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California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

CAMFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
December 2-3, 2017  
Marriot Burbank Airport Hotel  
BURBANK, CA

*Board Members In Attendance:*

Bob Casanova, President  
Holly Daniels  
Nanci Finley  
Jonathan Flier  
Kristy Labardee  
Cathryn Leff, Secretary  
Jan Mellinger, President-Elect  
Patricia Ravitz, Past President  
Lisa Romain  
Katie Vernoy  
Curt Widhalm  
Danah Williams

*Staff:*

Cathy Atkins, Deputy Executive Director  
Ron Hynum, Managing Director, Finance and Operations

*Observers:*

Holly Daniels  
John Sovec  
Robert Dalzell  
James Guay

*Guests:*

Angela Blanchard, Political Solutions  
Greg Moser, Procopio

**I. Call to Order**

President Bob Casanova called the meeting to order at 8:30AM on December 2, 2017.

**II. Closed Session**

The Board went into Closed Session from 8:31AM until 9:11AM.

**III. Consent Agenda**

Motion (1): Widhalm – Approve the consent agenda, as presented.

APPROVED

**IV. Open Forum**

James Guay thanked the Board for their hard work and dedication to the MFT profession.

**V. Policies and Positions**

A. Disciplinary Actions within The Therapist

The Board discussed the pros and cons of removing the Disciplinary Actions from *The Therapist*.

Motion (2): Widhalm—To move forward with the survey of the membership on disciplinary actions within *The Therapist*.

APPROVED.

B. Online Member Directory

The Board discussed the Member Directory and the various options related to the CounselingCalifornia link. The Board took no further action as online directory will be available mid-December.

C. Board Meeting Format

President Casanova discussed reviewing the format of Board materials and meetings, and focusing more on global issues of CAMFT (vision and purpose of CAMFT, strategic plan, five year plan). The Board determined to discuss this issue further with the new Executive Director.

D. Bylaws Interpretation

The Board discussed three sections of the CAMFT bylaws which continue to cause confusion during the election cycle given their vague nature: Section VI(C)(2) regarding Board eligibility, Section VI(C)(3) regarding Board terms of service, and Sections VI(A)(3) and (C)(2) regarding dual-licensure. The Board directed staff to send these three sections to the Bylaws Committee for assessment and recommendation.

The Board also directed staff to obtain member feedback on any recommendations to amend the bylaws from the membership to ensure transparency.

E. Release of Claims Agreements

The Board discussed having a policy of addressing threshold numbers associated with a severance/release of claims agreement. The Board directed staff to research current policies of other associations.

F. Board Code of Conduct

This policy discussion was moved to the March, 2018 Board meeting due to time constraints.

G. Policy on Vendor Contracts

The Board directed staff to conduct research on typical and appropriate threshold amounts and have this Policy for further discussion at the March, 2018 Board meeting.

**VI. Committee Actions/Nominations**

A. Scope of Practice Task Force

The Committee discussed the intent of the Scope of Practice Focus Group and Task Force and determined to merge the groups.

Motion (3): Vernoy—To rescind the September 2016 Motion (19) regarding scope of practice focus group.

APPROVED

Motion (4): Mellinger—To convene a Task Force of four to seven members (as appointed by the President), from varying practice areas, to review and assess the practice of marriage and family therapy in 2018 vs. the 1980s.

APPROVED

President Casanova will appoint the members in the coming weeks for the Board to approve.

B. CAMFT Connects

Cathy Atkins reviewed the details of the upcoming CAMFT Connects meeting.

C. Public Outreach Committee

The Board discussed the need to revisit the Public Outreach Committee's scope of duties. Atkins requested that additional assessment be held until the new Executive Director could

weigh in on the role and purpose of the Committee. The Board concurred and requested that staff utilize the old Committee description until the new Executive Director had a chance to weigh in. Atkins requested that flexibility be maintained for the Communications Department to have a quick turn-over, if needed.

Staff directed to put out a call for names for the Public Outreach Committee.

#### D. CREC Committee

The Board discussed the Chair waiver as requested by the Committee.

Motion (5): Finley—To accept the waiver request due to the committee unable to fulfill the position of Chair.

Amendment to Motion: Vernoy—Waiver to expire on May 31, 2018. APPROVED

Motion Amendment: To accept waiver request until May 31, 2018. FAILED.

After further discussion, the Board desired more information on why other Committee members could not fulfill the job of Chair. The Board directed President Casanova to phone the committee members to assess the problem further.

### VII. Chapter Issues—Redwood Dues Waiver Request

The chapter requested a waiver of dues for seven members who lost their homes in the recent fires. The Board discussed this issue, the lack of dues waivers historically, and the global implications regarding other hard-ship issues.

Motion (6): Mellinger—To grant waiver for late fees for the seven members. FAILED.

Motion (7): Daniels—To transfer from the Educational Foundation \$10,000.00 for a hardship fund for members. NO SECOND.

The Board directed Atkins to reach out to the seven members to discuss other options to dues waiver that could help them in their current financial situation.

### VIII. Member Proposal

James Guay proposed that CAMFT provide additional resources to improve communication by CAMFT through social media, website content, and CounselingCalifornia. The Board discussed the proposal and acknowledged this has been an ongoing issue that has been hampered by limited resources. The Board recommended this issue be taken up again with the new Executive Director as a top priority.

## **IX. Executive Directors Report**

Ms. Atkins reported on CAMFT operations, staffing and program updates.

Motion (8): Widhalm—To approve the employee retirement contribution for 2017.

APPROVED

The Board discussed the process of applying to become a CEPA provider, compared to other providers. Although other providers may have an easier application process, CEPA is more thorough and ensures quality of the provider. The Board requested that staff do an analysis of the program application to see if any streamline could be instituted.

## **X. Finance and Operations Report**

Ron Hynum presented on the Balance Sheet, Revenue & Expense Statement, Non-operational Revenue, and the Reserve Fund Balance. As of 10/31/2017, the Board has a reserve of fund balance of \$7,785,383.63. Total assets are \$9,634,005.54 with liabilities of \$323,971.43.

Motion (8): Ravitz—To accept the October 2017 financial report.

APPROVED.

The Board reviewed and discussed the proposed 2018 Budget.

Motion (9): Williams—To approve the 2018 proposed budget.

APPROVED.

The Board discussed the Educational Foundation and possibility of moving CAMFT reserves into the Foundation to support scholarships and educational opportunities for members. The Board directed staff to research the viability of such opportunities.

The Board discussed EBSCO and directed staff to research different viable options and packages available for upgrade.

## **XI. Closed Session**

\*Motion (10) made on personnel issues during Closed Session.

## **XII. Legislation and Advocacy**

### **A. Board of Behavioral Sciences**

Atkins discussed BBS updates and current issues including low testing pass rates and license portability.

### **B. State Legislation**

Atkins discussed CAMFT legislation AB 191 and SB 374, and that both had been signed by the Governor.

#### C. Federal Legislation

Atkins discussed CAMFT sponsored Medicare legislation, the status of LMFTs within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Homeland Security.

#### D. Legislators of the Year

Atkins presented the recommendations from CAMFT lobbyists for Legislatures of the Year.

Motion (11): Ravitz—That Assemblyman Dr. Joaquin Arambulia of Fresno be CAMFT California Legislator of the Year.

APPROVED

Motion (12): Leff—That Congresswoman Julia Brownley of Thousand Oaks, be CAMFT Federal Legislator of the Year.

APPROVED.

#### E. 2018 Legislation

Atkins discussed potential legislation for 2018.

The Board discussed the recommendation to amend law allowing minor patients the right to addend their records.

Motion (13): Widhalm—To sponsor legislature to Amend H & S. Code to allow minors the right to addend their records through their health care provider as necessary.

APPROVED

The Board discussed AB 93 (2017) and the recent recommendation of the BBS Policy and Advocacy Committee to remove the 90 day rule through AB 93. Atkins (and Political Solutions, Angela Blanchard) recommended proposing an alternative to the removal of the 90-day rule by amending law that only hours gained at live-scanned agencies could be counted towards licensure for post-graduates/pre-registrants.

Motion (14): Ravitz—To approve and support the legislative concept that post-degree/pre-registration hours be obtained by live scan work places.

APPROVED.

#### F. CAMFT Lobby Days

Atkins reviewed the state and federal lobby day itinerary. All Board members committed to attending the Sacramento lobby day. The following Board members will be attending the federal lobby days, in addition to the Grassroots Advocacy Team: Jan Mellinger, Nanci Finley, Lisa Romaine, Holly Daniels, Danah Williams, Curt Widhalm, Cathryn Leff, Katie Vernoy and Patti Ravitz.

Atkins recommended developing a policy on which Board members, generally, would go on the federal lobby trip so that there is consistency each year.

### **XIII. Future Agenda Items**

Cathryn Leff suggested that the Board revisit the policy of having attorneys provide L&E training to pre-licensees (specifically at agencies).

Nanci Finley suggested that members be given the option of choosing a party when making a PAC donation.

Patti Ravitz reminded the Board that suggestions also need a proposal to the Board for addition to the agenda for the next Board meeting.

### **XIV. Open Forum**

The Board discussed personal experiences and thoughts about the board meeting and issues addressed.

### **XV. Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting adjourned at 10:33AM.