

ABEMFT *Newsline*

Alabama State Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy

AMFTRB Convention Charlotte Daughetee, Ph.D.

Special points of interest:

- Get to know your ABEMFT Board Members
- Information on Late License Renewal
- Distance Learning now provided for in Administrative Code
- Find out where and when the Board Meetings are conducted

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I was excited and honored to represent ABEMFT as a voting delegate at the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) convention which convened October 15-16 in Long Beach, California, which was held in conjunction with the AAMFT convention. The purpose of AMFTRB is to promote the protection of the public by providing education and support to state regulatory board members. While each individual state has its own concerns, AMFTRB provides an annual forum whereby state specific and universal regulatory concerns can be discussed, and new information can be presented. This process enhances regulatory decision making and promotes excellence in the field.

Item development, reliability and validity of the Examination in Marital and Family Therapy were discussed at length and the delegates were updated on current statistics on test results.

Since MFT's tend to come from a broad range of academic disciplines, this examination provides state boards with an objective measure of an applicant's MFT knowledge base, and indicates an individual's readiness for entry level practice. AMFTRB continually develops and validates items that reflect foundational knowledge as well as emerging concepts in the field. At the convention, delegates were updated on the current status of the test's development.

Another topic of discussion was the issue of LMFT endorsement and portability of licenses between states. There is an expressed need to improve communication between state boards and streamline this process whenever possible. Technology and distance learning were addressed as they are another concern common for all state boards. In particular, delegates were concerned about what quality controls need to be in place

for states to feel secure about the content and learning associated with distance coursework and distance continuing education.

Other topics addressed included: disciplinary policies, handling of consumer complaints, inclusion of the terms diagnose and treatment in state laws, and state requirements for approved supervisor status. This convention provided an opportunity for regulatory representatives from across the nation to communicate with one another, and move forward toward the development of high standards and regulatory compatibility in Marriage and Family Therapy. As Alabama's representative, I was able to be able to add our voice to the discussion of these topics, and return from the convention with new information that will enhance ABEMFT's service to the people of Alabama.

ABEMFT

Alabama Board of Examiners
in Marriage and Family
Therapy

Board Members*Chair*

Charlotte Daughette, Ph.D.

Vice Chair

John Mark Trent, Ph.D.

Member

Reina Brashier, M.A.

Member

John "Jab" Brown, M.B.A.

Member

G. Damon Nolin, M.Div.

Staff*Executive Director*

Paula "Scout" McCaleb, B.S.

Executive Assistant

Hope Paulene, B.S.

The Changing Face of the ABEMFT

The Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy has two new Board Members. Reina L. Brashier and John Mark Trent were administered their Oath of Office in January 2003. Reina Brashier is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. She graduated from Auburn University and has a M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy from the University of Alabama at Birmingham. Currently, Reina is in private practice at Grayson and Associates in Birmingham, Alabama. John Mark Trent Ph.D., LMFT is an Associate Professor in the School of Human Services and Leadership at Southern Christian University. He also is in private practice at Park Place Psychiatric in Montgomery. He lives in Elmore County with his wife Faith and 3 sons Nathan, Benjamin, and Andrew.

The Chair of the Board is Charlotte Daughette, Ph.D.,

LMFT, LPC. Charlotte is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Counseling Leadership and Foundations at the University of Montevallo. She is also in private practice at Context Counseling in Birmingham. Charlotte has a Masters degree and Doctoral degree in Counseling from the University of South Carolina. She lives in Shelby County with her husband Doug and 3 sons Daniel, Jake, and Michael.

John A. Brown is a retired Air Force Officer who currently works as Financial Aid Director for Troy State University Montgomery. He is the Public Member appointed to the Board and is the past Vice-Chair. He earned a B.S. Degree in Business Administration Accounting from the University of South Carolina and a Master of Public Administration Degree Human Resources Management Personnel, Government and

Policy from Golden Gate University, San Francisco, California.

G. Damon Nolin, M.Div., LMFT, LPC and past Chair is a graduate of Duke University. Damon is currently in private practice at the Center for Marriage and Family Therapy in Huntsville. He has more than 20 years experience in Marriage and Family Therapy and 18 years experience in sex offender treatment.

Appointments to the board are made by the Governor. The Alabama Association for Marriage and Family Therapy make recommendations to the Governor's Appointments Secretary for membership to the Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy.

ABEMFT Newsline is an official publication of the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy. This publication is intended for a wide audience to alert licensees to matters of possible procedural, legal, legislative, and regulatory interest. It should not be relied upon, nor is it intended to provide legal, insurance or accounting advice. Licensees should consult their own lawyers, insurance agents, and accountants before taking any action in response to this newsletter, as the opinions expressed herein may be completely altered by the licensees' actual facts.

Late Renewal Reminder

Renewal Forms and reminders have been sent to all licensees who expired on December 31, 2003. Most of these licenses have been renewed. However, current statute includes a provision for late renewal if a completed application and CEU hours are received by March

1, 2004. Renewal Forms can be downloaded at

www.mft.state.al.us

The following will be required for late renewal:

- A complete renewal application
- CEU Reporting Form re-

flecting the required 40 hours of continuing education consisting of 10 hours of clinical MFT, and 3 hours in professional ethics.

- \$250.00 Late Renewal Fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to ABEMFT.

Recent Changes to ABEMFT's Administrative Code

The Board voted to amend the Administrative Code or Rules and Regulations pertaining to continuing education at the last board meeting. Specifically, the board included a provision for distance learning after researching and discussing this matter at length. Please find below the new rule in its entirety.

CHAPTER 536-X-5

REQUIRED RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL AND CONTINUING EDUCATION EXPERIENCE

In order for an LMFT or MFT Associate license to be renewed, the licensee must have completed a minimum of forty (40) contact hours of acceptable Continuing Education or Experience Units during the previous twenty-four (24) months. A minimum of ten (10) of these hours must be clinical MFT workshops, and a minimum of three (3) of these hours must be in the area of professional ethics. LMFT supervisors must have completed a minimum of five (5) hours of continuing education in the content area of supervision.

- (1) Acceptable CEU's include:
- (a) National, state or local MFT association training and continuing education activities;
 - (b) Graduate courses in MFT or cross disciplinary course (one (1) graduate semester = fifteen (15) hours, one (1) graduate quarter = ten (10) hours;
 - (c) MFT peer

workshops approved by the Board (not more than twenty (20) hours); (d) NBCC approved courses and continuing education activities sponsored by allied mental health professional associations or agencies; (e) Supervision by an Approved MFT Supervisor (not more than ten (10) hours); (f) Independent study activities such as: teaching graduate courses in MFT; presenter of MFT material (first time presented); supervising a person for MFT licensure under a board approved contract; service rendered on professional MFT boards or committees listening to audiotapes; viewing videotapes; reading; editing or writing professional books or articles; and conducting professional research. No more than ten (10) hours of continuing education shall be in independent study. (g) AAMFT, NBCC, or ALAMFT pre-approved distance learning courses that may include web page lectures; class discussions via internet bulletin boards; student interaction; and student to student interactive online communication through electronic mail, television, or video. Distance learning is a convenient mode for Board approved, interactive on-line/video

coursework that is designed to provide an alternative to conventional continuing education for MFT members who demonstrate physical impairment, conflicting work schedule, or hardship. Distance learning requires no or limited physical attendance and is not contemplated to replace face-to-face clinical supervision.

- (2) Documentation of completion will include a written statement of all CEU course information including the name of the sponsoring organization, location of seminar, title/brief description, principal instructor, dates, and number of hours claimed. The Board will audit a number of randomly selected licensees to assure that the continuing education requirements have been met. The Board may request verification of credits submitted, including information regarding content certification, and attendance. The licensee shall maintain and make available upon request the documentation required by this rule for a period of two (2) years following the renewal period to which the continuing education credits were applied. Failure to substantiate credits submitted or to submit documentation of sufficient continuing education credits will result in refusal by the Board to renew a license.

*Distance Learning
Now Addressed in
ABEMFT's
Administrative
Code*

*Alabama State Board of Examiners in
Marriage and Family Therapy*

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ABEMFT Newsline

WE'RE ON THE WEB!
WWW.MFT.STATE.AL.US.COM

Calendar of Events

BOARD MEETING DATES

February 13, 2004

May 14, 2004

August 13, 2004

November 12, 2004

Note: All board meetings convene at 9:00 a.m. and are held at board headquarters located at 610 South McDonough Street, Montgomery, Alabama. Meetings are subject to change, but will always be advertised in the Montgomery Advertiser and board website in advance.
