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California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists

CAMFT BOARD OF DIRECTORS
MEETING MINUTES
June 6-7, 2015
Sheraton San Diego Hotel and Marina
San Diego, CA

In Attendance:

Jodi Baldel, Past President
Liz Birch
Jurgen Braungardt, Chief Financial Officer
Bob Casanova, Secretary
Jonathan Flier
James Guay
Cathryn Leff
Mark Perlmutter
Patricia Ravitz, President Elect
Laura Strom, President
Chris Trailer
Danah Williams

Staff:

Cathy Atkins, Deputy Executive Director
Jill Epstein, Executive Director

Invited Guests:

Greg Moser, Outside Counsel

Observers:

Laura Haynes
Robert Vazzo
David Pickup
Thomas Schmierer
Gerry Fagoaga

Curt Widhalm
Reenie Sklar
Dr. Faye Snyder
Ronald Rowe
Doug Zabriskie

I. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:34am on June 6, 2015.

II. Anti-Trust Compliance

Executive Director Jill Epstein explained the history, rationale, and importance of adhering to and acknowledging the CAMFT Policy on Antitrust Compliance. President Strom acknowledged that the CAMFT Board adheres to the CAMFT Policy on Antitrust Compliance.

III. Consent Agenda

Motion (1) - Baldel: Add the Board minutes from May 27 and June 3 meetings to the consent agenda.

The motion was approved and accepted.

Motion (2) – Perlmutter: Remove the Board minutes from the May 17, May 27, and June 3 meetings from the consent agenda.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (3) – Perlmutter: Approve the Board minutes from the May 17, May 27 and June 3 meeting, as amended.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (4) – Baldel: Approve the Consent Agenda.

The motion was accepted and approved.

IV. Closed Session to Review Applications for Board Vacancies

The Board went into Closed Session at 8:45am to review applications for Board vacancies. The Board returned to Open Session at 9:02am and announced that Cathryn Leff and Danah Williams had been elected to fill the unexpired terms of the vacant Director at Large positions.

V. Member Open Forum

Nine members participated in Member Open Forum. Laura Haynes, Robert Vazzo, David Pickup and Thomas Schmierer spoke against the proposed “Policy Restricting Advertising Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) or Reparative Therapy in CAMFT Publications.” Gerry Fagoaga spoke of the recent rescinded 2014/2015 Board resolution and requested additional information about this resolution and the process behind it. Curt Widhalm spoke of concerns regarding SB 479. Reenie Sklar read a statement from member, Claire-Elizabeth DeSophia, congratulating the new Board members, and expressed concerns about management. Doug

Zabriskie spoke of concerns with transparency and concerns of closed session meetings. Dr. Faye Snyder spoke of concerns with transparency and the representation of members.

VI. Board Orientation

Greg Moser presented on best practices and legal standards and liabilities of non-profit trade association Board members. It was noted that Robert's Rule of Order Newly Revised, as adopted by the CAMFT Board for Small Boards, is an appropriate standard.

VII. Closed Session to Discuss Personnel and Board Member Issue

The Board went into Closed Session at 1:06pm to discuss personnel and Board Member issue. The Board directed the Executive Director and President to develop a joint statement from the Board and Executive Director to deliver to the members. The Board returned to Open Session at 3:05pm.

VIII. Policies and Procedures

A. Proposed Policy Restricting Advertising SOCE or Reparative Therapy in CAMFT Publications

Motion (5) – Perlmutter: Adopt the policy, as proposed.

The motion was accepted and approved. Liz Birch opposed.

Motion (6) – Ravitz: Reconsider Policy Restricting Advertising SOCE or Reparative Therapy in CAMFT Publications.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (7) – Ravitz: Adopt the policy, without the word “describes”.

The motion was accepted and approved. Liz Birch opposed.

Pursuant to Motion (7) from the March, 2015, Board of Director Meeting Minutes, this policy will go to the members for additional feedback. The Board will review feedback at a July Board Meeting via conference call.

The Board reviewed a proposed ad from Gaylesta.

Motion (8) – Trailer: Direct staff to ask Gaylesta to remove the word “unethical” from the advertisement before it could be printed in *The Therapist*.

The motion was accepted and approved. Liz Birch and Jodi Baldel opposed. James Guay recused himself from the vote.

B. Proposed Policy on Purchases and Contracts

This new policy set approval guidelines for significant transactions, unbudgeted items, and fixed assets.

Motion (9) – Baldel: Approve the Policy on Purchases and Contracts, as amended by the Finance Committee.

The motion was accepted and approved.

C. Policy Regarding Case Materials in Possession of Ethics Committee Members

The proposed change clarified that the CAMFT Code of Ethics requires that the permanent files of the Ethics Committee be maintained in the principal office of the Association.

Motion (10) – Perlmutter: Accept proposed changes to the policy, with the addition of the words “Code of Ethics” into bullet point #6.

The motion was accepted and approved.

D. Policy on Check Signing

The proposed change added the President as an authorized signer on the CAMFT bank account.

Motion (11) – Baldel: Accept the proposed changes to the policy, as presented.

The motion was accepted and approved.

E. Policy on CAMFT Board Members at Chapter Events

The proposed change removed the reimbursement language from the policy so it could, instead, be included in the CAMFT Board and Committee Reimbursement Policy.

Motion (12) – Baldel: Accept the proposed changes to the policy, as presented.

The motion was accepted and approved.

F. Board and Committee Reimbursement Policy

The proposed change added reimbursement language for Board members at Chapter events.

Motion (13) – Baldel: Accepted the proposed changes to the policy, as presented.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (14) – Casanova: Increase the food reimbursement from \$125 to \$250 for Board member attendance at the Annual Conference.

The motion failed.

Staff was directed to update the reimbursement amounts and present to the Finance Committee, for review by the Board in September.

G. Proposed Policy on Washington, DC Lobbying Trip

Motion (15) – Perlmutter: March meetings of the Board of Directors shall be held in California. The motion was accepted and approved.

Staff was directed to develop a policy/plan, which considers the political climate, to determine the make-up and criteria of the lobbying delegation.

H. Policies/Charges of the Nominating Committee

The Board discussed the policies and bylaws that address the role and appointment of the Past President as Nominating Committee Chair.

Motion (16) – Braungardt: The Chair of the Nominating Committee shall be a member of the Board.

Motion (17) – Casanova: Motion (16) to be postponed until the September, 2015, Board meeting.

The motion was accepted and approved.

IX. Member Proposal

The Board reviewed three member proposals.

A group of members proposed that CAMFT adopt a nondiscrimination policy with regards to advertising unless such advertising is prohibited by law or current ethical standards. The Board, instead, adopted proposed language on a “Policy Restricting Advertising Sexual Orientation Change Efforts (SOCE) or Reparative Therapy in CAMFT Publications” and will be sending that language to the membership for feedback.

A group of members proposed that CAMFT create a “Committee for Traditional Religious Issues and Concerns” to provide advisements and oversight to CAMFT and to prevent harm to traditional religious therapists and their clients through discrimination and marginalization. The Board discussed that this proposal was not sufficiently aligned with CAMFT’s purpose and took no action. The Board suggested that a broader, “Diversity Committee” could be considered.

A member proposed that CAMFT make a financial contribution to “Something to Say”, a retreat for young, Black men ages 18-24, primarily from community colleges in Los Angeles County, to explore their stories through art. The Board determined that the project does not directly relate to the scope of the CAMFT marketing plan and took no action.

X. Member/Chapter Issues

A. Chapter Agreement

The Board reviewed the requested changes submitted by Chapters during the final comment period.

The Board postponed the discussion until the September, 2015 Board of Directors meeting, to get more information about recovery of attorney’s fees for prevailing party.

B. “Conversations About the Future”

Motion (18) – Baldel: In anticipation of an October, 2015, Strategic Planning retreat, open the Community “Conversations About the Future” forums until September 15 for further input.

The motion was accepted and approved.

C. Chapter Board Variance Request

Motion (19) – Perlmutter: Approve the San Diego North County Chapter variance request. The motion was accepted and approved.

XI. Legislation/Advocacy

The Board received written reports on the BBS and state and federal legislation/advocacy and discussed the status of CAMFT-sponsored bills and several bills of interest.

The Board discussed the recommendation of the Purview Committee for CAMFT to stay neutral regarding SB 128 (“End of Life Option Act”).

Motion (20) – Ravitz: CAMFT to support SB 128 on its merits and request an amendment to include LMFTs into the bill.

The motion was accepted and approved. Jodi Baldel and Danah Williams opposed.

The Board discussed the federal “Therapeutic Fraud Prevention Act”. Staff was directed to speak with CAMFT’s federal lobbyist and survey members about this bill in June.

XII. Committee Reports and Nominations

The Board received written reports from the Crisis Response Education and Resource Committee, Finance Committee, CAMFT “Connects” Task Force, Political Action Committee, Ethics Committee, Elections Committee, Public Outreach Committee, Educational Foundation, Leadership Advisory Council and Chapter Advisory Council.

The Board received background material on the Legislative Committee and Insurance and Healthcare Reform Committee.

The Board discussed the possibility of creating a Prelicensed Committee. A Board Task Force was charged with developing a framework and objectives for such a committee.

Motion (21) – Casanova: Increase the number of members of the Crisis Response Education and Resource Committee to up to nine.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (22) – Perlmutter: Accept the changes to the Finance Committee description, as proposed.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (23) – Perlmutter: Increase the number of members of the Public Outreach Committee to up to nine.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (24) – Flier: The Chapter Excellence Award to be split into five awards of \$250 each to recognize up to five Chapters for best practices.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (25) – Casanova: Approve the Audit Committee description, as amended by the Finance Committee.

The motion was accepted and approved.

Motion (26) – Perlmutter: Accept the Committee nominations, as amended.

The motion was accepted and approved

XIII. Proposed Partnerships

Motion (27) – Baldel: Extend the contract with CPH and Associates, as presented.

The motion was accepted and approved.

XIV. Finance

Chief Financial Officer, Jurgen Braungardt, presented the financial reports,

Motion (28) – Baldel: Accept the financial reports.

The motion was accepted and approved.

XV. 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.

The Board discussed possible dates for the Strategic Planning retreat.

XVI. Closed Session

The Board went into Closed Session at 2:08pm to discuss a Board Member issue. The Board returned to open session at 2:18pm.

XVII. Open Forum

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

XVIII. New Business

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

- Diversity Committee
- Changing all Committee descriptions to include greater diversity
- Gaylesta desire for professional associations to sign on to a US Joint Statement and for CAMFT to participate.

XIX. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 2:25pm on June 7, 2015.