

HB 18

HOUSE COMMITTEE REPORT

(11)

Date Referred: March 13, 1991

FURTHER REFERRALS:

Date of Committee Action: 4.15.91

The FINANCE Committee considered:

HB 18

HOUSE BILL NO. 18

MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS

"An Act regulating the practice of marital and family therapy; amending Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a)(3): and providing for an effective date."

RECOMMENDATIONS:

be replaced with CS HB 18 (Fin) the same title
 a new title

have attached amendments(s)

do pass

do not pass

no recommendations

individual recommendations

additional referral to the _____ Committee

ADOPTS: _____ letter of Intent

ATTACHES NEW FISCAL NOTE(S): (Dept) _____

APPROVES PREVIOUS: (Dept/Date) _____

fiscal impact _____

fiscal note(s) DLED 2-20-91

zero fiscal note _____

zero fiscal note(s) _____

SIGNING <u>DO PASS</u>	DP	OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS	DNP	NR	AM
<i>Eileen P. Macheen</i>	✓	<i>Bob Sharp</i>		✓	
<i>Mike Savane</i>		<i>Tamara Phoenix</i>		✓	
<i>Mark Brown</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>[Signature]</i>					
<i>[Signature]</i>	✓				
<i>Ronald J. [Signature]</i>	x				
<i>[Signature]</i>	x				
<i>Thom Brown</i>	✓				

Mike Savane Eileen P. Macheen
 CHAIRMAN'S SIGNATURE

CS FOR HOUSE BILL NO. 18 (FINANCE)
IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA
SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY THE HOUSE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Offered:
Referred:

Sponsor(s): REPRESENTATIVES GRUENBERG, M.A.Miller, Carney

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 "An Act regulating the practice of marital and family therapy; and amending Alaska Rule
2 of Evidence 504(a)(3)."

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

4 * Section 1. AS 08 is amended by adding a new chapter to read:

5 CHAPTER 63. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY.

6 ARTICLE 1. BOARD OF MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY.

7 Sec. 08.63.010. BOARD ESTABLISHED. (a) There is established the Board of Marital
8 and Family Therapy.

9 (b) The board consists of three persons licensed under this chapter and two members of
10 the public.

11 Sec. 08.63.020. BOARD APPOINTMENTS. The governor shall appoint the members
12 of the board subject to confirmation by the legislature.

13 Sec. 08.63.030. MEETINGS. The board shall hold an annual meeting and may hold
14 special meetings at the call of the chair or a majority of the board members.

1 Sec. 08.63.040. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may only remove
2 a member of the board for good cause.

3 Sec. 08.63.050. POWERS AND DUTIES OF THE BOARD. The board shall

4 (1) establish objective examination requirements and training and education
5 requirements for persons who apply for a license to practice marital and family therapy;

6 (2) examine applicants and issue licenses to qualified applicants;

7 (3) establish continuing education requirements for license renewal;

8 (4) adopt a code of ethical practice for marital and family therapy;

9 (5) hold hearings and order the disciplinary sanction of a person who violates this
10 chapter or a regulation of the board;

11 (6) ensure that licensees are aware of the requirements of AS 47.17.020;

12 (7) establish standards for supervisors and supervision under this chapter;

13 (8) report annually to the governor and the department on the board's proceedings
14 each year; the report must include the number of licensure applicants, the number of
15 examinations conducted, the failure rate for each examination, a financial report, and other
16 information requested by the department;

17 (9) enforce the provisions of this chapter and adopt regulations necessary to carry
18 out its duties under this chapter.

19 Sec. 08.63.060. PROCEDURES. The Administrative Procedure Act (AS 44.62) applies
20 to regulations and proceedings under this chapter.

21 ARTICLE 2. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSES.

22 Sec. 08.63.100. QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE TO PRACTICE. (a) The board
23 shall issue a license to practice marital and family therapy to a person who

24 (1) applies on a form provided by the board;

25 (2) pays the fee established under AS 08.01.065;

26 (3) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the person

27 (A) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for imposing disciplinary
28 sanctions under AS 08.63.210;

29 (B) holds a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family therapy or
30 allied mental health field from a regionally accredited educational institution approved by
31 the board for which the person completed a course of study that included instruction

1 substantially equivalent to the following:

2 (i) courses in marital and family therapy;

3 (ii) courses in marital and family studies;

4 (iii) courses in human development;

5 (iv) a course in professional studies or professional ethics and law;

6 (v) a course in research; and

7 (vi) one year of supervised clinical practice in marital and family

8 therapy;

9 (C) after receiving a degree described in (B) of this paragraph, has

10 (i) practiced marital and family therapy within three years of the
11 person's application, including 1,500 hours of direct clinical contact with couples
12 and families; and

13 (ii) been supervised in the clinical contact for at least 200 hours,
14 including 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision
15 approved by the board;

16 (D) has received training related to domestic violence; and

17 (E) has passed a written or oral examination administered by the board.

18 (b) Under regulations adopted by the board, a person who holds a master's or doctorate
19 degree in marital and family therapy or allied mental health field from a regionally accredited
20 educational institution approved by the board, but whose course of degree study did not include
21 all the courses or clinical practice requirements set out in (a)(3)(B) of this section may substitute
22 post-degree courses or practice, as approved by the board, to satisfy the requirements of (a)(3)(B)
23 of this section.

24 (c) An applicant who fails an examination given under this section may not retake the
25 examination for a period of six months from the date of the examination that the applicant failed.

26 (d) A license issued under this section shall be renewed biennially by the applicant on
27 a date set by the department and approved by the board. It shall be renewed by payment of the
28 fee established under AS 08.01.065 and by satisfaction of the continuing education requirements
29 established by the board for the renewal of licenses issued under this section.

30 Sec. 08.63.110. LICENSE FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE. (a) The board shall issue
31 a four-year license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy to a person who

1 meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A) - (B).

2 (b) A licensee under this section may practice only

3 (1) under the direct supervision of a supervisor approved by the board under
4 AS 08.63.120; and

5 (2) in a clinic, social service agency, or other setting approved by the board.

6 (c) A license for supervised practice expires four years from the date of issuance and
7 may not be renewed.

8 (d) A licensee under this section shall submit to the board for its approval a proposed
9 plan for satisfying the supervision requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(3)(C).

10 (e) A licensee under this section shall use the title "marital therapy associate," "family
11 therapy associate," or other title that is approved by the board.

12 (f) The board shall revoke a license for supervised practice if the person fails the
13 examination required under AS 08.63.100 two or more times.

14 Sec. 08.63.120. AUTHORIZED SUPERVISORS. (a) A person may not supervise a
15 person under this chapter unless approved by the board to be a supervisor.

16 (b) A person who supervises a licensee under this section must

17 (1) have practiced marital and family therapy for five years;

18 (2) be licensed under this chapter; and

19 (3) meet the minimum standards established by the board for approved
20 supervisors.

21 Sec. 08.63.130. TEMPORARY LICENSE FOR THE PRACTICE OF MARITAL AND
22 FAMILY THERAPY. (a) The board shall issue a temporary license for the practice of marital
23 and family therapy to an applicant who satisfies the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2) and
24 (3)(A), (B), and (C) and has been approved by the board to take the marital and family therapy
25 examination.

26 (b) A person may practice under a temporary license until the board issues the results
27 of the first marital and family therapy examination given after issuance of the person's temporary
28 license and either issues or denies a license under AS 08.63.100 to the person.

29 (c) If a licensee under this section fails the marital and family therapy examination, the
30 board may not renew the person's temporary license.

31 Sec. 08.63.140. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall issue a license to

1 practice marital and family therapy to a person who

2 (1) is licensed or certified for the practice of marital and family therapy in another
3 state that has requirements for the license or certificate that are substantially equal to or greater
4 than the requirements of this state; and

5 (2) meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A).

6 ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

7 Sec. 08.63.200. CONFIDENTIALITY OF COMMUNICATION. (a) A person licensed
8 under this chapter may not reveal to another person a communication made to the licensee by
9 a client about a matter concerning which the client has employed the licensee in a professional
10 capacity. This section does not apply to

11 (1) a case conference or case consultation with other mental health professionals
12 at which the patient is not identified;

13 (2) the release of information that the client in writing authorized the licensee to
14 reveal;

15 (3) information released to the board as part of a disciplinary or other proceeding;
16 or

17 (4) situations where the rules of evidence applicable to the psychotherapist-patient
18 privilege allow the release of the information.

19 (b) Notwithstanding (a) of this section, a person licensed under this chapter shall report
20 incidents of child abuse or neglect as required by AS 47.17.

21 (c) Information obtained by the board under (a)(3) of this section is confidential and is
22 not a public record for purposes of AS 09.25.110 - 09.25.140.

23 Sec. 08.63.210. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS.
24 After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction under AS 08.01.075 on a person
25 licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the person

26 (1) secured a license through deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation;

27 (2) engaged in deceit, fraud, or intentional misrepresentation in the course of
28 providing professional services or engaging in professional activities;

29 (3) advertised professional services in a false or misleading manner;

30 (4) has been convicted of a felony or of another crime that affects the person's
31 ability to practice competently and safely;

1 (5) failed to comply with a provision of this chapter or a regulation adopted under
2 this chapter, or an order of the board;

3 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to
4 (A) professional incompetence;
5 (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or another drug that impairs
6 the person's ability to practice safely;

7 (7) engaged in unethical conduct in connection with the delivery of professional
8 services to clients.

9 Sec. 08.63.220. LICENSE REQUIRED IF DESIGNATION USED. A person who is not
10 licensed under this chapter or whose license is suspended or revoked, or whose license has
11 lapsed, who knowingly uses in connection with the person's name the words or letters
12 "L.M.F.T.," "L.M.F.C.," "Licensed Marital and Family Therapist," "Licensed Marriage and
13 Family Counselor," or other letters, words, or insignia indicating or implying that the person is
14 licensed as a marital and family therapist by this state or who in any way, orally or in writing,
15 directly or by implication, knowingly holds out as being licensed by the state as a marital and
16 family therapist in this state is guilty of a class B misdemeanor.

17 Sec. 08.63.900. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter, unless the context indicates otherwise,

18 (1) "advertise" includes issuing or causing to be distributed a card, sign or device
19 to a person, or causing, permitting, or allowing a sign or marking on or in a building or structure,
20 or in a newspaper, magazine, or directory, or on radio or television, or using other means
21 designed to secure public attention;

22 (2) "board" means the Board of Marital and Family Therapy;

23 (3) "course" means a class of at least three credit hours in a graduate program at
24 an accredited educational institution or an institution approved by the board;

25 (4) "department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
26 Development;

27 (5) "practice of marital and family therapy" means the diagnosis and treatment
28 of mental and emotional disorders that are referenced in the standard diagnostic nomenclature for
29 marital and family therapy, whether cognitive, affective, or behavioral, within the context of
30 human relationships, particularly marital and family systems; marital and family therapy involves

31 (A) the professional application of assessments and treatments of

1 psychotherapeutic services to individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of treating
2 the diagnosed emotional and mental disorders;

3 (B) an applied understanding of the dynamics of marital and family
4 interactions, along with the application of psychotherapeutic and counseling techniques
5 for the purpose of resolving intrapersonal and interpersonal conflict and changing
6 perceptions, attitudes, and behaviors in the area of human relationships and family life;

7 (6) "supervision" means face-to-face consultation, direction, review, evaluation,
8 and assessment of the practice of the person being supervised, including direct observation and
9 the review of case presentations, audio tapes, and video tapes.

10 * Sec. 2. AS 08.01.010 is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

11 (33) Board of Marital and Family Therapy (AS 08.63.010).

12 * Sec. 3. AS 08.02.010(a) is amended to read:

13 (a) An acupuncturist licensed under AS 08.06, an audiologist licensed under AS 08.11,
14 a person licensed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a dentist under AS 08.36, a
15 marital and family therapist licensed under AS 08.63, a medical practitioner or osteopath
16 under AS 08.64, a registered nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist under AS 08.72, a registered
17 pharmacist under AS 08.80, a physical therapist or occupational therapist licensed under
18 AS 08.84, a psychologist under AS 08.86, or a clinical social worker licensed under AS 08.95,
19 shall use as professional identification appropriate letters or a title after that person's name which
20 represents that person's specific field of practice. The letters or title shall appear on all signs,
21 stationery, or other advertising in which the person offers or displays personal professional
22 services to the public. In addition, a person engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathy
23 under AS 08.64.380 or a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who diagnoses, treats,
24 tests, or counsels other persons in relation to human health or disease and uses the letters "M.D."
25 or the title "doctor" or "physician" or another title that tends to show that the person is willing
26 or qualified to diagnose, treat, test, or counsel another person, shall clarify the letters or title by
27 adding the appropriate specialist designation, if any, such as "dermatologist", "radiologist",
28 "audiologist", "naturopath", or the like.

29 * Sec. 4. AS 08.03.010(c) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

30 (25) Board of Marital and Family Therapy (AS 08.63.010) -- June 30, 1994.

31 * Sec. 5. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

1 (57) Board of Marital and Family Therapy (AS 08.63.010).

2 * Sec. 6. AS 47.17.290(13) is amended to read:

3 (13) "practitioner of the healing arts" includes chiropractors, mental health
4 counselors, dental hygienists, dentists, health aides, nurses, nurse practitioners, occupational
5 therapists, occupational therapy assistants, optometrists, osteopaths, naturopaths, physical thera-
6 pists, physical therapy assistants, physicians, physician's assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists,
7 psychological associates, audiologists licensed under AS 08.11, hearing aid dealers licensed under
8 AS 08.55, marital and family therapists licensed under AS 08.63, religious healing
9 practitioners, acupuncturists, and surgeons;

10 * Sec. 7. Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a) is amended to read:

11 (a) DEFINITIONS. As used in this rule:

12 (1) A patient is a person who consults or is examined or interviewed by a
13 physician or psychotherapist.

14 (2) A physician is a person authorized to practice medicine in any state or nation,
15 or reasonably believed by the patient so to be.

16 (3) A psychotherapist is (A) a person authorized to practice medicine in any state
17 or nation, or reasonably believed by the patient so to be, while engaged in the diagnosis or
18 treatment of a mental or emotional condition, including alcohol or drug addiction, [OR] (B) a
19 person licensed or certified as a psychologist or psychological examiner under the laws of any
20 state or nation or reasonably believed by the patient to so be, while similarly engaged, or (C) a
21 person licensed as a marital or family therapist under the laws of a state or nation or
22 reasonably believed by the patient to so be, while similarly engaged.

23 (4) A communication is confidential if not intended to be disclosed to third
24 persons other than those present to further the interest of the patient in the consultation,
25 examination, or interview, or persons reasonably necessary for the transmission of the
26 communication, or persons who are participating in the diagnosis and treatment under the
27 direction of the physician or psychotherapist, including members of the patient's family.

28 * Sec. 8. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. (a) In making the initial appointments of professional
29 members to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, the governor shall consider a person licensed for
30 the purpose of AS 08.63.010, added by sec. 1 of this Act, if the person would be entitled to a license
31 under sec. 9 of this Act. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall issue a license to practice

1 marital and family therapy to the professional members appointed under this section.

2 (b) A license issued under this section is subject to the same renewal requirements as a license
3 issued under AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of this Act.

4 (c) The initial appointments to the board shall be staggered as provided in AS 39.05.055.

5 * Sec. 9. TRANSITIONAL LICENSING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of
6 this Act, the Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall issue a license to practice marital and family
7 therapy to a person who

8 (1) applies for a license before July 1, 1992;

9 (2) satisfies the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1) - (3)(A), added by sec. 1 of this Act;

10 (3) holds a master's or doctorate degree from an accredited educational institution either
11 in

12 (A) marital and family therapy or another mental health field as defined in
13 AS 08.63.100(b); or

14 (B) an appropriate course of study approved by the board; and

15 (4) has practiced marital and family therapy in the state for at least two years preceding
16 application.

17 (b) A license under this section is subject to the same renewal requirements as a license issued
18 under AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of this Act.

19 (c) The Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall liberally construe the requirements of (a) of
20 this section for the purposes of licensing as a marital and family therapy professional every person who
21 merits licensing by virtue of the person's education, training, and experience in the field of marital and
22 family therapy.

STATE OF ALASKA
1991 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Revision Date: February 6, 1991 Department Affected: Commerce & Economic Dvlp.
 Title: Regulating the practice of marital and family therapy;.... BRU: Occupational Licensing
 Component: Administration
 Sponsor: Reps. Gruenberg and Carney
 Requestor: House HESS

COMPONENT SERIAL NO.	0	3	5	6
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Expenditures/Revenues: (Thousands of Dollars)

OPERATING	FY 92	FY 93	FY 94	FY 95	FY 96	FY 97
PERSONAL SERVICES	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6
TRAVEL	19.7	16.5	11.6	11.6	11.6	11.6
CONTRACTUAL	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.7
SUPPLIES	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0
EQUIPMENT	0	0	0	0	0	0
LAND & STRUCTURES						
GRANTS, CLAIMS						
MISCELLANEOUS						
TOTAL OPERATING	35.0	31.8	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9

CAPITAL	0	0	0	0	0	0
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REVENUE	24.0	0	24.0	0	24.0	0
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FUNDING: (Thousands of Dollars)

GENERAL FUND	11.0	31.8	2.9	26.9	2.9	26.9
FEDERAL FUNDS	0	0	0	0	0	0
OTHER GF/PR	24.0	0	24.0	0	24.0	0
TOTAL	35.0	31.8	26.9	26.9	26.9	26.9

POSITIONS:

FULL-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
PART-TIME	0	0	0	0	0	0
TEMPORARY	0	0	0	0	0	0

Estimate of current year impact: None

ANALYSIS: (Attach a separate page if necessary.) HB 18 establishes a five-member Board of Marital and Family Therapy to establish examination, training and education requirements for entry into the profession, and to issue licenses to qualified individuals. Information on file indicates there are approximately 40 practitioners who would be affected by this legislation upon passage.

Prepared By: Barbara Gabier, Licensing Supervisor Phone: 465-3262
 Division: Occupational Licensing Date: February 6, 1991

Approved by Commissioner: Glenn A. Olds
 Agency: Department of Commerce & Economic Development Date: February 6, 1991

Distribution (by preparer): Legislative Finance, Legislative Sponsor, Requestor, OMB, & Impacted Agency(ies).

CONTINUATION OF FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS - HB 18

This fiscal note represents the cost of licensing marital and family therapists with a five-member board and an estimate of 40 practitioners who would seek and qualify for licensure. Costs of the program are projected based on the number of licensees and mandates in the bill. Therefore, costs associated with the marital and family therapy licensing program are projected as follows:

Personal Services: \$ 3.6

To provide administrative staff support.

Travel: \$ 19.7

In FY 92, this funding will provide for four face-to-face meetings, two in Anchorage and two in Juneau, assuming two members are from the Anchorage area, two from Juneau, one from Fairbanks; and three division staff (Director, Licensing Examiner, and Regulations Specialist) to attend each meeting.

In FY 93, funding provides for three board meetings and travel to administer the licensing examination in various locations throughout the State. (\$16.5)

In FY 94 forward, the licensing program will have been in operation for two years, and therefore, require fewer meetings to conduct its business. The number of board meetings is reduced to two meetings each year. This funding also provides for travel to administer the licensing examination in various locations. (\$11.6)

Contractual: \$ 10.7

This funding provides for printing, advertising, postage and communication costs.

Supplies: \$ 1.0

Funding will provide standard office supplies.

Grand Total: \$ 35.0

REVENUE:

The revenues are based on 40 practitioners paying a licensing fee of \$300 per year. Because licenses are issued on a biennial cycle, revenues are doubled every other year. As indicated, 40 practitioners will not support a licensing program with a five-member board unless licensees are willing to pay incredibly high annual licensing fees. As an alternative, the licensing program may have to be supplemented by general funds or fees from other licensing areas.

AS 08.01.065(c), Fees established by regulation provide that the "department may establish a fee that is less than the cost of the activity for which the fee is charged if the department determines that it is not reasonable to impose the full cost of the activity on the applicant or licensee."

David R. Samson M.D.
Board Certified Psychiatrist

November 21, 1990

Jim Nordlund
% Representative Johnny Ellis
3111 "C" Street, Suite 455
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Nordlund:

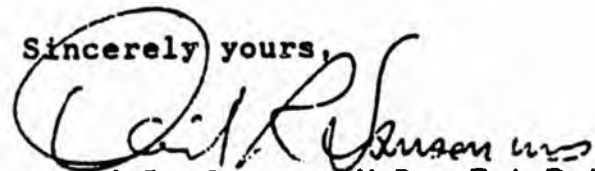
This letter is in support of licensing for marriage and family therapists. I wrote a similar letter on October 20, 1989 supporting it for last year's legislature.

As a psychiatrist, I believe that marriage and family therapists provide specific services that are needed in our communities. I believe it is essential that our state government assures the public that people who claim to be marriage and family therapists do indeed have the necessary advanced educational requirements and experiences to provide marriage and family services. This can best be arranged with specific licensing and re-licensing requirements.

I have worked with multiple therapists in and out of community mental health center settings and in private practice. This includes several trained marriage and family therapists. I have been very impressed with their continuing education efforts over the several years that I have been working with them and think they do an excellent job continuing their professional competence.

I urge that the state legislature pass legislation in the coming year to insure that licensing exists for marriage and family therapists. I wholeheartedly support this effort.

Sincerely yours,



David R. Samson, M.D., F.A.P.A.



Ann E. Wolf, M.D., D.C.P.S.—President
Barbara Brown, Administrator
Barbara Jones, M.D.—Vice President
Helen Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.—Secretary/Treasurer
Greg McCarthy, M.D.
David McKeedy, M.D.
Martin Arroyo, Ph.D.
Karen A. Sandoz, Psy.D.
Held J. Nelson, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Wendy Chasen, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Jodie T. Josley, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.

December 11, 1990

Representative Max Gruenberg
3111 C Street, Fourth Floor
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Representative Gruenberg:

We are very happy that you are sponsoring the Marriage and Family Therapy licensing bill. As you know, MFT is a distinct and separate mental health discipline and should be recognized as such. Licensing insures that adequately trained professionals are in the field. Consequently, we see licensure as a means to protect the public and to protect the integrity of all the mental health fields.

We are also well aware that lack of licensure is the only reason many insurance companies do not reimburse therapists for their services. We are seeing that particularly with Medicaid at this time. Consequently, we see licensing for trained mental health professionals as a need that the State needs to address. We strongly support the licensure of MFT's.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

G. McCarthy

Greg McCarthy, M.D.

GM/cs



Arvin S. Wolf, M.B., L.A.P.A.—President
Barbara Brown, Administrator
Robert Jones, M.D.—Vice President
Helen Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.—Secretary/Treasurer
Tony McCarthy, M.B.
David Holladay, M.B.
Marta Altop, Ph.D.
Karen A. Jenzig, Psy.D.
Mehi J. Nelson, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Whedy Chase, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Joshie L. Jodrey, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.

December 27, 1990

Senator Virginia Collins
3111 C Street, Ste. 412
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Senator Collins:

I am writing to ask for your consideration of a bill to license marriage and family therapists which is to be introduced in the upcoming legislative session.

I support the intent of this bill which is to ensure that persons who offer their services to the public as marriage and family therapists have both the education, training, and experience to do so competently, and will do so ethically. At the present time, there is no assurance that this occurs in Alaska.

If you have questions concerning this bill, I would be happy to try and answer them.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Donald Sparrow'.

Donald Sparrow, A.C.S.W.
2050 Waldron Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

DS/cs



Aron S. Wolf, M.D., T.A.P.A. — President
 Thomas Turner, Administrator
 Randall Jones, M.A. — Vice President
 Helen Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. — Secretary/Treasurer
 Greg McCarthy, M.D.
 David McIlroy, M.D.
 Martin Acres, Ph.D.
 Keren A. Sonzig, Psy.D.
 Nikki J. Nielson, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
 Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
 Wendy Chase, M.S.W., L.C.S.W.
 Jackie T. Jeday, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.

March 20, 1991

House Finance Committee
 Mike Navarre, Co-Chair
 Alaska State Legislature
 P.O. Box V
 Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear House Finance Committee:

We, at Langdon Clinic, support licensure for Marriage and Family Therapists and urge you to support HB 18. We believe it to be in the best interest to the public and to the mental health profession by having well-trained and qualified professionals.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Randall G. Jones, M.A.
 Vice President

RGJ/cs

SUPPORT LETTERS



Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

a division of The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Inc.
2550 Denali Street, Suite 905, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 {907} 272-2063

Pat

January 15, 1991

Dear Legislator:

During this session, there is a bill sponsored by Representative Max Gruenberg and Senator Drue Pearce for the licensure of Marriage and Family therapists. The bill numbers are SB40 and HB18. We would like to take the opportunity at this time to inform you on the field of Marriage and Family Therapy and the and arguments for licensure. Included in this packet are fact sheets about Marriage and Family Therapy and a newsletter update about both the Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as well as its impact on a national scope. Also included this packet are a sample of the broad base of support the mental health professions and others have shown for licensure of Marriage and Family therapists.

We feel that consumer advocacy and freedom of choice is an utmost priority, particularly in light of the changes in Medicaid regulations that require licensed providers. Many people who are being helped by MFTs and services paid for by Medicaid will no longer be able to receive that help when those regulations go into effect. Licensure can insure that no one will be left without the necessary mental health services.

We hope you and your aides will take some time to read through the material presented. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson, Rel.D.
President, AkAMFT
Mercy Dennis, M.A.
Randall G. Jones, M.A.
Co-Chair, Legislative Affairs

It is noteworthy that this non-biased source comprised of state regulators, believes that there is a separate profession of marriage and family therapy. A considerable body of research suggests that marriage and family therapy is an efficient and effective treatment alternative to traditional approaches for a wide variety of emotional and behavioral disorders. For this and other reasons, the federal government has recognized marriage and family therapists for some time. For many years, marriage and family therapists have been eligible mental health providers under the Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Unified Services (Champus). Additionally, marriage and family therapists are listed as one of the core mental health professions by the National Institute of Mental Health, and under federal law (Public Service Act, PL100-6900), as one of the core mental health professions, training programs in marriage and family therapy are eligible to receive clinical training grants on the same basis as programs in medicine, psychology, social work, and nursing. Thus, there is a consistent consensus among federal agencies and national committees that MFT carries distinct status as a profession.

Unfortunately, however not all who provide family therapy services have attained the necessary training for the practice of the profession, nor have they necessarily agreed to be bound by a code of ethics established by their peers. Given the fact that the State of Alaska does not regulate our profession, there exists the potential for untrained individuals to present themselves as marriage and family therapists. This is a source of concern for the qualified professionals and members of the public. Since we know that psychotherapy of any kind can do damage, the public, without the capacity to distinguish qualified professionals, remains more vulnerable to mistreatment. The lack of regulation of the profession of MFT in Alaska may present a greater loss to the public than it does to our professional membership, since many of our members can identify with other professions.

A growing number of marriage and family therapists have received the most contemporary training developed in the field. Often this training is through graduate programs in marriage and family therapy. These mental health professionals are prepared to offer effective treatment options to Alaskan families, yet these professionals are neither recognized nor regulated. Trained family therapists, although sanctioned nationally as legitimate providers in mental health services, have no such status in Alaska. The result is that in many contexts, Alaskan do not have a real option to select a qualified family therapist for treatment because most reimbursement systems do not recognize unregulated providers. This denies freedom of choice for mental health services to Alaskans who may already be disadvantaged.

We do not believe this state of affairs, with the public being exposed to unqualified and unprofessional practitioners, and potentially prohibited from legitimate treatment options has been the Governor's nor the legislators' intent. Rather, it may be due to limited awareness of the part of state officials regarding the professional of marriage and family therapy. In a state known to be in the vanguard when it comes to protecting the general welfare of its citizenry, these seems unfortunate. As mentioned, some twenty states have now recognized the need to regulate and recognize the profession of marriage and family therapy. Alaska should not be among the last to do so. We strongly urge that you consider exploring with us ways to address this issue. Members of AkMFT are available to meet with you to discuss appropriate options. AkMFT members also stand ready to act as consultants with regard to a wide variety of issues relevant to families in Alaska. We hope you find the enclosed special issue of our newsletter helpful in increasing your knowledge of our organization.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson, Rel.D.
President-AkAMFT

David R. Samson M.D.
Board Certified Psychiatrist

November 21, 1990

Jim Nordlund
% Representative Johnny Ellis
3111 "C" Street, Suite 455
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mr. Nordlund:

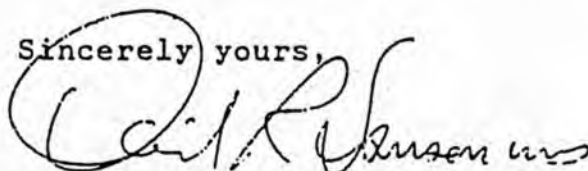
This letter is in support of licensing for marriage and family therapists. I wrote a similar letter on October 20, 1989 supporting it for last year's legislature.

As a psychiatrist, I believe that marriage and family therapists provide specific services that are needed in our communities. I believe it is essential that our state government assures the public that people who claim to be marriage and family therapists do indeed have the necessary advanced educational requirements and experiences to provide marriage and family services. This can best be arranged with specific licensing and re-licensing requirements.

I have worked with multiple therapists in and out of community mental health center settings and in private practice. This includes several trained marriage and family therapists. I have been very impressed with their continuing education efforts over the several years that I have been working with them and think they do an excellent job continuing their professional competence.

I urge that the state legislature pass legislation in the coming year to insure that licensing exists for marriage and family therapists. I wholeheartedly support this effort.

Sincerely yours,



David R. Samson, M.D., F.A.P.A.



GREATER WASILLA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

COTTONWOOD CREEK MALL
P.O. BOX 871826
WASILLA, ALASKA 99687
(907) 376-1299

RESOLUTION

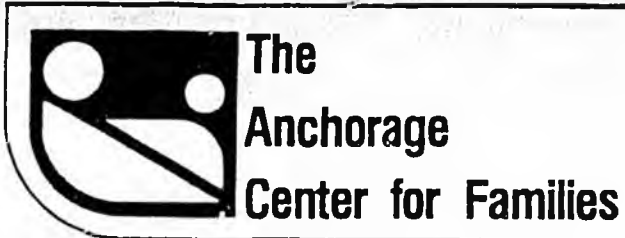
- WHEREAS there have been cases of abuse and mistreatment by people claiming to be qualified marriage and family therapists.
- WHEREAS there are currently no laws regulating the practice of marital and family therapy in the State of Alaska.
- WHEREAS the public should have the right to know that practitioners claiming to be marital and family therapists have met professional standards and are qualified to perform marital and family therapy.
- WHEREAS the State of Alaska has developed regulations and licensing requirements for other health care providers.
- BE IT RESOLVED that the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce supports the concept of regulation and licensing of practitioners of marital and family therapy, the establishment of a board of marital and family therapy, and the qualifications for license to practice marital and family therapy as outlined in House Bill - 305.

Signed,
Rocky Spear

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rocky Spear", is written over the typed name.

President,
Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce

5/18/89



- Intermission
- Family Connection
- The Center for Children and Parents

3745 Community Park Loop, Suite 201 • Anchorage, Alaska 99508 • (907) 276-4994

April 5, 1989

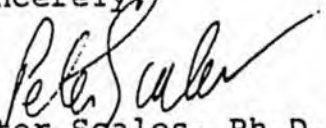
Mercy Dennis
2550 Denali, Suite 905
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Mercy:

I am writing to express my support of your efforts to put in place a licensing system for private practice marriage and family therapists. Recent data show that more and more mental health services are being provided by a wide variety of practitioners with very different backgrounds. As you know, at present in Alaska, there is no way for a consumer to judge the difference in quality of care that may be provided by these various practitioners. With a licensing system in place, based on accepted professional standards of certification and completion of extensive supervision requirements, Alaskan consumers will be better assured that they are purchasing quality mental health services.

Please let me know if I can assist you in this important effort.

Sincerely,



Peter Scales, Ph.D.
Executive Director



A United Way Agency

Strengthening Families Since 1972

Southcentral Alaska Chapter
National Committee for
Prevention of Child Abuse



WILLIAM A. WORRALL, MD

2550 Denali Street, Suite 603
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Telephone: (907) 276-1504

December 10, 1990

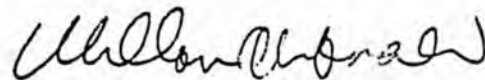
We urge the Alaska State Legislature to support licensing for masters level therapists as proposed by the Alaska Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

We believe that licensing is one of the few tools available to assure a high level of protection for people who seek counseling from therapists in private practice.

Licensing can be used to:

1. Establish a minimum set of standards for therapists.
2. Verify that therapists have received adequate training, supervision and experience in their fields before they begin to practice.
3. Assure that therapists maintain the highest level of ethics and clinical practice.
4. Provide an avenue of removing therapists who fail to meet these standards.
5. Widen the range of help available to the public since many insurance companies require that mental health providers be state licensed before they will reimburse clients for fees.

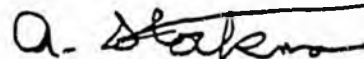
Sincerely,



William Worrall, M.D.



David Sperbeck, Ph.D.



Ann Stockman, MSW, LCSW

Law Office of
Marvin H. Clark, Jr.

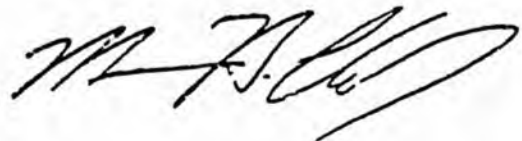
P.O. Box 87-4088
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
(907) 373-0121

TO: State Legislators
FROM: MARVIN CLARK
DATE: 1/10/91

I wish to stress the importance of this State ensuring that Marriage and Family Therapists can be licensed in Alaska. I am aware that Marriage and Family Therapists provide a service that is needed in our community, yet there is no assurance that people who say they are Marriage and Family Therapists indeed possess the training and experience necessary to perform those functions. It is important that the State enact licensing specifically to assure adequate training and experience be required for those who practice the profession of Marriage and Family Therapists.

Other mental health professionals have access to licensing in the State of Alaska; however, Marriage and Family Therapists have different background training and experience and provide an alternative mental health service, therefore, they also need licensing.

Please pass a licensing law for Marriage and Family Therapists during this 1991 session of the legislature. Thank you for your attention to this matter.





The
Episcopal
Diocese of Alaska

The Rt. Rev. George C. Harris, Bishop

Post Office Box 441

Fairbanks, Alaska 99707-0441

Telephone (907) 452-3040

March 2, 1989

The Honorable Steve Cowper
State of Alaska
Juneau AK 99802

Dear Governor Cowper:

Of the many fiscal issues facing state government at this time, the licensing of marriage and family therapists is an issue of significant importance for consumer protection.

Incompetent people practicing in the mental health professions are very dangerous, and I feel the state needs to provide the people of this state with the necessary protection to ensure their safety and well-being. State regulation is important in providing consumers with information about credentialed professionals.

Currently, 18 states have licensing laws that regulate the practice of marriage and family therapy. Twenty-two additional states are presently considering such legislation.

Clergy in our parishes are on the front-line for referring families for marriage and family therapy. They need to have information about quality referrals. They need to know that persons who advertise themselves as marriage and family therapists do, in fact, have the training, experience, and clinical supervision they claim. The State of Alaska is the only public agency that can provide such through licensing and regulation, as it does in the case of clinical social workers, psychiatrists, clinical psychologists, psychiatric nurses, etc.

I urge you to consider and enact legislation into law that will license and regulate the field of marriage and family therapy in order to protect the people of Alaska and to promote standards of excellence across the entire field of mental health providers in our state.

Yours in Christ,

George C. Harris

George C. Harris

*Dictated by the bishop but signed in his absence.

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Sincerely,

Robert Nelson, Rel.D.
President-AkAMFT



Alaska State Legislature

Please enter into the record my testimony to the House Judiciary
 committee name
 committee on HB 18, dated March 11, 1991
 bill/subject



A Family Worship Center
 Garry L. Oliver, Pastor

Community Baptist Church

216 Mill Bay Road Box 887
 Kodiak, Alaska 99615
 Church Phone 486-3458
 Parsonage 486-5355

March 7, 1991

I appreciate the opportunity to express my opinion on HB18 to the Judiciary Committee. Thank you. As a pastoral counselor and Clinical Member in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy I have some very high expectations of those who call themselves "marriage counselors" or "family counselors." There ought to be a standardization of criteria used to recognize these people as there is of others in most health professions. Unfortunately there are many who call themselves by the title "marriage and family therapist (counselor)" who understand little of the issues involved in working with couples or whole families. It is "an entirely different ball game" when working with two or more people in relationship than with an individual person by themselves in counseling or therapy.

I am personally concerned with the kind of services some people have received that I have encountered. I believe that they might have had more helpful therapy (counseling) had their therapist (counselor) been trained specifically in the mindset and methodology consistent with the modern marriage and family therapy movement. Some marriages and relationships might have been helped to survive. And some might have been helped through the transition of separation and divorce more healthfully than they were, in my opinion. Very well-meaning folks trained only in doing individual therapy (counseling) were unable to see some of the real issues involved. Had they been trained in "systems theory", for example, they might have helped the couples and families avert the disastrous consequences which occurred.

Please understand that I am not suggesting that only American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy members are qualified. I do not believe that! There are many, many qualified persons who do not belong to AAMFT in mental health centers, in private practice, or other places of doing therapy. My personal experience is that there are some extremely qualified clergy who do excellent work with couples and families because they have had adequate training and experience, as well as a "feel" for this very unique discipline. Marriage and family therapy (counseling) is a singular discipline, and ought to be considered such by professionals, insurance companies, consumers and state and federal agencies that provide funding for such.

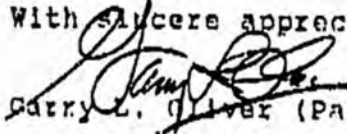
page two

I heartily endorse the passage of HB18. I think that this is an adequate approach to the licensing of people in Alaska for this discipline. It is not perfect, but which bill ever has been perfect? It would certainly help the consumers of marriage and family therapy (counseling) services immensely. Helping the consumers select qualified therapists (counselors) is my primary concern. All other concerns are way down the list of importance to me.

Thanks for listening.

Signed:

With sincere appreciation,


Gary L. Oliver (Pastor, AAMFT Clinical Member)

216 Mill Bay Rd., Box 887 - Kodiak 99615

Address

(907) 486-5355

Phone No.



Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

a division of The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Inc.
2550 Denali Street, Suite 905, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 272-2063

January 15, 1991

RECEIVED
FEB 1 - AM.

Dear Legislator:

During this session, there is a bill sponsored by Representative Max Gruenberg and Senator Drue Pearce for the licensure of Marriage and Family therapists. The bill numbers are SB40 and HB 18. We would like to take the opportunity at this time to inform you on the field of Marriage and Family Therapy and the arguments for licensure. Included in this packet are fact sheets about Marriage and Family Therapy and a newsletter update about both the Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy as well as its impact on a national scope. Also included in this packet are a sample of the broad base of support the mental health professions and others have shown for licensure of Marriage and Family therapists.

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We hope you and your aides will take some time to read through the material presented. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert Nelson, Ph.D.
President, AkAMFT
Mercy Dennis, M.A.
Randall G. Jones, M.A.
Co-Chair, Legislative Affairs

President Robert W. Nelson, Ph.D. ++ Presi
Treasurer Lowell Roddy, M.Ed. ++ Board Mem
Board Member Richard Stenbakken, M.A. ++

l. ++ Secretary Sara Griffith, M.Ed.
++ Board Member Phillip S. Klees, Ph.D.
ative to Board Martin Garrigues, M.S.

Letters of Support

FACT SHEET

LICENSING MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS

++ The Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy which represents over 17,000 qualified marriage and family therapists in the United States, Canada and abroad) believes that licensure and regulation by the State, as the steward of the public cause, is one of the most effective vehicles to protect the public. AKAMFT advocates the licensure by the State of Alaska of all mental health professions.

++ There are six distinct and fully accredited mental health professions in Alaska: medical branch (including psychiatry & psychiatric nursing) and non-medical branch (including psychology, social work, marriage & family therapy, and mental health counseling). The only clearly defined clinical discipline not licensed and regulated by the State of Alaska is marriage & family therapy.

++ Marriage and family therapy has long been recognized by the Federal Government as a separate and distinct mental health discipline . . . not simply a part of psychiatry, psychology or social work.

++ Listed in the Sourcebook on Health Professions (published by the U.S. Dept. of Health Human Services, through the Health Resources and Services Administration)

++ The Public Health Service Act lists marriage and family therapy as separate and distinct for receiving training funds through the National Institute of Mental Health.

++ The U. S. Dept of Health, Education and Welfare have designated AAMFT's Commission on Accreditation as the sole national accrediting agency for graduate and post-degree educational and training programs in the field of marriage and family therapy.

++ CHAMPUS has clearly defined marriage and family therapy and qualified Clinical Members of AAMFT as providers.

++ Marriage and family therapists have been providers under Medicaid for many years.

++ Alaska needs to regulate and license marriage and family therapists. 22 States currently license and regulate marriage and family therapists . . . and an additional 22 States have licensure legislation before them.

++ All of the mental health professions "dispense strong medicine" . . . mental health interventions profoundly impact the individual or family at deep levels and in profound ways (for good or ill).

++ The State of Alaska exists to serve the people of Alaska and their needs and interests. (Some marriage and family therapists choose membership in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. And, whereas Clinical Membership in AAMFT . . . much like other clinical professionals being a part of NASW, AMA or APA . . . set high standards for those who qualify and choose such membership, voluntary "certification" is no substitute for regulation by the State of Alaska.)

++ The State of Alaska holds the only possibility of responsibly and effectively regulating all mental health professions and thereby effectively closing many existing gaps that allow persons who are untrained and unqualified to identify themselves . . . and at the same time enable those who are highly trained, competent, and ethical in their practice to be identified as well.

++ Faced with marital or family stress, Alaskan families are not in optimum position to evaluate the stated credentials of persons holding themselves out as marriage and family therapists. But under such stress, they need the help of well-qualified therapists who are identified as such by State regulation. Licensing will provide Alaskan consumers with information about qualifications of professionals in the field, and they can then make more informed decisions based on objective criteria administered by a public body.

++ There is a special danger in the mental health field: Persons holding themselves out to the public in misleading ways about their qualifications. It can be very lucrative to hang up a shingle or represent oneself as a "marriage and family therapist" regardless of training, clinical experience or supervision in the field. It has not been the intent of either the governor's office or the legislature to allow the Alaskan consumer to be exposed to unqualified, untrained and unsupervised treatment. It has rather been a result of limited awareness on the part of state officials regarding the profession of marriage and family therapy. But the result is the same.

++ The Division of Medical Assistance of the Alaska State Department of Health and Social Services, under federal mandate, is establishing new regulations for Medicaid in June 1991. Under the revised regulations, marriage and family therapists will be required to be licensed by the State of Alaska. The Division strongly supports licensing of marriage and family therapists as a means to ensure standards of care under Medicaid. Many marriage and family therapists presently provide therapy to Medicaid patients, maintaining AAMFT Clinical Membership and standards and carrying a high percentage of Medicaid caseloads for many years now. Such provider services will no longer be available to Alaskans. The proposed licensing legislation, if passed during this First Session of the Seventeenth Legislature and signed by the Governor will ensure that these services continue uninterrupted.

++ Because the function or practice of doing marriage and family therapy is not prohibited as such under the proposed legislation . . . other mental health therapists would continue to be able to work with couples and with families under their own respective State-approved licensing and regulating Statutes.

++ Under the proposed legislation, however, consumers would be able to clearly identify therapists who meet the qualifications to be a "Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist" (LMFT) or "Licensed Marriage and Family Counselor" (LMFC).

++ A growing number of mental health professionals have received specialized training in marriage and family therapy. Some of those may choose to seek licensure as "LMFT" or "LMFC" under the proposed legislation. A growing number of students in training are anticipating their primary area of work will be in the field of marriage and family therapy and will be seeking licensure under this legislation.

+ + +

++ Alaska has been in the vanguard of establishing social policy and maintaining progressive legislation in the field of alcohol treatment and general mental health care.

+ + +

++ Alaska must not be one of last States to establish clear-cut regulation of the profession of marriage and family therapy.

+ + +

++ Alaskan Medicaid patients must continue to be given the opportunity to choose marriage and family therapy as their choice of care.

+ + +

++ Alaskans must be allowed the opportunity to set public standards and regulate a clinical field that touches lives so profoundly.

++ Research has shown that marriage and family therapy is one of the most effective treatment approaches for many of the problems facing Alaska's families: family violence, substance abuse, delinquency and school problems, childhood and adolescent disorders, eating disorders, and marriage and families in trouble. (See: A Report of the Governor's Commission on Children and Youth, Our Greatest Natural Resource, Investing in the Future of Alaska's Children, January 1988).

2062



515 E. Dahlia
P.O. Box 1687
Palmer, AK 99645
907-745-4813

January 5, 1990

Dear Governor and Legislators,

I strongly support the state of Alaska establishing certification or licensing requirements at the state level for Family and Marriage Therapists.

As Associate Administrator of Health Services at Valley Hospital, I think the assurance licensure provides, that family and marriage therapists have been properly trained, is essential when referring patients and employees to their services.

It has been my observation that at the time a family or couple are referred for therapy, they are often in crisis, and extremely vulnerable to a therapists guidance and influence. An, improperly trained therapist represents a threat to these at risk individuals.

Passage of state legislation, insuring licensure of family and marriage therapists is urgently needed, and has my complete support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Christine Blackgoat".

Christine Blackgoat,
Associate Administrator
of Health Service



CHARTER NORTH HOSPITAL

COUNSELING CENTERS

1001 Noble Street, Suite 380
Fairbanks, Alaska 99701
(907) 456-7575

951 E. Bogard Road, Suite 102
Wasilla, Alaska 99687
(907) 373-7575

240 E. Tudor Road, Suite 240
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-7576

Optifast Weight Loss
(907) 561-7577
Chemical Dependency
(907) 561-7576

February 13, 1989

Mercy Dennis
2550 Denali Street
Suite 905
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

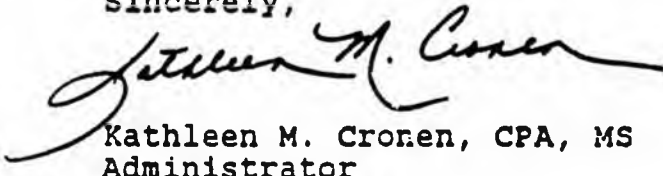
Dear Mercy:

I am writing in support of licensing for Marriage and Family Therapy by the State of Alaska. Alaska currently licenses and regulates psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, clinical psychology and psychological associate, and social work. Marriage and family therapy is recognized as a separate mental health discipline by the Federal government. Currently, 18 states license and regulate marriage and family therapists with an additional 22 states considering such legislation in 1989.

As a certified professional in the State of Alaska, I know that licensure and ongoing regulation is essential to maintaining both quality and integrity. I realize that some marriage and family therapists choose membership in the American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy. However, such voluntary membership is no substitution for regulation by the State. As the Administrator of Charter North Hospital, I am gravely concerned at the lack of regulations and requirements for licensure by individuals performing therapy.

Best of luck in this endeavor. Please feel free to contact me for further support on this matter.

Sincerely,



Kathleen M. Cronen, CPA, MS
Administrator

KMC:rlr
2088



The Family and Children's Clinic

561 SO. DENALI ST., SUITE A
PALMER, ALASKA 99645

(907) 745-3327

KENNETH P. FALLON, JR., M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
CHERYL F. MITCHELL, M.S.W.
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER
MARY DALL, M.S.W.
CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

CHRISTOPHER L. DATTAN, M.D.
PSYCHIATRIST
PATRICIA SANDBERG, M.A.
THERAPIST
CHRISTINE CHILDERS, Ph.D.
CLINICAL PSYCHOLOGIST

December 4, 1989

Dr. Robert Nelson, President-Elect
Alaska Association for Marriage
and Family Therapists
4502 Cassin Drive
Anchorage, AK 99507

Dear Dr. Nelson:

I am writing this letter in support of the certification and/or licensing at the Alaska state level for marriage and family therapists.

As an Alaska state licensed clinical social worker, I feel strongly that licensing of family and marriage therapists is necessary to insure that the public receives the best possible level of services. Licensure would go a long way toward assuring the public that each licensed marriage and family therapist has adequately completed the nationally standardized graduate-level educational requirements as well as several years of supervised training necessary to be competent to deliver these services.

I have worked closely with a number of marriage and family therapists, and have attended seminars and continuing education classes with them. I respect their level of expertise and believe that their services are needed in Alaska.

I strongly recommend passage of state legislation in the coming year to license marriage and family therapists. If I can be of further assistance in this regard, please contact me.

Sincerely,

Cheryl F. Mitchell, M.S.W.

Cheryl F. Mitchell
Licensed Clinical Social Worker



ANCHORAGE
SCHOOL DISTRICT

4600 DeBarr Avenue
P.O. Box 196614
Anchorage, Alaska 99519-6614
AREA CODE [907] 333-9561

SCHOOL BOARD

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President

Carol Stolpe
Vice President

Darryl Jordan
Clerk

Cabot Christianson
Treasurer

Vince Casey

Walter T. Featherly

Theresa Obermeyer

SUPERINTENDENT

Thomas C. O'Rourke

January 28, 1991

Ms. Maureen Christensen
2836 N. Circle
Anchorage, Alaska 99507

Dear Maureen:

Thank you for the copies of House Bill No. 81 and Senate Bill No. 40.

We at the Anchorage School District are very concerned that our employees, as well as all citizens, have proper protection in the area of health care services, and we are in full support of your efforts to obtain legislation concerning the proper protection in this area of health care.

We hope your efforts are successful, and we look forward to seeing the final legislation that is approved.

Sincerely,

Warren Dvorak, Manager
Benefits Department

bb

MAR 27 '91 13:31 DR. CASSELL

P.1

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PRACTICE OF PSYCHIATRY

WILFRED A. CASSELL, M.D., F.A.P.A., A.P.C.
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ANCHORAGE, ALASKA 99508

REPRESENTATIVES:

Ellis
Donley
Gruenberg
Parnell
Martin
Miller
Handley

Please pass House Bill #18—AS IS

Licenses for Marital and Family therapists, which ensures
protection for consumers.

This bill is approved by the Alaska Psychological Association
as well as the Alaska Social Workers Association.

Thanks



W.A. Cassell M. D.

To: Representatives: Donley
Gruenberg
Ellis (Chair)
Parnell
Martin
Miller
Handley

Please pass HB 18 regulating and providing licensure for marital and family counselors. This legislation is important for the protection of Alaskan families.

We urge you to pass this bill as is.

Thank You.

Maureen Christensen
Maureen Christensen M. Ed.

Linda Hunstiger
Linda Hunstiger MSW

Martha White
Martha White MSW LCSW