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California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

CAMFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
MEETING MINUTES  
SEPTEMBER 9-10, 2017  
HILTON SCOTTS VALLEY  
SANTA CRUZ, 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 (September 9 only)  
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  
Eileen Schuster, Managing Director, Marketing and Communications

*Invited Guest:*

Leyna Bernstein, Leadership Search Partners

*Observer:*

Leah Flagg-Wilson

## **I. Call to Order**

President Bob Casanova called the meeting to order at 8:31am on September 9, 2017.

## **II. Acknowledgements**

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

## **III. Consent Agenda**

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

APPROVED

## **IV. Open Forum**

Leah Flagg-Wilson thanked the Board and staff for their service and dedication. Ms. Flagg-Wilson noted that she objects to requiring an MFT background as criteria for employment in CAMFT's administrative offices.

## **V. Policies and Procedures**

### *A. Board Code of Conduct*

The Board reviewed a proposed Board Code of Conduct that included sections on: conflict of interest, sexual harassment, confidentiality, active participation, and social media.

Motion (2): Mellinger – Adopt the Board Code of Conduct, with the following amendments: Remove the word “inurement” from section 1 and add “or any CAMFT member” to section 2.  
FAILED

The Board directed staff to work with President, Robert Casanova to modify some of the language and bring the proposed Code of Conduct back to the Board to review in December, 2017.

### *B. Reserve Policy*

The Board reviewed a proposed Reserve Policy that created specific funds (Operating Reserve Fund, Building and Capital Asset Fund, and Opportunity Fund) to better define uses and allocate money.

Motion (3): Mellinger – Accept new reserve policy, as presented.

FAILED

The Board directed staff to bring this issue back to the Board in March, 2018 so the new Executive Director could be part of the discussion.

### *C. Board and Committee Reimbursement Policy*

The Board reviewed edits to the Policy to include the Sacramento Lobby trip.

Motion (4): Widhalm – Adopt the Board and Committee Reimbursement policy, as presented.  
APPROVED

*D. Publication of BBS and BOP Disciplinary Actions in The Therapist*

The Board reviewed sample language for a member survey to assist the Board in determining whether *The Therapist* should continue the 1987 policy that directs CAMFT to publish BBS disciplinary actions against licensed and prelicensed clinicians, including the names of those disciplined. The Board requested additional background language be included in the survey material and directed staff to bring an updated version to the Board in December, 2017.

Apart from the publication of disciplinary actions, the Board discussed whether CAMFT should offer an online membership directory so members and/or the public could verify whether a therapist is a member of CAMFT.

Motion (4): Vernoy – Create a public, online member directory.  
APPROVED

The Board desired the directory include name, license/type, and city. Staff was directed to research the feasibility of: opt-out features, whether the name could hyper link to a member's CounselingCalifornia profile, and whether a widget could be created for member websites.

*E. Roll Call Voting*

The Board reviewed research on "roll call voting", per the member proposal from June, 2017. After considering Robert's Rules, CAMFT bylaws and best practices, the Board took no action.

*F. Commercial Liability Insurance Stipend Program*

The Board reviewed the history of the 2014 Commercial Liability Insurance Stipend Program whereby Chapters receive \$500 after submitting proof of insurance coverage, with CAMFT listed as an additional insured. The program was scheduled to sunset in January, 2018.

Motion (5): Mellinger – Continue the Commercial Liability Insurance Stipend Program for three years (through end of 2020), budgeted at \$14,000 per year. Chapters are required to provide proof of coverage before stipend will be issued.  
APPROVED

*G. Board-only Email Distribution List*

The Board discussed whether there was a viable purpose for a Board-only (no staff) email distribution list and the risks associated with such a list. The Board took no action.

*H. Protocol for CAMFT Positions and Social Media*

The Board reviewed the existing protocols for CAMFT positions/statements and social media posts. It was suggested that a future President's Message in *The Therapist* explain these

protocols so members are aware how to request that CAMFT take a position on a social/public policy matter.

## **VI. Committee Actions/Nominations**

### *A. Connects Task Force*

The Board discussed whether this Task Force should be turned into a Committee, given the ongoing attention and tasks association with CAMFT Connects.

Motion (6): Vernoy – Transition the CAMFT Connects Task Force into a Committee, with up to seven members, including at least one non-Board member.

APPROVED

### *B. Public Outreach Committee*

The Board reviewed and discussed a revised Public Outreach Committee description that aims to have the Committee work collaboratively with staff and also allow for flexibility. The Board made suggested edits and asked the Executive Committee to review new language and approve a description so a call for nominations can be issued.

### *C. CEPA Committee*

The Board reviewed edits to the CEPA Committee description.

Motion (7): Mellinger – Accepted the updated CEPA Committee description, as presented.

APPROVED

### *D. CAMFT Strategic Planning Committee*

The Board reviewed a proposal to remove the Educational Foundation from the responsibilities of the CAMFT Strategic Planning Committee. The Foundation, as a separate entity, has established its own Strategic Planning Committee.

Motion (8): Mellinger – Accept the proposed changes to the CAMFT Strategic Planning Committee description.

APPROVED

## **VII. Finance**

Ron Hynum, Managing Director, Finance and Operations, presented the financial reports and noted that as of July 31, 2017, the portfolio had a value of \$7.41 million. The Board acknowledged staff's work on budgeting and managing finances.

Motion (8): Mellinger - Approve the financial reports, as presented.

APPROVED

## **VIII. Proposed Projects**

### *A. Investigation of FBI Cyber Criminal Division of Los Angeles*

The Board heard an update on previous member proposal for CAMFT to become involved in the FBI cyber-criminal investigation of recoveryexperts.com. The FBI confirmed it is not opening an investigation into recoveryexperts.com given limited resources. CAMFT offered to assist with any future investigations involving fraud against practitioners.

**IX. 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.

Jill Epstein, Executive Director, reported that Ellen Mackall was hired as the new Outreach Coordinator.

Ms. Epstein also reported that Valley Sierra Chapter voted to dissolve. They will be speaking to an attorney and beginning the dissolution process in coming weeks.

The Board reviewed proposed changes to the Conflicts of Interest section of the Employee Handbook.

Motion (9): Mellinger – Approve proposed changes to the Employee Handbook.  
APPROVED

**X. Closed Session – Potential Litigation**

The Board went into closed session at 1:55pm to discuss potential litigation. The Board adjourned the closed session at 2:26pm

**XII. Closed Session - Personnel**

The Board went into closed session at 2:40pm to discuss personnel. The Board adjourned closed session at 4:51pm and recessed until 8:30am, September 10.

**XIII. Legislative/Advocacy Update**

The Board received written updates about the BBS and state/federal legislation, including details about the passage of CAMFT-sponsored AB 191 and SB 374, an update on the successful efforts to get AB 1863 (signed by the Governor in 2016) to be implemented no later than July, 2018, and significant proposed changes to BBS-sponsored AB 93.

Motion (10): Mellinger: The CAMFT Board to formally recognize and thank CAMFT member Josh Ascherman, for his testimony and efforts on AB 191.  
APPROVED

The Board heard updates on recent efforts by the US Department of Homeland Security – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (Department) to move to exclude reports/testimony of LMFTs and how CAMFT has responded and advocated.

The Board reviewed the Grassroots Advocacy Team (GAT) 2018 targets for the Sacramento and Washington DC lobbying trips and discussed how many Board members should participate in these trips.

Motion (11): Widhalm – Budget for all twelve Board members to attend the Sacramento lobby day.

APPROVED

Motion (12): Widhalm – Budget for the new Board members who are not in targeted districts to attend the Washington DC lobby trip.

APPROVED

Motion (13): Mellinger – Budget an additional \$12,500 for Board members to attend the Washington DC lobby trip.

APPROVED; Opposed – Trailer

#### **XIV. Open Forum**

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

#### **XV. New Business**

Nanci Finley asked for the option for members to direct their CAMFT PAC contributions only to legislators from a specific political party.

Jonathan Flier asked to continue discussions on how to address low or no payments to interns.

#### **XVI. Vision Session**

Jan Mellinger shared her plans to interview famous people and how therapy has helped in their recovery. She would like to use these interviews to re-vitalize *The Therapist*.

Nanci Finley would like to see a QR code for *The Therapist*.

Cathryn Leff would like to see more visibility on social media, especially for events like World Suicide Prevention Day.

Danah Williams would like CAMFT to incorporate more pop culture references to MFTs and use MFTs as commentators/resources.

#### **XVII. Acknowledge of Service**

The Board thanked and acknowledged Ms. Epstein's dedication and service to CAMFT and also acknowledged Cathy Atkins for stepping in as Interim Executive Director.

#### **XVII. Adjourn**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30am on Sunday, September 10, 2017.