



CONNECT
ENRICH
ACHIEVE

California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

CAMFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
JUNE 3-4, 2017
HYATT REGENCY
LA JOLLA, CA

Board Members In Attendance:

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

Staff:

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

Invited Guest:

Tim Shannon

Observers:

Kristi Walsh

I. Call to Order

President Bob Casanova called the meeting to order at 8:34am on June 3, 2017. President Casanova welcomed the new Board members, Nanci Finley, Kristy Labardee, Jan Mellinger, and Lisa Romain, and acknowledged the leadership of Past President, Patricia Ravitz.

II. Acknowledgements

President Casanova acknowledged that the CAMFT Board adheres to the CAMFT Policy on Antitrust Compliance. President Casanova also referenced the CAMFT Strategic Plan and Mission as guiding documents for decisions made by the Board.

III. Consent Agenda

The Legislative Committee meeting minutes were pulled from the Consent Agenda. With no objections, the Consent Agenda was approved.

IV. Open Forum

No members participated in Open Forum.

V. Appointment of Parliamentarian

President Casanova appointed Curt Widhalm to serve as Parliamentarian.

VI. Orientation

The new Board members previously viewed a detailed orientation on their legal duties. The Board received an additional, in person, orientation on Friday, June 2, which reviewed fiduciary duties, Robert's Rules of Order for Small Boards, and core principles of a governing board.

VII. Policies and Procedures

A. *Dues – Extended Payment Option Policy*

The Board discussed whether new members should be offered an extended payment option. The Board ultimately decided that offering this option to new members created a drain on staff resources, as well as unintended consequences. Extended payment option for renewing members did not pose the same challenges.

Motion (1): Mellinger – Accept the edits to the “Dues – Extended Payment Option Policy” for renewing members only and remove all references to new applicants in the proposal.

APPROVED; Opposed – Romain, Williams

B. *Policy on Nominating Committee Charge*

In March, 2017, the Board approved motions precluding Nominating Committee members from serving as references for candidates' application and from endorsing any candidate in the CAMFT election. These changes were incorporated into existing policy, for approval.

Motion (2): Ravitz – Adopt the Policy on Nominating Committee Charge, Composition, and Restrictions, as presented.

APPROVED; Opposed – Finley

C. CAMFT Logo

The Board reviewed members' responses to the survey question asking whether members wanted to see the logo/graphic identity updated. The Board noted that the vast majority of respondents had no opinion. The remaining respondents were split on whether they favored a change.

The Board determined that there was not a compelling reason to change the logo at this time, given the lack of interest, coupled with the resources that would accompany such a change. The Board postponed the discussion until June, 2018. At that time, the Board can evaluate, with members and Chapters, the opportunities and risks of re-branding.

D. Board Code of Conduct

The Board discussed whether Board members should sign a Board Code of Conduct that reflects how the organization expects its Board members to meet the highest professional and personal standards in their actions, their use of authority, and their interactions with others in the community.

The Board directed staff to work with Outside Counsel to develop a proposed Board Code of Conduct to review at the September, 2017, Board meeting.

VIII Committee Actions/Nominations

A. Legislative Committee

Pursuant to the directive in the Legislative Committee description created in 2015, the Board discussed the necessity and value of this Committee and whether it should continue past June 1, 2017.

Motion (3): Mellinger – The Legislative Committee shall continue as a CAMFT Committee, without any sunset date.

APPROVED

The Board reviewed the size of the Committee and the proposal modifying the Committee's scope of the work to have the members review/analyze/recommend positions on legislation that is controversial, complicated, and/or has large scale impact on CAMFT members of the mental health field.

Motion (4): Vernoy – Adopt the Legislative Committee description, as presented.

APPROVED

B. Connects Task Force

The Connects Task Force was created as a Board Task Force. The Board discussed whether this Task Force should include non-Board members.

Motion (5): Ravitz – Connects Task Force need not be comprised of only Board members.
APPROVED

The 2017-2018 Connects Task Force appointments are: Kristy Labardee, Chris Trailer, Danah Williams, Katie Vernoy, Lisa Romain, and Laura Strom.

In September, the Board will discuss whether the Task Force should be turned into a Committee.

C. Chapter Issues Task Force

The Chapter Issues Task Force was created as a Board Task Force. The Board discussed whether this Task Force should include non-Board members.

Motion (6): Trailer – Maintain the Chapter Issues Task Force as a Board-only Task Force, to work closely with the Chapter Advisory Committee.

APPROVED; Opposed – Finley

The 2017-2018 Chapter Issues Task Force appointments are: Danah Williams, Jonathan Flier, Chris Trailer, Nanci Finley and Curt Widhalm.

D. Special Interest Group Task Force

The Special Interest Group Task Force was created as a Board Task Force. The Board discussed whether this Task Force should include non-Board members.

Motion (7): Mellinger – Expand the Special Interest Task Force to non-Board members to allow for further development by the former Board member who initially proposed this project.

APPROVED

The 2017-2018 Special Interest Group Task Force appointments are: Jonathan Flier, Chris Trailer, Katie Vernoy, Curt Widhalm, and Mark Perlmutter.

E. Scope of Practice Task Force

The Scope of Practice Task Force was created to discuss a holistic review of the practice of marriage and family therapy. The appointments and convening of this Task Force was postponed to later in 2017.

F. Nominating Committee Description

The Committee description was modified to incorporate the March, 2017, motions that precluded Nominating Committee members from serving as references for candidates' applications and from endorsing any candidate in a CAMFT election.

Motion (8): Ravitz – Accept the Nominating Committee description, as presented.

APPROVED; Opposed – Nanci Finley

G. Public Outreach Committee

The Board discussed the necessity for a Public Outreach Committee, now that a re-branded Counseling California website was launched and a new public relations firm was retained.

Motion (9): Mellinger – Sunset the Public Outreach Committee.

FAILED

The Board directed staff to revise and update the Public Outreach Committee description to bring to the Board in September, 2017.

H. Executive Director Search Committee

In April, 2017, the Board approved a motion authorizing and directing then President Patricia Ravitz and then President-Elect Bob Casanova to form a Search Committee. The following people were appointed in May, 2017 by Ms. Ravitz and Dr. Casanova:

President Bob Casanova – Co-Chair
Past President Patricia Ravitz – Co-Chair
Director at Large Curt Widhalm
Director at Large Danah Williams
Former Director at Large and 2010 Search Committee Member Susan Read-Weil

Ms. Read-Weil subsequently resigned. In May, 2017, and Former Director at Large Howard Levitt, Former Director at Large Ronald Mah, and Holly Daniels were appointed to the Committee, with the intent to add more member input from those not currently serving on the Board.

The Search Committee reviewed three proposals and interviewed three firms and recommended Leadership Search Partners for the search. The Board approved the Search Committee's recommendation in May, 2017.

I. 2017-2018 Committee Nominations

Motion (10) Mellinger – Accept the 2017-2018 Committee nominations, as presented.

APPROVED

IX. Proposed Projects

A. Support Investigation of FBI Cyber Criminal Division of Los Angeles

Curt Widhalm, Director At Large, submitted this proposal and reported that he does not have a conflict of interest with the proposal.

Mr. Widhalm presented the proposal to support the FBI investigation on a scam targeting therapists who previously posted profiles on Psychology Today.

The Board directed staff to contact the FBI and gather information on this situation and offer to serve as a resource on future investigations involving scams against therapists.

B. Vote of Members Whether to Discontinue Publishing BBS Disciplinary Actions in The Therapist

Member Kristi Walsh presented her proposal about discontinuing publishing BBS disciplinary actions, suggesting that there are other opportunities to educate members about landmines that result in disciplinary actions.

The Board reviewed the 1987 Board policy to publish the results of disciplinary actions taken by the BBS and the Board of Psychology. Past Boards discussed this policy and concluded that publishing names is important information for members making referrals.

After discussion, the Board directed staff to develop a draft member survey for review at the September Board meeting. The survey would aim to gauge member opinion on whether the disciplinary actions should be published with names (current practice), published without names, or not published at all.

C. Roll Call Votes for Board actions

Steven Kessler presented a proposal (on behalf of 34 members) to create a Board policy to disclose to the membership how each Board member votes on each motion and to include a record of each motion in the minutes. Mr. Kessler suggested that members should have this information so they can decide if they want to re-elect a Board member.

The Board directed staff to research Robert's Rules and the bylaws to assess the viability and legality of a roll call vote for CAMFT and to determine best practices at other organizations and present findings at the September Board meeting.

X. Finance

Ron Hynum, Managing Director, Finance and Operations, presented the financial reports and noted that as of April 30, 2017, the portfolio had a value of \$7.02 million. This reflects a gain of nearly \$685,000 since February 28, 2017. Mr. Hynum also reported that the Sacramento property closed in April and the funds were disbursed.

Motion (11) – Trailer: Approve the financial reports, as presented.
APPROVED

XI. Executive Director Report

The Board received written reports on CAMFT Staff/Operations, External Groups, *The Therapist*, Marketing and Public Relations, Continuing Education Provider Approval Program Report, Chapter Relations, and Professional Development.

Executive Director Jill Epstein noted that the East Bay Chapter was conducting an electronic vote of members regarding possible termination of the CAMFT Chapter Affiliation Agreement. Results are expected June 7.

XII. Closed Session - Personnel

The Board went into closed session at 4:20pm to discuss a personnel issue. The Board returned to open session at 5:34.

XIII. Closed Session

The Board went into closed at 8am on Sunday, June 4, to discuss legislative strategy. The Board returned to open session at 8:44am and announced that CAMFT will support HR 2119 (Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act).

XIV. Legislative/Advocacy Update

The Board received written reports on BBS MFT registration trends and CE audits and state and federal legislation/advocacy. The Board heard updates on *Bianka M v. Superior Court* (regarding Special Immigrant Juvenile Status) and *Matthews v. Harris* (regarding Child Abuse Reporting Act). The Board also discussed the Immigration Review of Marco Antonio Lera-Vasquez, which involved a motion to exclude testimony of an LMFT.

The Board received an update on the March state lobbying trip and the April federal lobbying trip. The Grassroots Advocacy Team and Board members visited thirteen Assembly Members, thirteen U.S. Representatives, and both U.S. Senators. The goal is to expand the Grassroots Advocacy Team to add more team members from more districts.

Motion (11) – Mellinger: Amend May 12, 2017, Legislative Committee minutes to reflect that AB 182 should read AB 154.

APPROVED

XV. Legislative/Advocacy Update (continued)

The Board reviewed Legislative Committee position recommendations on several controversial state and federal bills. The Board reviewed AB 387 (Allied Health Professionals and Minimum Wage), but took no action since the bill is now a 2-year bill. The Board then discussed SB 562 (Single Payer Healthcare)

Motion (12): Ravitz: Support Single Payer, in concept, and articulate concerns with SB 562 to the author.

APPROVED: Opposed: Finley, Trailer, Leff

The Board determined that the bill’s lack of details and the fiscal unknowns precluded them from a support position.

XVI. Open Forum

The Board brainstormed and engaged in a discussion of the Board process.

XVII. New Business

Katie Vernoy suggested that CAMFT develop mechanisms for quickly surveying membership on big issues to gauge what members want.

Jonathan Flier suggested implementing scientific sampling of 200-300 members to get feedback on issues, possibly including prizes to incentivize participation. .Danah Williams added that perhaps Chapter members/leaders should be invited to be part of this sample.

Nanci Finley suggested surveying members prior to the Board meetings on hot button issues. Ms. Finley also suggested events for Chapters in a region.

Jill Epstein suggested that the Board discuss the practicality of a Board-only listserv vs. the existing Board listserv that includes key staff.

XVIII. Vision Session

The Board did not conduct a Vision Session.

XIX. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:16am on Sunday, June 4, 2017