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California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

CAMFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS

MEETING MINUTES

MARCH 25-26, 2017

SHERATON GRAND

SACRAMENTO, CA

Board Members In Attendance:

Bob Casanova, President-Elect

Robert Dalzell

Jonathan Flier

Howard Levitt

Cathryn Leff, Secretary

Mark Perlmutter

Patricia Ravitz, President

Laura Strom, Past President

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

Observers:

Virginia Green

Jeffrey Kashou

Patricia Kidd

I. Call to Order

President Patricia Ravitz called the meeting to order at 8:32am on March 25, 2017.

II. Acknowledgements

President Ravitz 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) – Widhalm: Accept the consent agenda.

APPROVED

IV Closed Session

The candidates for the two Board vacancies were invited to introduce themselves. The Board then went into closed session at 8:35am to discuss the candidates.

The Board returned to Open Session at 8:47am and announced that Robert Dalzell and Howard Levitt were elected to the 2016-2017 Board. President Ravitz thanked all who applied.

V. 2017-2018 Election Results

President Ravitz announced the results of the 2017-2018 Board election:

President-Elect:	Jan Mellinger
Secretary:	Cathryn Leff
Clinical Director-At-Large:	Nanci Finley Jonathan Flier Kristy Labardee
Pre-licensed Director-At-Large:	Lisa Romain (TIE) Laura Westmoreland (TIE)

The Board discussed the options available in the event of a tie.

Motion (2) – Perlmutter: At the discretion and approval of the Board, pursuant to CAMFT Bylaws Article V(H), the Board will conduct the Pre-licensed Director-At-Large run-off election via written ballot.

VI. Open Forum

Virginia Green thanked the Board for being focused on governance and for setting high standards for the Chapters and other groups.

VII. Policies and Procedures

A. Purview Policy

The Board discussed proposed changes to the Purview Policy that included the addition of the word “clinical” to the list of issues that are guided by the Purview Policy. It was also

recommended that Policy be amended to increase efficiency by noting that proposals received more than four weeks before the next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be promptly reviewed by the Executive Committee for possible referral to the Purview Committee prior to the Board meeting. The Board also reviewed changes to the Purview Committee description reviewed a new proposal form for activities related to social justice/public policy and/or clinical issues.

Motion (3) – Dalzell: Adopt Purview Policy, Committee description and proposal form as presented.

APPROVED

B. CAMFT Logo

The Board discussed whether the CAMFT brand (logo, graphic identity) should be shifted. The upcoming Demographic Survey will include a question about whether members want to see changes to CAMFT’s logo and graphic identity and the Board will review the results in June to determine next steps.

VIII Committee Actions/Nominations

A. Nominating Committee

The Board reviewed the recommendations from the Nominating Committee.

Motion (4) – Perlmutter: Board members and Nominating Committee members are precluded from serving as references on a Board candidates’ application

FAILED

Motion (5) – Widhalm: Nominating Committee members are precluded from serving as references for candidates’ applications.

APPROVED; Strom ABSTAINED

Motion (6) – Perlmutter: Nominating Committee members are precluded from endorsing any candidate in the CAMFT election.

APPROVED; Strom ABSTAINED

The Board directed staff to create job descriptions for each Board position for the next election cycle. The Board also directed staff to refer candidates to the CAMFT mission and core values to consider as they develop their candidate statements.

B. Honors Committee

The Board discussed the small and/or non-existent pool of applications for the various awards and suggested an article in The Therapist and an email to Chapter Presidents describing the opportunity to recognize a member and asking Chapters to promote in their newsletters

Motion (7) – Strom: Approve the nomination for the Outstanding School and Agency Award.

APPROVED

C. Law and Ethics Continuing Education Credits to Committee Members

The Board received a report on volunteer work that qualifies for law and ethics continuing education credits.

D. Special Interest Group Task Force

The item has been moved until June, 2017 meeting.

E. Committee Appointments

Motion (8) – Casanova: Accept the Finance Committee, Insurance and Healthcare Reform Committee and Crisis Response Education and Resource Committee nominations, as proposed.

APPROVED

IX. Finance

Ron Hynum, Managing Director, Finance and Operations, presented the financial reports and noted that as of February 28, 2017, the portfolio had a value of \$6.34 million. This reflects a gain of nearly \$200,000 since October 31, 2016.

Motion (9) – Widhalm: Approve the financial reports, as presented.

APPROVED

The Board reviewed the technological system limitations of offering auto-payment of dues, but asked staff to work towards creating this option in the future.

The Board reviewed the Independent Auditor’s report of the 2016 financial statements, indicating the “financial position of CAMFT as of December 31, 2016, and the changes in net assets and cash flows is in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.”

The Board reviewed a letter from the Audit Committee, which suggested a business systems audit to ensure that business functions are operating toward maximizing organizational effectiveness and efficiency while minimizing attending risk.

Motion (10) – Williams: Create a Board Task Force to identify what to address in an external management audit.

APPROVED

Danah Williams, Katie Vernoy, and Jonathan Flier were appointed to the Task Force. The Chair of the Audit Committee will be invited to present.

The Board was provided a completed copy of the IRS Form 990.

X. Proposed Projects

A. Payment of Dues in Installments

Member Laura Westmoreland proposed installment plans for payment of dues in order to make CAMFT membership more accessible. The Board directed staff to research the bylaws to address questions about when membership begins so Board can address the existing policy.

Motion (11) - Widhalm: Extend the current extended payment option to renewing Prelicensed members and increase the administrative fee to \$25 for all installment plans.

APPROVED

B. Clinical Consultations

President Ravitz reviewed the Conflict of Interest definition and Director Mark Perlmutter indicated he had no conflicts with his proposal. Mr. Perlmutter proposed for CAMFT to provide a clinical hotline for members, to be funded by membership subscriptions or by a dues increase.

The Board assigned this issue to the Special Interest Group Task Force for further discussion.

C. Hiring Policy to include MFTs as Candidates for many CAMFT Positions

President Ravitz reviewed the Conflict of Interest definition and Director Katie Vernoy indicated she had no conflicts with her proposal. Ms. Vernoy proposed that the Board create a hiring policy that helps shift the hiring culture to include MFTs as candidates for many staff positions.

Motion (12) – Widhalm: Create a Task Force to work with Executive Director to identify practical ways to implement this proposal and bring suggestions to the Board in June.

Task Force to be comprised of: Katie Vernoy, Danah Williams, Howard Leavitt, Bob Danzell, and Curt Widhalm.

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 reviewed the status of the sale of the Sacramento property and reported on social media and advertising strategies. Ms. Epstein also reported on the 2017 CAMFT Connects.

XII. Closed Session - Personnel

The Board went into closed session at 3:17pm to discuss a personnel issue. The Board returned to open session at 6:39PM, and noted that a Personnel Committee, comprised of President Ravitz, President-elect Bob Casanova, CFO Chris Trailer, Secretary Cathryn Leff, and Board members Curt Widhalm and Robert Dalzell was appointed.

XIII Legislative/Advocacy Update

The Board received written reports on the BBS and state and federal legislation/advocacy and heard updates on CAMFT's 2017 bills and the efforts underway to have AB 1863 (2016) implemented. The Board was introduced to CAMFT's new lobbying firm, Political Solutions. Lobbyists from Political Solutions discussed their role and provided input into the discussion about the bills.

The Board received the update that the Texas Supreme Court ruled in favor of the State Board of Examiners and TAMFT in the nine-year old lawsuit *Texas Medical Association v. Texas State Board of Examiners*. The Court re-affirmed that LMFTS can diagnose mental health disorders using the DSM.

President Ravitz reviewed the process for selecting members of the Grassroots Advocacy Team and noted that members from non-targeted districts have expressed interest in serving as well. The GAT's first touchpoint, CAMFT's lobby days, were held March 27 (Sacramento) and April 18-19 (Washington, DC). District visits will follow.

XIV. Chapter Issues

The Board discussed East Bay CAMFT's efforts to assess whether members want their organization to continue to be affiliated with CAMFT.

The Board also discussed how CAMFT can better support chapters.

Motion (13) – Trailer: Establish a Board Task Force to look into Chapter issues.
APPROVED

Task Force to be comprised of Patricia Ravitz, Jonathan Flier, Chris Trailer, Curt Widhalm, Howard Leavitt, and Bob Dalzell.

XV. Open Forum

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

XVI. Suggestions for Future Agenda

Curt Widhalm indicated he will be submitting a proposal about a current scam against therapists.

Katie Vernoy requested guidance on how Board members should conduct themselves in public arenas and how this intersects with First Amendment rights.

Chris Trailer asked for the Board discuss a position on paid internships and it was suggested he prepare a proposal.

Howard Leavitt suggested that CAMFT should be a leader in interacting with counterparts around the world and it was suggested he prepare a proposal.

XVII. Vision Session

The Board engaged in group creative thinking about emerging trends and topics relevant to CAMFT and the profession. There was a discussion about growing CAMFT connections around the state and to create programs that make MFTS employable.

XVIII. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 10:48am.