

# ABEMFT *Newsline*

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

## Continuing Competency

**Charlotte Daughetee, Ph.D., LMFT, LPC**

***ABEMFT Chair***

### Special points of interest:

- Introducing New Board Member
- ABEMFT Relocates
- Information on License Renewal
- Status of Sunset Review
- Changes to Rules and Regulations
- ABEMFT Drafts Legislation
- Find out where and when the Board Meetings are conducted

### Inside this issue:

ABEMFT Welcomes New Board Member	2
New Address for ABEMFT	2
Report from the Front Lines	3
License Renewal Reminder	3
Calendar of Events	4

At the most recent AMFTRB convention, I participated in a roundtable discussion on continuing competency in the mental health field. I learned that the therapists most at risk for losing their licenses are those practitioners who have been in the field for many years. Particularly at risk are therapists who practice in isolation. Newly graduate or licensed therapists are less likely to commit ethical violations. Why? Perhaps the information from their coursework is still fresh in their minds or they may be less confident and more fearful of making a mistake; therefore, they may keep ethics and competency issues "on the front burner". They are also currently being supervised or have just completed supervision and competency and ethical issues have recently been emphasized for them.

What factors enhance continuing competency? A major factor is a commitment to supervision and consultation. We have an ethical obligation to seek

consultation and supervision when we experience difficulty with a case, but true continuing competency calls for therapists to structure ongoing supervision into their professional lives. In fact, ongoing supervision is a hallmark of the Marriage and Family Therapy field. Peer supervision groups are easily formed, so if you are not currently participating in a group, take it upon yourself to call several colleagues and construct this necessary support system.

Professional involvement is another important factor in continuing competency. By being actively involved with ALAMFT or AAMFT, therapists have access to workshops, and the latest professional literature. In addition, you will have opportunities to network with other professionals who will serve as a resource (perhaps to form that brown bag lunch peer supervision group). Professional involvement assures that you will not be practicing in isolation and that you will

remain on the cutting edge of the field.

Finally, I want to emphasize the importance of continuing education. The ABEMFT takes continuing education very seriously. Participation in continuing education keeps practitioners up to date, informed and inspired. Beginning with the next renewal period, we will require copies of all CEU certificates for workshops that are being reported on the CEU form. While the vast majority of MFTs report CEUs accurately, the board has approved this change to ensure the safety of the public from MFTs who might falsify their CEU reporting. For further details on CEU's consult CHAPTER 536-X-5 of the ABEMFT Administrative Code.

Continuing competency is the responsibility of all MFT's. The ABEMFT appreciates the professionalism of those MFTs who have integrated the value of continuing competency and growth into their professional lives.

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

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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 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.

## ABEMFT Welcomes New Board Member

Rev. Charles E. Alexander was appointed to the ABEMFT on April 23, 2004 by Governor Bob Riley to a five year term. The Alabama Association of Marriage and Family Therapy makes all recommendations to the Governor's Appointments Secretary as provided in the ABEMFT Law.

Rev. Alexander is an ordained United Methodist Minister from the North Alabama Conference. He has been Executive Director of United Methodist Pastoral Care and Counseling, Inc. since 1976. He has more than thirty five years experience in counseling. His training includes the M. Div. and the Th.M. degrees from Duke

University in Pastoral Psychology as well as residencies in Clinical Pastoral Education and Marriage and Family Therapy.

Rev. Alexander is a Clinical Member, Approved Supervisor, and Fellow of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). He is a member with the American Association of Pastoral Counselors (AAPC). Charles is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) with the Alabama Board of Examiners in Marriage and Family Therapy and also a Board Approved Supervisor.

ABEMFT welcomes Rev. Charles Alexander and look forward to his many contributions to the Board.

# ABEMFT NEW ADDRESS



## Mailing Address

**Post Office Box 240066  
Montgomery, AL 36124-0066**

## Physical Location

**7245 Halcyon Summit Drive**

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**Web Site: [www.mft.state.al.us](http://www.mft.state.al.us)**

**PLEASE MAKE A NOTE OF THIS CHANGE  
FOR YOUR RECORDS**

## Report from the Front Lines

### Paula Scout McCaleb, Executive Director

The ABEMFT has recently completed its second Sunset Review Audit. This audit is conducted every four years for most licensure boards in the State of Alabama. Many of you may have received a questionnaire from the Board of Examiners of Public Accounts surveying your satisfaction level with the ABEMFT and issues pertaining to the MFT industry. The audit has now been concluded and the next step is for the Joint Legislative Sunset Review Committee to recommend to the Legislature for the Board to continue as is, continue with changes to legislation or discontinue the Board. We are currently awaiting the Sunset Review Committee's decision. Therefore, ABEMFT will have legislation in the 2005 Regular Session reflecting the Sunset Review Committee's recommendation.

The Board of Examiners discovered a surprising finding. Specifically, the Examiners found that we do not have the

statutory authority to issue Associate Certificates. Based on this finding the ABEMFT has ceased issuing any Associate Certificates as advised by the Attorney General's Office until legislation is passed which specifically allows for an Associate License. The Board will be drafting legislation to correct this problem. In the interim, Associate applications will be processed as Intern applications. The designation of Intern will prevent any interruption in acquiring supervision hours. Applicants may be approved to take the exam separate and apart from their Intern status. Once supervision hours have been acquired and the Examination in Marital and Family Therapy passed, Interns may apply for their License in Marriage and Family Therapy. As for currently licensed Associates, ABEMFT has also been advised by the Attorney General's Office that these individuals are to remain Associates until their license expires. At the time of

expiration their status will be changed to an Intern.

The Board continues to update proposed legislation to amend the statute as realized since initial passage eight years ago, like the statutory authority to provide for an Associate status.

The Rules and Regulations have been amended due to this finding and also fees have been amended. The only fees the board will now be collecting is licensure and renewal fees. These changes to the Rules and Regulations can be found on the Board's Web Site at [www.mft.state.al.us](http://www.mft.state.al.us)

ABEMFT has had a very production year and 2005 will be busy and beneficial with legislation to be passed.. We will keep you informed on all changes and news through the ABEMFT *Newsline*. Please don't hesitate to contact me at the new address and phone number (listed on the opposite page) if you have any questions or comments. I anticipate great things in ABEMFT's future.

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*ABEMFT will have legislation in the next regular session reflecting the Sunset Review Committee's Recommendation*

## Renewal Reminder

Renewal Forms and reminders have been sent to all licensees who expire on December 31, 2004. The majority 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, 2005. Renewal Forms

can be downloaded at [www.mft.state.al.us](http://www.mft.state.al.us)

The following will be required for renewal:

- A complete renewal application
- CEU Reporting Form reflecting the required 40 hours of continuing education consisting of 10 hours

of clinical MFT, and 3 hours in professional ethics. All supporting CEU documentation must be attached to the reporting form.

- \$200.00 Renewal Fee in the form of a check or money order made payable to ABEMFT.

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

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**ABEMFT Newsline**

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

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**Calendar of Events**



*Note: All Board Meetings are open to the public. Meetings convene at 9:00 a.m. and are held at Board headquarters located at 7245 Halcyon Summit Drive in Montgomery. Meetings are subject to change, but will always be advertised in the Montgomery Advertiser and Board website in accordance with the Alabama Sunshine Law.*

**BOARD MEETING DATES**

**November 12, 2004**

**February 11, 2005**

**May 13, 2005**

**August 12, 2005**

**November 18, 2005**