

The Board of Professional Counselor and Therapists

Attendance – February 18, 2022

Open Meeting - Minutes

Members	Non-Members
Nicki Drotleff, LCMFT, <i>Chair</i>	Tony Torain, Executive Director
Winnie Moore, LCPC, <i>Vice Chair</i>	Shelly-Ann Barnes, Acting Compliance Manager
Sharon Bolden, LCADC, <i>Secretary</i>	Lillian Reese – Legislative/Regulation Coord
Jeffrey Galecki, MS, LCADC, LCPC	Rhonda Edwards, AAG
Sara Carlton, Consumer	Alexandria Langston – Licensing Specialist
Michael Nettles, D.Min., LCPC	Janice Isaac – Licensing Specialist
C. Scott Frazier, III, Consumer	Tawana Brown – Licensing Specialist
Karen Katrinic, LCMFT	Anna Sullivan – Licensing Specialist
Stacey Nelson, LCPC, LCPAT	Sandra Boxley – Licensing Specialist
Kimberly Poole-Styles, Rh.D., LCPC	Barbara Tanner - Investigator
Elizabeth Guroff, LCMFT	
Mark Donovan, LCPC	

The meeting was called to order by the Chair at 10:30 a.m. at which time she established that there was a quorum.

It was moved and seconded that the minutes of January 21, 2022, be approved.

It was moved and seconded that the agenda be approved.

The Chair’s report is as follows:

1. The Chair reported that she, other MFT members of the Board, Board Counsel and the Executive Director met with Metro-MFT to discuss a bill that they were planning to propose that would have the Board do a study related to reciprocity among Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia. The Chair informed that Metro MTF made the decision to withdraw their bill and to work with the Board in coming up with a plan to move toward reciprocity. It was agreed that

there would be quarterly meetings with Metro-MFT to discuss common concerns.

The Chair recognized the Executive Director the administrative report and the following was discussed:

1. The Executive Director informed that the Board's IT department is working at providing more and more of the functionality that was lost with the ransomware attack. In most cases they have been successful. The problem now is the inability to access documents and forms.
2. The licensing period was extended to February 15, 2022, to allow licensees additional time to get their renewal done. Presently the staff is working with licensees who for one reason or another did not make the deadline.
3. The Executive Director reminded the Board members that they needed to take the Open Meetings Act training, if they have not done it, and provide a copy of their certificates of completion to the Board office to be filed in their folders.
4. At the request of the Appointments Office, the Executive Director reminded Board members that their Financial Disclosure filings are due before April 30, 2022.
5. The Executive Director informed the Board that through the good offices of Kimberly Link, the Board has been able to secure temporary assistance to help with the backlog of applications that resulted from the ransomware attack. Gwen Spain assisted Anna Weinfield in the office of administration so that she could work with the Executive Director in the management of renewals. Lisa Fassett assisted Janice Isaac in the organization of files so that Ms. Isaac could work exclusively on licensing applicants.
6. The Executive Director reported that the administration is in the process of hiring a contractual administrator. Persons have been interviewed and a selection is imminent.

The Chair called on the Compliance Manager (Shelly-Ann Barnes) and there was no report.

The Chair called on the Credentialing Committee (Sharon Bolden) and there was no report.

The Chair called on the Legislative/Regulations Committee (Karen Katrinic):

1. Karen Katrinic led in a discussion on HB 982 – Faith Based Counseling bill. Lisa Connors raises issues of how faith-based counselors have been very valuable in many religious communities. Rhonda Edwards wanted to make sure that everyone understood that the bill was an “exemption.” that would allow people who had the sanction of their religious community to provide counseling without concern about the Board’s interferences. She noted that there is some history related to bad behavior in this regard and that by giving an exemption the Board is not protecting the public. Kimberly Poole-Sykes wondered if this bill would impact other mental health professions. The Chair wanted everyone to be clear that the discussion was about producing a letter of opposition rather than an letter of concern. The letter of opposition is stronger and requires that someone testify. Mark Donovan made the point that by opposing this bill, nothing changes. Those who serve the community through their religious institutions would not impact, but the Board would retain authority to deal with those who are moving more toward mental health counseling.
2. Karen Katrinic reported that the bill that was being proposed by Metro-MFT would be withdrawn.

The Chair called for a report from the Discipline Review Committee. (Winnie Moore)

1. Winnie Moore reported that the committee had met at 9:00 a.m. and had gotten several cases resolved.

The Chair noted that the next Behavior Analyst Advisory Committee

January 26, 2022 meeting was cancelled because ransomware attack make document inaccessible

There was no Old Business

There was no New Business

Under FYI, it was noted that the next Board Meeting would be held on March 18, 2022, at 10:30 a.m.

It was moved by Karen Katrinic and seconded by Mark Donovan that the meeting be adjourned.

Submitted by Tony W. Torain, Executive Director