

**BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES REGULATORY BOARD
MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
APRIL 12, 2024**

APPROVED MINUTES

- I. Call to Order.** Mary Jones, Chair of the Advisory Committee, called the meeting to order at 10am.

Committee Members. Advisory Committee members present by Zoom were Jim Kilmartin, Jurdene Coleman, John Fleeker, James Godbey, Chris Habben, Marcie Lechtenberg, and Heidi Vela. Nicole Eitzen was absent.

Staff. BSRB staff present by Zoom were David Fye and Leslie Allen.

- II. Approval of Agenda.** Jurdene Coleman moved to approve the agenda. Jim Kilmartin seconded. The motion passed.
- III. Review and Approval of Minutes from Previous Advisory Committee Meeting on February 9, 2024.** Jim Kilmartin moved to approve the minutes from the Advisory Committee meeting on February 9, 2024. Marcie Lechtenberg seconded. The motion passed.
- IV. Executive Director’s Report.** David Fye, Executive Director for the Behavioral Sciences Regulatory Board (BSRB) provided updates on agency operations, actions from recent Board meetings, and legislative updates.
- V. Old Business**
- A. Discussion on Possible Updates to Educational Equivalency Standards in K.A.R. 102-5-3.** The Executive Director noted the statutes and regulations include requirements for licensure, including educational requirements for applicants. For the marriage and family therapy profession, K.A.R. 102-5-3 provides requirements for programs and coursework for applicants who attended programs accredited by national accrediting bodies recognized by the Board and alternative requirements for individuals who obtained their education from a program not accredited by a national accrediting body recognized by the Board. The Advisory Committee was asked to review the program and coursework requirements to recommend any appropriate updates or other changes. It is noted that this regulation is in the process of being changed, primarily to account for the increased flexibility in the “in residence” definition to allow this requirement to be met either in person or face-to-face by screen through synchronous video conferencing. BSRB staff highlighted one issue when evaluating certain applicants, who have too few hours in a psychopathology course. The regulation currently requires 3 hours, but some applicants have had fewer hours, such as 2.7 hours in psychopathology. It was noted that some programs, accredited by the national accrediting body, only have 2.7 hours in psychopathology, so the

Advisory Committee was asked to consider whether it would be appropriate to use the standard from the national accrediting body to replace the current 3 hours requirement. The Executive Director noted that K.S.A. 65-6404(b)(1)(B), requires 15 hours across 5 categories, including psychopathology, while the regulation specifies 3 hours in each category. One option to address the issue would be to remove the specific 3-hour requirement, so long as 15 hours are completed across all five categories. Advisory Committee members expressed concern about any action that could jeopardize the ability of licensees to effectively diagnose. The Advisory Committee recommended changing the requirement to a psychopathology course that was at least 2 hours, rather than 3 hours. Another item that was noted as a potential issue is that the regulation is written to examine whether a program requires certain items, rather than the student having completed those items. There may be situations where a student completed the requirements in the regulation, however the program did not specifically require that from the student. By consensus, the Advisory Committee recommended that language in (d)(2) and (3) be modified to reflect the completion of requirements by the student, to replace existing language that the program requires those items. Advisory Committee members expressed a desire to be able to compare requirements from the national accrediting body recognized by the Board, the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE), to the alternative requirements in the regulations. Chris Habben volunteered to create a comparison between what is required by COAMFTE and what is required from applicants who received their education from non-accredited programs in K.A.R. 102-5-3, to be reviewed at the next meeting.

VI. New Business

- A. Possible Survey of Licensees.** The Executive Director stated the BSRB has assisted the Social Work Advisory Committee with creating surveys of social workers on topics relevant to the profession and shared a report from February 2024 with the most recent survey questions and responses from social workers. The Executive Director noted that the agency was able to assist the other Advisory Committees if they were interested in creating and distributing a survey of licensees on topics of interest. The Advisory Committee discussed possible survey questions on areas of practice; whether to require a jurisprudence examination; percentage of caseload that is systematic vs individual; scope of practice for private practice work compared to agency work and reasons some individuals are going into private practice work; supervision, especially how individuals are finding quality supervision and whether there is a difference in quality or the perception of quality between in-person or remote supervision; and ways to find and obtain continuing education; the process to submit a disciplinary complaint and the requirement that complaints cannot be submitted anonymously; for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists (LMFTs) not pursuing clinical licensure, reasons those individuals continue to stay at the LMFT level. The Executive Director will bring back draft questions on these topics for Advisory Committee members to review at the next meeting. Also, the Executive Director offered to examine information on the current LMFTs, to see the number of years

individuals have held that license, to see what percentage of this category of licensees are recent graduates compared to the percentage who have been LMFTs for several years.

- B. Advisory Committee Membership.** The Executive Director noted that Advisory Committee members can serve up to 4 two-year terms, for a maximum length of service on the Advisory Committee of 8 years. It was noted that three current members of the Advisory Committee will be ending their 4th term on the Advisory Committee at the end of June 2024, so the Advisory Committee asked the Executive Director to collect applications and resumes/CVs from licensees interested in being considered for Advisory Committee membership. Advisory Committee members also asked whether the Board could consider a change to the Advisory Committee policy, to allow past members to return to Advisory Committee service, after a two-year break, following their 4th terms on the Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee recommended forwarding a topic for the Board to discuss, concerning whether Advisory Committee members should be allowed to apply to serve on the Advisory Committee after serving 4 terms, if there was at least a two-year gap between their 4th term and applying to serve in the future.
- C. Discussion on Jurisprudence Examinations.** The Executive Director noted that the Board has started to discuss the importance that licensees are more familiar with laws in Kansas and whether passage of a jurisprudence examination should be a new requirement for licensure. As an alternative to the traditional model, the Executive Director proposed a different process where the BSRB would create hour-long optional jurisprudence webinars and incentivize attendance by offering a free hour of continuing education in ethics. Advisory Committee members expressed support for this alternate proposal and the Executive Director noted he would inform the Board of their comments at the next full Board meeting.
- D. Discussion Topics for 2024.** No topics suggested.

VII. Next Meeting. The next meeting will be June 14, 2024, at 10am.

VIII. Adjournment. Jurdene Coleman moved to adjourn the meeting. Jim Kilmartin seconded the motion. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.