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California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

CAMFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING MINUTES
DECEMBER 6-7, 2014
HOTEL PALOMAR
LOS ANGELES, CA

Board Members:

Guillermo Alvarez, Past President
Jodi Baldel, President
Jurgen Braungardt, Chief Financial Officer
Antonia Bouyer
Bob Casanova
Leah Flagg-Wilson, Secretary
Barbara Griswold
Larry Langford
Mark Perlmutter
Patricia Ravitz
Laura Strom, President-Elect
Chris Trailer

Staff:

Cathy Atkins, Deputy Executive Director
Jill Epstein, Executive Director

Guests:

Greg Moser, Procopio, Cory, Hargreaves & Savitch LLP
Marisa Vallbona, CIM Incorporated
Lisa Vega, CIM Incorporated

Member Observers:

Liz Birch	Daren Lawe	Curt Widhalm
Chris Bjornstedt	Cathryn Leff	
Renata Flores	Dr. Faye Snyder	
James Guay	Pam Sweeney	
Steve Keightley	Rob Weiss	

1. Welcome/Introductions and Call to Order

President Jodi Baldel called the meeting to order at 8:30am. The Board introduced themselves to the members observing the meeting.

Ms. Baldel noted that the CAMFT Board adheres to the CAMFT Policy on Antitrust Compliance.

2. Consent Agenda

Motion (1) - Ravitz: Pull the Open and Closed minutes from the September 20-21, 2014 Board from the Consent Agenda and approve the remainder of the agenda

APPROVED

Motion (2) – Ravitz: Approve minutes, as corrected.

APPROVED

3. Board Outreach

The Board members indicated in writing which legislators they had met and which members of CAMFT they would recommend for future Committee and Board service.

4. Member Open Forum

Steve Keightley read a poem expressing his concerns about CAMFT.

Pam Sweeney spoke against the Chapter Agreements and referenced the Marin County Board of Directors statement.

Rob Weiss spoke of concerns with AB 1775 and ask the Board to amend the law to allow therapist discretion to protect client privilege.

Renee Sklar spoke in support of Rob Weiss' statement and also indicated that members should have more opportunity to serve on specialized committees.

Kurt Widhalm thanked the Board for its service and conveyed concerns that other groups do not see CAMFT as being cooperative and cohesive.

5. Committee Reports/Nominations

A. Purview Committee

The Board reviewed updates from recommendations adopted at the September 20-21, 2014 Board meeting and received the Committee's minutes. Based on the information provided, the Board accepted the recommendation that it would not be prudent for CAMFT to dedicate or divert advocacy funds towards this issue at this time. Ongoing education on both sides of the issues was deemed appropriate and practical.

B. Ethics Committee

The Ethics Committee report was reviewed. All records and minutes of the Committee are confidential.

C. PAC Committee

The PAC Committee meeting minutes were reviewed.

D. Nominating Committee

The Nominating Committee minutes were reviewed.

E. Chapter Advisory Council

The Chapter Advisory Council minutes were reviewed.

F. Insurance and Healthcare Reform Committee proposal

The Board discussed the proposal and made several changes.

Motion (3) – Perlmutter: Accept the proposal, with changes, to create an Insurance and Healthcare Reform Committee.

APPROVED

Staff to send a call for nominations. The President will recommend appointments for the Board to review in March, 2015.

G. Crisis Response Education and Resource Committee

The Crisis Response Education and Resource Committee minutes were reviewed.

H. Committee Nominations

Motion (4) – Flagg-Wilson: Accept the nominations for the Public Outreach Committee.

APPROVED

Motion (5) – Flagg-Wilson: Accept the nomination for the Ethics Committee.

APPROVED; Braungardt and Strom ABSTAINED

6. Policies/Procedures

A. Policy on Confidentiality

This policy codifies language from a memo discussed at the September 20-21, 2014 Board meeting.

Motion (6) - Flagg-Wilson: Approve policy as presented.

APPROVED

B. Policy on Member Engagement

The policies codifies the Strategic Planning and Bylaws Task Force recommendations discussed at the September 20-21, 2014 Board meeting.

Motion (7) - Perlmutter: Approve the Policy on Member Engagement.

POSTPONED to Next Meeting

Direct staff to review for new language

C. Policy on Annual Membership Meeting Agenda

The Board referred this issue to the Bylaws Committee for consideration at its meeting after the Strategic Planning Session.

D. Policy on Simultaneous Service on CAMFT Board and Chapter Board

The Board determined that not all conflicts of interest are problematic and, thus it would not be in the best interest of the organization to have a blanket prohibition. The Board took no action on the policy proposal.

E. Policy on Presentations by Board Members

In lieu of a policy, the Board directed staff to bring requests for Board member presentations to the full Board to discuss and determine direction on a case-by-case basis. The Board took no action on the policy proposal.

F. Policies on Website

Motion (8) – Trailer: Publish all CAMFT policies on the members-only section of the CAMFT website. Staff to provide revisions to relevant existing policies at the next Board meeting.

APPROVED; Bouyer OPPOSED

Staff was directed to indicate on the website which policies are under review so it is clear that there will be updates after March, 2015.

7. Member/Chapter Issues

A. Chapter Agreement

Prior to the discussion, Laura Strom, Mark Perlmutter and Bob Casanova disclosed potential conflicts of interest.

The Board reviewed the updated proposed Chapter Agreement, which included comments and suggestions from Chapters and Chapter leaders. The Board directed staff to propose new language to item 10 “CAMFT Membership List Use” and bring the new language to the Board via conference call meeting in January so it can be discussed and included in the proposed Chapter Agreement. The newest proposed Chapter Agreement, along with the current policies affecting chapters, will be presented to leaders and the Chapter Leadership Council in February via the Chapter Leadership Conference and webinar. Chapters will be given an opportunity for a final comment period until April 30 and the Board will review the agreement at the June, 2015 Board meeting.

Motion (9) – Strom: Repeal the June 7, 2014, Policy on Chapters while the Board re-crafts the Chapter Agreement.

APPROVED

Motion (10) – Flagg-Wilson: CAMFT to provide up to \$500 stipend to each chapter with the specific purpose of securing commercial liability insurance, with CAMFT as an additional insured. This stipend program has no expiration date.

FAILED

Motion (11) – Trailer: CAMFT to provide up to a \$500 stipend to each chapter that provides proof of commercial liability insurance, with CAMFT as an additional insured, with a three-year sunset period.

APPROVED

It was noted that if the final Chapter Agreement does not include a requirement for insurance (necessary to insulate CAMFT), the intent is to create a policy to require chapters to secure such insurance.

8. Proposed Project

A. Survey Membership on Questions for Demographic Survey

The Board reviewed the proposal and directed staff to include an open-ended question to the upcoming demographic survey to allow members to give suggestions on matters to be surveyed in the future.

B. Article in The Therapist to address complaints/accusations related to the bylaws

The Board noted that there is a newly re-formulated Task Force working towards an article on this matter.

9. Proposed Partnership

A. Private Tree

The Board reviewed the proposal from a patented, secure, and private online communication service. Antonia Bouyer and Patricia Ravitz agreed to test the product and report back to the Board. Staff will also test the product and report back to the Board on any potential legal exposure resulting from a partnership.

10. Closed Session - Review of Executive Director and Personnel Issues

The Board went into closed session on December 6, 2014 at 1:00pm and adjourned closed session at 5:15pm. The Board recessed for the day.

On Saturday, December 7, 2014, the Board returned to open session at 8:30am and announced that the Executive Director's review was conducted, feedback was provided and a new contract was offered.

11. Executive Director Report

The Board went into Closed Session on December 7 2014 at 10:30am to discuss personnel issues and returned to open session at 10:35am.

Jill Epstein, Executive Director presented written reports on: staff/operations, external groups, *The Therapist*, marketing and public relations, professional development, Continuing Education Provider Approval Program, outreach to chapters and schools, and CAMFT Connects.

The Board discussed changes to the CAMFT Community put in place by the third-party vendor and discussed misconceptions about confidentiality on social media and non-encrypted email services. The Board directed staff to inform Community participants that they will now need to ask a member for his/her personal email address to communicate outside the Community. The personal addresses are no longer being displayed to protect privacy and to comply with Domain-based Message Authentication, Reporting and Conformance (DMARC) specifications.

The Board discussed budgeted employee retirement contributions.

Motion (12) – Trailer: Approve the 2014 budgeted elective contribution to employees' retirement accounts.

APPROVED

The Board established a Task Force to discuss whether there should be future CAMFT Connects meetings and, if so, what is the desired structure for these meetings. It was requested that the Committee consider the goodwill that was accomplished by these meetings, especially those outside of large, metropolitan area. Jurgen Braungardt, Laura Strom, Patricia Ravitz and Chris Trailer volunteered to serve on the Task Force.

The Board heard an update on the planned Strategic Planning retreat and directed staff to retain the proposed facilitator.

Marisa Vallbona and Lisa Vega from CIM, CAMFT's public relations firm, presented some of the accomplishments for 2014 and ideas for 2015.

12. Finance

Chief Financial Officer, Jurgen Braungardt, presented the Finance Committee report and the financial reports.

Motion (13) – Flagg-Wilson: Accept the November financial reports.

APPROVED

The Board reviewed the proposed 2015 budget, as approved and recommended by the Finance Committee.

Motion (14) – Braungardt: Approve the 2015 budget as presented.

APPROVED

13. Legislative/Advocacy Update

Ms. Epstein and Cathy Atkins, Deputy Executive Director, provided written reports to update the Board on the BBS, state legislation, federal legislation, and other advocacy.

The Board reviewed legislative and advocacy priorities for 2015, which included a discussion of AB 1775. The Board narrowed the priorities to the following:

- Research amendments to the Education Code which benefit LMFTs and consumers
- Possible legislation clarifying the law surrounding Interns and Trainees as providers of telehealth
- Advocacy helping providers to deal with managed care, including via the new Insurance and Healthcare Reform Committee
- Possible legislation allowing LMFTs as Federally Qualified Health Center providers
- Research and collaboration with stakeholder groups on guidelines and clarifications to AB 1775.

Motion (15) – Bouyer : Adopt the legislative and advocacy priorities, as discussed.

APPROVED: Flagg-Wilson OPPOSED

The Board discussed possible recipients for the 2014 CAMFT Legislator of the Year Award.

Motion (16) – Trailer: The 2014 CAMFT State Legislator of the Year shall be awarded to Assemblymember Susan Eggman and the 2014 CAMFT Federal Legislator of the Year shall be awarded to U.S. Representative Scott Peters.

APPROVED

14. Open Forum

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

15. New Business

The Board discussed emerging issues for future Board agendas. Items discussed included:

1. Re-visit policies that affect the Nominating Committee to review who should be able to participate and how to ensure the process remains independent.
2. Prelicense voting as an agenda item in June, ideally.
3. Add a section to The Therapist called “How CAMFT Spends Your Money”.

16. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned on Sunday, December 7, 2014 at 3:25pm.