 11:26 am.