

ALASKA LEGISLATURE COMMITTEE FILES 1991-1992 8672
7383 SENATE HEALTH EDUCATION & SOCIAL SERVICES

CONTINUATION OF FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS - SB 40

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 Examiners, 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)

Constructual: \$ 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 licensing 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.

Alaska State Legislature

3111 C Street, Suite 150
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2038



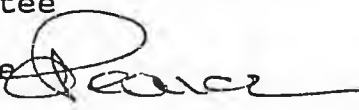
During Session:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4993

Senator Drue Pearce
District G

MEMORANDUM

*motion paper
forward note*

TO: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Senator Drue Pearce 

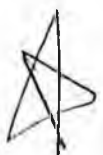
DATE: March 5, 1991

RE: SB 40, Practice of Marital and Family Therapy

SB 40 would establish 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. The Division of Occupational Licensing estimates that there are 40 practitioners who would qualify for licensure.

A family or couple who are referred for therapy are often in crisis and maybe extremely vulnerable to a therapist's guidance and influence. If not properly trained, a therapist could be a threat to at-risk individuals. Passage of this bill would be a step toward quality assurance for the public.

This bill will protect the public by providing standards and regulation for those who wish to become licensed marital and family therapy practitioners in the state.

 If SB 40 does not pass this session, the clients presently served by these practitioners will no longer qualify for public assistance reimbursement due to changes in the Medicaid regulations that require licensed providers.

It is important that SB 40 be passed this session.

Thank you.

DP:tej

Amendments attached

Alaska State Legislature

3111 C Street, Suite 150
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(907) 561-2038



Senator Drue Pearce
District G

During Session:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4993

*Very broad
What about standards
(social workers
under national?)*

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Senate HESS Committee

FROM: Senator Drue Pearce *Pearce*

DATE: January 22, 1991

RE: Requesting hearing for SB 40, Marital and Family
Therapists Regulation

Please consider scheduling SB 40, An Act regulating the practice of marital and family therapy; amending Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a)(3); and providing for an effective date, for a hearing as soon as possible.

SB 40 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. By providing these standards the public would be protected.

If SB 40 does not become law this year, a disruption of services will occur for the clients of Alaskan marital and family therapists. These clients will no longer qualify for public assistance reimbursement due to changes in the Medicaid regulations that require licensed providers. It is important that SB 40 be passed this session.

Please call me or Tally Johnson of my staff, if you have any questions.

DP:tej

Attachment

Alaska State Legislature

3111 C Street, Suite 150
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561 2038



During Session:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465 4993

Senator Drue Pearce
District C

MEMORANDUM

TO: ALL SENATORS
FROM: Senator Drue Pearce
DATE: April 17, 1991
RE: CSSB 40 (FIN), Practice of Marital and Family Therapy

CSSB 40 (FIN) would establish 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. The Division of Occupational Licensing estimates that there are 40 practitioners who would qualify for licensure.

A family or couple who are referred for therapy are often in crisis and maybe extremely vulnerable to a therapist's guidance and influence. If not properly trained, a therapist could be a threat to at-risk individuals. Passage of this bill would be a step toward quality assurance for the public.

This bill will protect the public by providing standards and regulation for those who wish to become licensed marital and family therapy practitioners in the state.

If CSSB 40 (FIN) does not pass this session, the clients presently served by these practitioners will no longer qualify for public assistance reimbursement due to changes in the Medicaid regulations that require licensed providers.

It is important that CSSB 40 (FIN) be passed this session.

I urge your support.

Thank you.

DP:tej

Alaska State Legislature

3111 C Street, Suite 150
Anchorage, Alaska 99503
(907) 561-2038



Senator
Shengulenski
SB40

During Session:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4993

Senator Drue Pearce
District G

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Pat Pourchot, Co-Chair
Senate Finance Committee

FROM: Senator Drue Pearce *DP by JCA*

DATE: April 10, 1991

RE: CSSB 40 (HESS) Amendments

CSSB 40 (HESS), Regulating the practice of marital and family therapy, is on the Senate Finance Committee calendar for Thursday, April 11th. I would like to offer the following amendments to the committee:

TO: CSSB 40 (HESS)

Amendment #1:

Page 2, line 11, Insert a new paragraph to read:

"(6) ensure that licensees are aware of the requirement of AS 47.17.020;"

Reletter accordingly

Page 3, line 19: delete "and"

Page 3, line 20, Insert a new subparagraph to read:

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

Reletter accordingly.

Explanation: Amendment #1 requires the board to confirm that licensees are aware of the requirements of the child reporting procedures of AS 47.17.020. This amendment would also require the licensee to have past training in domestic violence.

This concern was brought forth by Cindy Smith, Executive Director of Alaska Network on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault when she testified on HB 18. HB 18 contains this amendment. Their concern was marital and family therapists counsel people in family crisis. It is important that these counselors be trained to be aware that domestic violence is occurring within the family unit.

Amendment #2:

Page 2, line 29, Delete the words

"another mental health field, or the equivalent,"

Page 2, line 29, Insert preceding the word "from"

"or allied mental health field"

Page 3, line 22, Delete after the word "therapy,

", another mental health field, or its equivalent,"

Page 3, line 22, Insert after the word "therapy"

"or allied mental health field"

Explanation: Amendment #2 was suggested by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. (See attached letter). Senator Sturgulewski, Chair of the Senate HESS Committee, had asked me to follow through with this concern that was brought out in her committee.

This amendment would close a loop hole in the language by requiring the licensee to hold at a minimum a master's degree instead of "the equivalent" to a master's degree. The American AMFT felt the present language would allow the board to approve for licensing an applicant who had taken courses and workshops which the board felt were equivalent to the work of a master's degree.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to call me or Tally Johnson of my staff.

DP:tej

Attachment

cc: ✓ Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair, Senate HESS Committee



American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

April 9, 1991

Senator Drue Pearce
Alaska State Legislature
State Capitol
Juneau, AK 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) is pleased to endorse S.B. 40, to provide for the regulation of marriage and family therapists in the state of Alaska. In enacting this legislation, Alaska will be consistent with the current trend across the United States to regulate this profession. In the last five years the number of states which enacted such regulation has doubled--going from 11 to 22. Further, it is anticipated that between 3 and 5 states may enact legislation similar to that in S.B. 40 in 1991. AAMFT appreciates and respects your leadership in this area.

As we discussed with one of your staff, Tally Johnson, we would recommend a slight wording change in Article 2, Section 08.63.100. Specifically, in Section (a), Subsection (3)(B), we would recommend that the language read, "holds a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family therapy from a regionally accredited educational institution approved by the board, or a master's or doctorate in a related field approved by the board for which the person completed a course of study that included instruction substantially equivalent to the following . . ." We believe that this language would be more consistent with language in statute in other states by requiring, minimally a master's degree, rather than "the equivalent" to a master's degree, which might be allowed by the current language.

Additionally, to be consistent in language throughout the bill, a change would also have to be made in Section (b). This language would then read, "Under regulations adopted by the board, a person who holds a master's or doctorate degree in marital and family therapy or a related field from a regionally accredited educational institution approved by the board, but whose course of study did not include all the courses or clinical practice requirements set out in (a)(3)(B) of this section may substitute post-degree courses or practice, as approved by the board, to satisfy the requirements of (a)(3)(B) of this section." This change would reflect the requirement of a minimum of a master's degree to qualify for regulation as a marriage and family

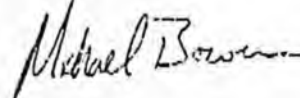
April 9, 1991
page 2

therapist, rather than "the equivalent of a master's degree," as might be construed from current language.

Further, we recommended one other change which might require comment. In the language above we added the word "regionally" to define what accredited educational institutions could issue degrees. This language is consistent with almost all state laws which regulate mental health professionals, and requires that the universities or colleges which grant the degrees to meet standards for educational processes, library holdings, etc. While this change would still allow for some "alternative" training, it would require the institutions which issue qualifying degrees to meet standards which have been deemed appropriate for graduate level training.

Again, AAMFT is pleased to endorse and support S.B. 40. We will be glad to provide further assistance as needed or appropriate. We appreciate the opportunity to provide these comments to you.

Sincerely,



Michael Bowers, M.A.
Associate Executive Director,
Professional Practice

ALASKA/TXTJMB

Alaska State Legislature

3111 C Street, Suite 150
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
(907) 561-2038



During Session:
P.O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811
(907) 465-4993

Senator Drue Pearce
District G

MEMORANDUM

TO: Kim Busch, Director
Division of Medical Assistance
Department of H&SS

FROM: Senator Drue Pearce *Drue Pearce*

DATE: March 6, 1991

RE: SB 40, Marital and Family Therapy

*Will
DHSS
DIED*

Questions were asked in the Senate HESS Committee about medicaid and federal requirements in regards to SB 40 which would regulate the practice of marital and family therapy.

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski and members of her committee would like you to address the following questions. Senator Sturgulewski is planning to hear this bill again early next week to review these concerns.

How does the medicaid payment presently work for marital and family clients?

How will medicaid payments work when the new state and federal regulations goes into effect? And if this bill passes?

What is the amount that the state pays for medicaid coverage for marital and family clients? A breakout of federal coverage also.

Who qualifies to receive medicaid coverage?

Do practitioners bill the clients or directly to Medicaid?

Does marital and family therapy need to be on the medicaid list in statutes in order to receive coverage? Or do they fall under "clinical services"? Does it need to be a separate bill?

Do federal medicaid requirements cover children for family therapy or psychological therapy?

Does recently federal law changes require us to make changes to our system?

Is psychiatric care going to be required under state regulations for marital and family therapy?

Does the new federal law require standards for licensure of marital and family therapists? Or is it left up to each state?

In advance, I thank you for your prompt reply.

DP:tej

cc: Senator Sturgulewski, Chair, Senate HESS Committee

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

STEVE COWPER, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX H-07
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0660
PHONE: (907) 465-3355

March 11, 1991

Senator Drue Pearce
Capital Building Room 101
P.O. Box V, M/S 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

The following are answers to the questions you had about SB 40 and Medicaid:

1. Medicaid now covers family or marriage therapy (group or individual counseling) provided by community mental health centers or in "physician's mental health clinics", which are practices in which an M.D. (usually a psychiatrist) supervises various staff with lesser credentials.
2. (a) When we implement the new state mental health regulations, they will restrict who can actually deliver the therapy in both types of service settings, and they will require a much more active, on-site supervision by the physician in physicians' clinics.

(b) When state regulations appear to implement the recent federal law change expanding services to Medicaid recipients under 21, it is our current intent to add licensed clinical psychologists and licensed clinical social workers as professions that can directly enroll and provide therapy, without the requirement that they work in a clinic setting under the supervision of an M.D.

(c) If SB 40 passes, it will have no effect on Medicaid. However, licensure is the first step toward being a Medicaid provider. Federal law allows states to opt to include any state-licensed medical providers. Once this profession wins licensure, it would be federally permissible to include them as providers of Medicaid services. This would have to be done by amending AS 47.07.030 and AS 47.07.035 to add them as an optional Medicaid service.

3. The state sets the rates for therapy, though the federal government can approve or reject the state's rate. Though the hourly rate varies by provider type and type of service, when the therapy is done under an M.D. in a clinic, reimbursement for individual therapy varies from \$90-\$115 per hour, with group therapy being 1/3 to 1/2 that rate. It is very difficult to determine the total amount spent on therapy, since any physician can provide therapy which is coded as being no different from a regular office visit.

4. About 50,000 Alaskans (about 38,000 of whom are under 21) qualify for Medicaid each year. There are dozens of ways to qualify, but in a general sense, a person qualifies by being:

Financially Needy , which means having from 77% to 133% of the Alaska federal poverty level in countable monthly family income (for a family of 3, this means between \$891 and \$1543 per month), and having no more than \$1000 in countable assets for families and not over \$2000 for single adults; and

Belonging to one of the following major categories:

- (a) Under 21, or
 - (b) Pregnant, or
 - (c) A needy caretaker relative (usually a parent) of a child under 19, or
 - (d) A child in the custody of the Department, or
 - (e) Over 65, or
 - (f) Blind, or
 - (g) Disabled
-
5. When a provider serves a Medicaid patient, they must first bill any insurance the recipient has, then bill Medicaid for the remainder. They cannot ever bill the patient for a Medicaid-covered service, even if Medicaid pays less than they would charge a private-pay patient.

 6. Eligible children can receive any medically necessary family or individual therapy, within the limits we prescribe by state regulation. (There are some federal limits on how restrictive state rules can be.)

Senator Drue Pearce
March 11, 1991
Page -3-

7. The federal changes mandated in OBRA '89 compel us to add an array of services for children which were, before this Act, optional services. This is a massive project for us, and for many other states that, like Alaska, had been cautious and modest in the number of Medicaid-optional services they had added. The Requirements Analysis stage of our planning produced over a linear shelf foot of planning documents, not including the data system programming itself.

Your questions were very comprehensive; to fully answer most of them would require a very lengthy response. I hope this "summary" response will be helpful in identifying for you those areas where you may wish to have more details.

Sincerely,



Kimberly B. Busch
Acting Director

KBB:GGL:jg

cc: ✓Senator Sturgulewski, Chair, Senate HESS Committee

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL ASSISTANCE

WALTER J. HICKEL, GOVERNOR

P.O. BOX H-07
JUNEAU, ALASKA 99811-0660
PHONE: (907) 465-3355

Senator Drue Pearce
Capitol Office Building, Room 101
P.O. Box V, M/S 3100
Juneau, Alaska 99811

March 20, 1991

Re: SB 40

Dear Senator Pearce:

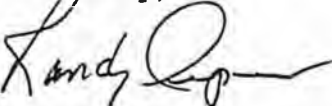
I apologize for the brevity of my recent written response to your question about how much Medicaid is currently paying for the services of marriage and family therapists. I did not intend that answer to appear evasive, but the fact is that no amount of research in our payment records can produce the answer to your question.

Senator Sturgulewski's 3/19/91 surmise as to the cause of our inability to respond was exactly correct: The nature of the physician's clinic structure doesn't show us the actual provider of service. A good analogy is a local pediatric practice: only the pediatrician himself is enrolled as the provider. We know from personal experience that he employs one or two registered nurses and a part-time advanced nurse practitioner. Who actually serves a child is a function of licensure rules, who is available, and the patient's needs. But the billing to Medicaid (or to Aetna and most other payors) always shows only that the physician provided the service.

From reviews, anecdotal information, and from some excellent testimony we received during our recent Mental Health regulation hearings, we know that there are a few marriage and family therapists who have some degree of professional association with a physician and have been receiving, through that physician, indirect reimbursement from Medicaid. We cannot know how many, or how much they receive.

I hope this answers your question better than did my original letter.

Sincerely,



KBB Kimberly B. Busch
Acting Director

KBB:GGL:jg

cc: ✓ Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Health, Ed. & Social Services

Representative Max Gruenberg

FAX COVER SHEET

DATE: 27 Mar 91

TIME: 9:10

TO:

Legal Services:
Please prepare CS
SB 40 (HESS) w
following amendments

FROM:

Senator Sturgulewski's Office

Melissa Fouse

Pouch V, Juneau, Alaska 99811

907-465-3818

FAX 907-465-3810

This cover sheet plus 5 pages

A M E M D M E N T

#1

OFFERED IN THE SENATE HESS COMMITTEE

BY SENATOR PEARCE
3/4/91

TO: SB 40

OK Page 2, line 1, following "may":

Insert "only"

A M E N D M E N T

#2

OFFERED IN THE SENATE HESS COMMITTEE

BY SENATOR PEARCE
3/4/91

TO: SB 40

Page 3, line 24, following "section":

Delete: "expires two years from the date of issuance."

Insert: "shall be renewed biennially by the applicant on a *OK*
date set by the department and approved by the
board."

Page 3, line 24, following "It":

Delete: "may"

Insert: "shall" *OK*

A M E N D M E N T

#3

OFFERED IN THE SENATE HESS COMMITTEE

BY SENATOR PEARCE
3/4/91

TO: SB 40

Page 7, line 29

Delete: "Section 5. AS 21.88.900 (10)"

(page 7, lines, 29-31 and page 8, lines 1-8)

A M E N D M E N T

#4

OFFERED IN THE SENATE HESS COMMITTEE

BY SENATOR PEARCE
3/4/91

TO: SB 40

Page 9, line ~~29~~ 31

Delete: "Section 11"

(delete effective date)

SENATE HESS COMMITTEE

AMENDMENT
SENATE BILL 40

#5

Page 3, Line 1:

(i) (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours) courses in marital and family therapy:

(ii) (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours) courses in marital and family studies;

(iii) (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours) courses in human development

(iv) (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours) in professional studies or professional ethics;

and (v) (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours) in research;

Alaska State Legislature

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Office of the Chief Clerk

MESSAGE TO THE SENATE

14-2
no { Fincher
Helford

May 16, 1991

Mr. President:

The House has passed CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 40 (FINANCE) with the following amendment:

HOUSE CS FOR CS FOR SENATE BILL NO. 40 (FINANCE)
"An Act regulating the practice of marital and family therapy and amending Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a)(3)."

and it is transmitted for consideration.

House adopted Senate Finance Letter of Intent

Concur ?

Copier
Sen. Eliason
Sen. Hayward
Sen. Zhangoff
Sen. Pearson
Sen. Pouchot
Sen. Wittke

Kristen Gray

CHIEF CLERK OF THE HOUSE

No reference to National Standards

7-LS0180A

Medicaid
22 states
ref. marital &
family therapy
7 states also
conducting
regulation

SENATE BILL NO. 40

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR PEARCE

Introduced: 1/21/91

Referred: HESS, Judiciary and Finance

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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 ^{only} may remove a
2 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) establish standards for supervisors and supervision under this chapter;

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

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

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

20 **ARTICLE 2. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSES.**

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

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

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

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

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

28 (B) holds a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family therapy,
29 another mental health field, or the equivalent, from an accredited educational institution
30 approved by the board for which the person completed a course of study that included
31 instruction substantially equivalent to the following;

- 1 (i) courses in marital and family therapy;
2 (ii) courses in marital and family studies;
3 (iii) courses in human development;
4 (iv) a course in professional studies or professional ethics and law;
5 (v) a course in research; and
6 (vi) one year of supervised clinical practice in marital and family
7 therapy;

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

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

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

15 (D) has passed a written or oral examination administered by the board.

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

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

24 (d) A license issued under this section ~~expires two years from the date of issuance.~~ *shall be renewed biennially*
25 *shall* ~~may~~ be renewed by payment of the fee established under AS 08.01.065 and by satisfaction of
26 the continuing education requirements established by the board for the renewal of licenses issued
27 under this section.

28 Sec. 08.63.110. LICENSE FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE. (a) The board shall issue
29 a four-year license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy to a person who
30 meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A) - (B).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) be licensed under this chapter; and

17 (3) meet the minimum standards established by the board for approved
18 supervisors.

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

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

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

29 Sec. 08.63.140. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall issue a license to
30 practice marital and family therapy to a person who

31 (1) is licensed or certified for the practice of marital and family therapy in another

1 state that has requirements for the license or certificate that are substantially equal to or greater
2 than the requirements of this state; and

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

4 ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

23 (4) "department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
24 Development;

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

29 (A) the professional application of assessments and treatments of
30 psychotherapeutic services to individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of treating
31 the diagnosed emotional and mental disorders;

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

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

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

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

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

11 (a) An acupuncturist licensed under AS 08.06, an audiologist licensed under AS 08.11,
12 a person licensed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a dentist under AS 08.36, a
13 marital and family therapist licensed under AS 08.63, a medical practitioner or osteopath
14 under AS 08.64, a registered nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist under AS 08.72, a registered
15 pharmacist under AS 08.80, a physical therapist or occupational therapist licensed under AS 08.-
16 84, a psychologist under AS 08.86, or a clinical social worker licensed under AS 08.95, shall use
17 as professional identification appropriate letters or a title after that person's name which repre-
18 sents that person's specific field of practice. The letters or title shall appear on all signs,
19 stationery, or other advertising in which the person offers or displays personal professional
20 services to the public. In addition, a person engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathy
21 under AS 08.64.380 or a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who diagnoses, treats,
22 tests, or counsels other persons in relation to human health or disease and uses the letters "M.D."
23 or the title "doctor" or "physician" or another title that tends to show that the person is willing
24 or qualified to diagnose, treat, test, or counsel another person, shall clarify the letters or title by
25 adding the appropriate specialist designation, if any, such as "dermatologist", "radiologist",
26 "audiologist", "naturopath", or the like.

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

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

29 ~~* Sec. 5. AS 21.88.900(10) is amended to read:~~

*Delete
Med. Ca
Annuity*

30 (10) ~~"health care provider" means an acupuncturist licensed under AS 08.06; an~~
31 ~~audiologist licensed under AS 08.11; a chiropractor licensed under AS 08.20; a dental hygienist~~

1 ~~licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist licensed under AS 08.36; a marital and family therapist~~
2 licensed under AS 08.63; a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing optician licensed under
3 AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under AS 08.72; a pharmacist licensed under AS 08.80; a
4 physical therapist or occupational therapist licensed under AS 08.84; a physician licensed under
5 AS 08.64; a podiatrist; a psychologist and a psychological associate licensed under AS 08.86; a
6 hospital as defined in AS 18.20.130, including a governmentally owned or operated hospital; a
7 corporate entity covered under AS 21.88.050(b)(11); ~~an employee of a health care provider acting~~
8 ~~within the course and scope of employment;~~

9 * Sec. 6. AS 44.62.330(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

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

11 * Sec. 7. AS 47.17.290(13) is amended to read:

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

19 * Sec. 8. Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a) is amended to read:

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

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

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

25 (3) A psychotherapist is (A) a person authorized to practice medicine in any state
26 or nation, or reasonably believed by the patient so to be, while engaged in the diagnosis or
27 treatment of a mental or emotional condition, including alcohol or drug addiction, [OR] (B) a
28 person licensed or certified as a psychologist or psychological examiner under the laws of any
29 state or nation or reasonably believed by the patient to so be, while similarly engaged, or (C) a
30 person licensed as a marital or family therapist under the laws of a state or nation or
31 reasonably believed by the patient to so be, while similarly engaged.

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

6 * Sec. 9. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. (a) In making the initial appointments of professional
7 members to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, the governor shall consider a person licensed for
8 the purpose of AS 08.63.010, added by sec. 1 of this Act, if the person would be entitled to a license
9 under sec. 10 of this Act. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall issue a license to practice
10 marital and family therapy to the professional members appointed under this section.

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

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

14 * Sec. 10. TRANSITIONAL LICENSING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of
15 this Act, the Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall issue a license to practice marital and family
16 therapy to a person who

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

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

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

20 in

21 (A) marital and family therapy or another mental health field; or

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

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

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

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

31 ~~* Sec. 11. AS 08.63.220, added by sec. 1 of this Act, takes effect July 1, 1992.~~

*Dept of Commerce
90 days until
7/1/92
SB 40*

*No reference to National Standards -
only standards set by the board.*

SENATE BILL NO. 40

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY SENATOR PEARCE

Introduced: 1/21/91 *LPC*

Referred: HESS, Judiciary and Finance

*Copy OK
adp: S
APPOINTMENTS*

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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 ^{OK only} remove a
2 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) establish standards for supervisors and supervision under this chapter;
12 (7) report annually to the governor and the department on the board's proceedings
13 each year; the report must include the number of licensure applicants, the number of
14 examinations conducted, the failure rate for each examination, a financial report, and other
15 information requested by the department;
16 (8) enforce the provisions of this chapter and adopt regulations necessary to carry
17 out its duties under this chapter.

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

20 ARTICLE 2. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSES.

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

- 23 (1) applies on a form provided by the board;
24 (2) pays the fee established under AS 08.01.065;
25 (3) furnishes evidence satisfactory to the board that the person
26 (A) has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for imposing disciplinary
27 sanctions under AS 08.63.210;
28 (B) holds a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family therapy,
29 another mental health field, or the equivalent, from an accredited educational institution
30 approved by the board for which the person completed a course of study that included
31 instruction substantially equivalent to the following:

- 1 (i) courses in marital and family therapy;
2 (ii) courses in marital and family studies;
3 (iii) courses in human development;
4 (iv) a course in professional studies or professional ethics and law;
5 (v) a course in research; and
6 (vi) one year of supervised clinical practice in marital and family
7 therapy;

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

- 9 (i) practiced marital and family therapy within three years of the
10 person's application, including 1,500 hours of direct clinical contact with couples
11 and families; and *9 am FT 1,000 hours - upgraded*
12 (ii) been supervised in the clinical contact for at least 200 hours,
13 including 100 hours of individual supervision and 100 hours of group supervision
14 approved by the board; and

15 (D) has passed a written or oral examination administered by the board.

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

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

24 (d) A license issued under this section ~~expires two years from the date of issuance.~~ *shall be renewed biennially by*
25 *applicant on date set by the department and approved by the board.* ~~may~~ be renewed by payment of the fee established under AS 08.01.065 and by satisfaction of
26 the continuing education requirements established by the board for the renewal of licenses issued
27 under this section. *\$300*

28 Sec. 08.63.110. LICENSE FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE. (a) The board shall issue
29 a four-year license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy to a person who
30 meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A) - (B).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) be licensed under this chapter; and

17 (3) meet the minimum standards established by the board for approved
18 supervisors.

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

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

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

29 Sec. 08.63.140. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall issue a license to
30 practice marital and family therapy to a person who

31 (1) is licensed or certified for the practice of marital and family therapy in another

1 state that has requirements for the license or certificate that are substantially equal to or greater
2 than the requirements of this state; and

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

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8 capacity. This section does not apply to

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

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12 reveal;

13 (3) information released to the board as part of a disciplinary or other proceeding;
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15 (4) situations where the rules of evidence applicable to the psychotherapist-patient
16 privilege allow the release of the information.

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

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

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22 After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction under AS 08.01.075 on a person
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26 providing professional services or engaging in professional activities;

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

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

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31 this chapter, or an order of the board;

1 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to

2 (A) professional incompetence;

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7 corporate entity covered under AS 21.88.050(b)(11); an employee of a health care provider acting
8 ~~within the course and scope of employment;~~

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12 issued under AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of this Act.

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

14 * Sec. 10. TRANSITIONAL LICENSING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of
15 this Act, the Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall issue a license to practice marital and family
16 therapy to a person who

- 17 (1) applies for a license before July 1, 1992;
18 (2) satisfies the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1) - (3)(A), added by sec. 1 of this Act;
19 (3) holds a master's or doctorate degree from an accredited educational institution either

20 in

21 (A) marital and family therapy or another mental health field; or

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

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

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

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

31 ~~* Sec. 11. AS 08.63.220, added by sec. 1 of this Act, takes effect July 1, 1992.~~

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7-LS0268A ✓
Luckhaupt
12/10/90

HOUSE BILL NO.

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

SEVENTEENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION

BY REPRESENTATIVE GRUENBERG

Introduced:
Referred:

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

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

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.

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

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1 ~~Sec. 08.63.040. REMOVAL OF BOARD MEMBERS. The governor may remove a~~
2 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) establish standards for supervisors and supervision under this chapter;

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

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

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

20 ARTICLE 2. MARITAL AND FAMILY THERAPY LICENSES.

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

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

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

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

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

28 (B) holds a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family therapy,
29 another mental health field, or the equivalent, from an accredited educational institution
30 approved by the board for which the person completed a course of study that included
31 instruction substantially equivalent to the following;

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- 1 (i) courses in marital and family therapy;
 2 (ii) courses in marital and family studies;
 3 (iii) courses in human development;
 4 (iv) a course in professional studies or professional ethics and law;
 5 (v) a course in research; and
 6 (vi) ~~one year of supervised clinical practice in marital and family~~
 7 therapy;

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

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

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

15 (D) has passed a written or oral examination administered by the board.

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

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

24 (d) A license issued under this section expires two years from the date of issuance. It
 25 may be renewed by payment of the fee established under AS 08.01.065 and by satisfaction of
 26 the continuing education requirements established by the board for the renewal of licenses issued
 27 under this section.

28 Sec. 08.63.110. LICENSE FOR SUPERVISED PRACTICE. (a) The board shall issue
 29 a four-year license for the supervised practice of marital and family therapy to a person who
 30 meets the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1), (2), and (3)(A) - (B).

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

16 (2) be licensed under this chapter; and

17 (3) meet the minimum standards established by the board for approved
18 supervisors.

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

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

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

29 Sec. 08.63.140. LICENSURE BY CREDENTIALS. The board shall issue a license to
30 practice marital and family therapy to a person who

31 (1) is licensed or certified for the practice of marital and family therapy in another

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1 state that has requirements for the license or certificate that are substantially equal to or greater
2 than the requirements of this state; and

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

4 **ARTICLE 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS.**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

21 **Sec. 08.63.210. GROUNDS FOR IMPOSITION OF DISCIPLINARY SANCTIONS.**

22 After a hearing, the board may impose a disciplinary sanction under AS 08.01.075 on a person
23 licensed under this chapter when the board finds that the person

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

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

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

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

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

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- 1 (6) continued to practice after becoming unfit due to
- 2 (A) professional incompetence;
- 3 (B) addiction or severe dependency on alcohol or another drug that impairs
- 4 the person's ability to practice safely;
- 5 (7) engaged in unethical conduct in connection with the delivery of professional
- 6 services to clients.

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

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

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

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

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

23 (4) "department" means the Department of Commerce and Economic
 24 Development;

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

- 29 (A) the professional application of assessments and treatments of
- 30 psychotherapeutic services to individuals, couples, and families for the purpose of treating
- 31 the diagnosed emotional and mental disorders;

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

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

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

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

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

11 (a) An acupuncturist licensed under AS 08.06, an audiologist licensed under AS 08.11,
 12 a person licensed in the state as a chiropractor under AS 08.20, a dentist under AS 08.36, a
 13 marital and family therapist licensed under AS 08.63, a medical practitioner or osteopath
 14 under AS 08.64, a registered nurse under AS 08.68, an optometrist under AS 08.72, a registered
 15 pharmacist under AS 08.80, a physical therapist or occupational therapist licensed under AS 08.
 16 84, a psychologist under AS 08.86, or a clinical social worker licensed under AS 08.95, shall use
 17 as professional identification appropriate letters or a title after that person's name which repre-
 18 sents that person's specific field of practice: The letters or title shall appear on all signs,
 19 stationery, or other advertising in which the person offers or displays personal professional
 20 services to the public. In addition, a person engaged in the practice of medicine or osteopathy
 21 under AS 08.64.380 or a person engaged in any manner in the healing arts who diagnoses, treats,
 22 tests, or counsels other persons in relation to human health or disease and uses the letters "M.D."
 23 or the title "doctor" or "physician" or another title that tends to show that the person is willing
 24 or qualified to diagnose, treat, test, or counsel another person, shall clarify the letters or title by
 25 adding the appropriate specialist designation, if any, such as "dermatologist", "radiologist",
 26 "audiologist", "naturopath", or the like.

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

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

29 * Sec. 5. AS 21.88.900(10) is amended to read:

30 (10) "health care provider" means an acupuncturist licensed under AS 08.06; an
 31 audiologist licensed under AS 08.11; a chiropractor licensed under AS 08.20; a dental hygienist

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1 licensed under AS 08.32; a dentist licensed under AS 08.36; a marital and family therapist
 2 licensed under AS 08.63; a nurse licensed under AS 08.68; a dispensing optician licensed under
 3 AS 08.71; an optometrist licensed under AS 08.72; a pharmacist licensed under AS 08.80; a
 4 physical therapist or occupational therapist licensed under AS 08.84; a physician licensed under
 5 AS 08.64; a podiatrist; a psychologist and a psychological associate licensed under AS 08.86; a
 6 hospital as defined in AS 18.20.130, including a governmentally owned or operated hospital; a
 7 corporate entity covered under AS 21.88.050(b)(11); an employee of a health care provider acting
 8 within the course and scope of employment;

9 * Sec. 6. AS 44.02.000(a) is amended by adding a new paragraph to read:

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

11 * Sec. 7. AS 47.17.000(13) is amended to read:

12 (13) "practitioner of the healing arts" includes chiropractors, mental health
 13 counselors, dental hygienists, dentists, health aides, nurses, nurse practitioners, occupational
 14 therapists, occupational therapy assistants, ~~chiropractors, osteopaths, acupuncturists, physical thera-~~
 15 ~~pists, physical therapy assistants, physicians, physician's assistants, psychiatrists, psychologists,~~
 16 ~~psychological associates, audiologists licensed under AS 08.11, hearing aid dealers licensed under~~
 17 ~~AS 08.55, marital and family therapists licensed under AS 08.63, religious healing~~
 18 ~~practitioners, acupuncturists, and surgeons;~~

19 * Sec. 8. Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a) is amended to read:

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

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

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

25 (3) A psychotherapist is (A) a person authorized to practice medicine in any state
 26 or nation, or reasonably believed by the patient so to be, while engaged in the diagnosis or
 27 treatment of a mental or emotional condition, including alcohol or drug addiction, [OR] (B) a
 28 person licensed or certified as a psychologist or psychological examiner under the laws of any
 29 state or nation or reasonably believed by the patient to so be, while similarly engaged, or (C) a
 30 person licensed as a marital or family therapist under the laws of a state or nation or
 31 reasonably believed by the patient to so be, while similarly engaged.

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

6 * ~~Sec 9~~ INITIAL APPOINTMENTS (a) In making the initial appointments of professional
 7 members to the Board of Marital and Family Therapy, the governor shall consider a person licensed for
 8 the purpose of AS 08.63.010, added by sec. 1 of this Act, if the person would be entitled to a license
 9 under sec. 10 of this Act. The Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall issue a license to practice
 10 marital and family therapy to the professional members appointed under this section.

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

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

14 * ~~Sec. 10.~~ TRANSITIONAL LICENSING. (a) Notwithstanding AS 08.63.100, added by sec. 1 of
 15 this Act, the Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall ~~issue a license to practice marital and family~~
 16 therapy to a person who

- 17 (1) applies for a license before July 1, 1992;
- 18 (2) satisfies the requirements of AS 08.63.100(a)(1) - (3)(A), added by sec. 1 of this Act;
- 19 (3) holds a master's or doctorate degree from an accredited educational institution either
 20 in

- 21 (A) marital and family therapy or ~~another mental health field; or~~
- 22 (B) an appropriate course of study approved by the board; and

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

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

27 ~~(c) The Board of Marital and Family Therapy shall license the requirements of (a) of~~
 28 this section for the purposes of licensing as a marital and family therapy professional every person who
 29 merits licensing by virtue of the person's education, training, and experience in the field of marital and
 30 family therapy.

31 * Sec. 11. AS 08 63 220, added by sec. 1 of this Act, takes effect July 1, 1992.

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1 * Sec. 12. Except as provided in sec. 11 of this Act, this Act takes effect July 1, 1991.

POSITION PAPER

Senate Bill 40

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

This Act would provide for the state licensure of marriage and family therapists. By itself, the licensure of this new medical professional group will have no fiscal or program effect on the Medicaid program.

However, state licensure is a necessary first step toward entry in to the Medicaid program, in one of two ways:

1. Under department regulations, licensed mental health professionals, under the direction of psychiatrists or other appropriate terminal-degreed professionals, may perform services for Medicaid-eligible persons, for which their physician's mental health clinic or community mental health clinic will be reimbursed. Provided our regulations are revised to specify their inclusion, licensed marriage and family therapists could receive this indirect reimbursement.

Federal Medicaid rules require the Medicaid program to have policies guaranteeing quality of care. Alaska, like most other states, generally restrict service providers to licensed personnel, since the licensure mechanism is the first (and best) guarantee of quality of care.

2. If the Legislature subsequently decides to amend AS 47.07.030 and AS 47.07.035 to add marriage and family therapists as a Medicaid optional coverage, these professionals who choose to practice independent of a clinic environment will be able to enroll directly and receive reimbursement, without a physician or clinician's supervision.

This step can only be accomplished after licensure, since federal Medicaid law and regulation prevent states from enrolling independent practitioners who are not licensed.

The Legislature will undoubtedly receive ample testimony from the therapists about their need for, and qualifications for, licensure status. We would like to sacrifice politeness for honesty and remind the Legislature that the concept of professional licensure is valid primarily to protect the public, not to advantage the professions. In our view, there is a need for more mental health

practitioners and services in Alaska, but only if the public has a basic guarantee that these services will be safe and effective. Frankly, the quality of unlicensed mental health practitioners is very uneven in Alaska.

In testimony last Fall on its package of Medicaid mental health regulation amendments, the department received testimony, both oral and written, from marriage and family therapists, and it also received exhibits concerning their national association and its standards. The department's staff of mental health professionals have also presented their personal views on those materials and on what they have observed in the way this profession practices. We are impressed at marriage and family therapists' professional standards. We support their efforts to seek the fuller recognition that professional licensure brings.

Recommended by:

Kimberly B. Busch
For: Kimberly B. Busch
Acting Director
Div. of Medical Assistance

Date:

3/22/91

Approved by:

Theodore A. Mala
Theodore A. Mala, MD, MPH
Commissioner

Date:

23 / March / 1991

SB 40: "An Act regulating the practice of marital and family therapy; amending Alaska Rule of Evidence 504(a)(3); and providing for an effective date."

SB 40 creates a five member board to regulate the practice of marital and family therapy. The bill establishes qualifications for licensure which include: showing proof that the individual has not engaged in conduct that is a ground for disciplinary sanctions; proof of a master's degree or doctorate in marital and family therapy, or the equivalent mental health field; and practical experience. The bill also provides for supervised practice to obtain the necessary clinical contact experience, a temporary license for examination candidates, and a provision for licensure by credentials.

Information on file indicates there are approximately 40 practitioners who would qualify for licensure upon passage of the bill. Generally, the department does not support creation of a board for small numbers of practitioners. The costs involved in establishing a five member board including a portion of administrative overhead expenses are usually greater than the small number of licensees can support through licensing fees. Therefore, licensees must either be willing to pay relatively high fees or seek support from the general fund.

To hold costs to a minimum the department suggests other alternatives be considered, for example, licensing without a board where licensing requirements would be administered by the Division of Occupational Licensing; or, combining with an existing board, such as the Board of Psychologist and Psychological Associate Examiners or the Board of Clinical Social Workers.

The department is also concerned with Section 08.63.100(d) of the bill which states: "A license issued under this section expires two years from the date of issuance." Most licenses expire every two years, however, licenses expire on a specific date, and not on a staggered renewal process. There are far too many licenses issued by the division to track licensees on a staggered renewal cycle. Therefore, the department recommends the deletion of "[from the date of issuance]."

In summary, the department supports the licensing of marital and family therapists, but expresses concern over establishment of a new five member board for the small number of potential licensees; and recommends the change be made to Section 08.63.100(d) as mentioned above.



Glenn A. Olds, Commissioner

Date: 3-22-91

To Arless
 Date 3/25 Time 3:55 PM

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Bob Nelson

of _____

Phone No. 563-3341

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
WAS IN TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL BACK	<input type="checkbox"/>
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT	<input type="checkbox"/>
RETURNED YOUR CALL		<input type="checkbox"/>

Message _____

re: SB 40
 - Sen. Pearce's ofc
 asked him to
 call you

Operator _____

- Q - 1 - do not use diagnostic drugs
- 2 - use of diagnostic drugs
- 3 - { use pharmaceutical agents
 { Removal of foreign bodies

72 - 42% can use

Post-It™ telephone message pad 7660

To Melissa Fouse

Date 3/26 Time 11:55

WHILE YOU WERE OUT

M Michael Bowers

of AAUFT

Phone No. (202) 452-0109

TELEPHONED	PLEASE CALL <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
WAS IN TO SEE YOU	WILL CALL BACK
WANTS TO SEE YOU	URGENT
RETURNED YOUR CALL	

Message _____

Operator _____

11:00

John
from Rep Donley
3897

Michael Bawa
(202) 452 0109

DR
AAHIT

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FAX (907) 463-5223



Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

a division of The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, Inc.
2550 Denali Street, Suite 805, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (907) 272-2083

21 March 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski, Chair
Senate Health, Education and Social Services Committee
Alaska State Senate
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

Senator Drew Pearce's office has asked me to share some background information with you regarding SB 40, regarding the regulation of marriage and family therapists in Alaska. It is my understanding that you have some questions about (1) national standards for marriage and family therapists and (2) resources for examining marriage and family therapists who would apply for licensing by the State.

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy is the professional certifying body for marriage and family therapists in both the United States and Canada. The organization has only one designation, Clinical Member, that certifies that a person is academically, ethically, experientially, and supervisorially qualified to practice marriage and family therapy. To achieve that level of certification, one must meet the following requirements academic and supervision requirements:

- (1) Hold a master's or doctoral degree in marital and family therapy from an accredited graduate institution. Course work must include: (a) 3 courses in marital and family studies, (b) 3 courses in marital and family therapy, (c) 3 courses in human development, personality theory, human sexuality, and/or behavior-pathology, (d) 3 courses in professional studies, including legal responsibilities, inter-professional relations, ethics, and family law, (e) 1 course in research design, methods, and statistics in marital and family studies and therapy, (f) 1 year clinical practicum, including assessment, diagnosis, and treatment.
- (2) Have a minimum of two years professional work experience in marital and family therapy and supervision following the awarding of the above degree and practicum experience.
- (3) Successfully complete at least 200 hours of supervision of 1,000 hours of marital and family therapy conducted in face-to-face contact with couples and families. A minimum of 100 of the 200 hours of supervision must be in individual supervision. Supervision must be provided by AAMFT Approved Supervisors unless they are not available within 50 miles distance, in which case alternative supervision is considered.

AAMFT sets very high standards for Clinical Members. You will note that SB 40 has some similarities in academic and supervision requirements to AAMFT. However, there are some differences as well. SB 40 does not specify the number of courses to be required in each category; this was left to the discretion of the State Board of Marital and Family Therapy. The hours of supervision following the completion of degree and practicum work are not the same in the bill as those of AAMFT. There is also provision on page 3, lines 16 - 21, for persons who hold master's or doctoral degrees in "another mental health field, or its equivalent, but whose course of study did not include all the courses or clinical practice requirements set out [in the bill] (to) substitute post-degree courses or

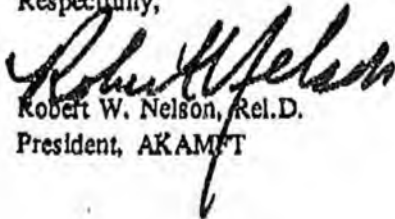
President Robert W. Nelson, Ph.D. + + President-Elect Timothy Sander, M.Ed. + + Secretary Sara Griffith, M.Ed.
Treasurer Lowell Roddy, M.Ed. + + Board Member Rhoda Vander Voort, M.A. + + Board Member Phillip S. Kloss, Ph.D.
Board Member Richard Stenbakken, M.A. + + Student/Associate Representative to Board Martin Garrigues, M.S.

licensing by the State through approved workshops, seminars, and special courses which can easily be made available.

Concerning resources for examination of applicants for licensing as "Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist" under the provisions of SB 40, there is an "Examination in Marital and Family Therapy" now available nationwide and is presently being used by all 22 states that have regulatory statutes. The examination was developed by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards in association with Professional Examination Service, Inc. (475 Riverside Drive, New York, New York 10115). Use of such an examination removed staff time and expense from the State of Alaska. An applicant for licensing would simply pay a fee to, and take the examination administered by, the Professional Examination Service, Inc. The results would, then, be certified and released to the State of Alaska Board of Marital and Family Therapy.

I hope that this information is helpful. The American Association for Marital and Family Therapy firmly believes in, and advocates for, the regulation of marital and family therapists in order that high standards can be maintained and thereby the consumer safeguarded. If there is further information that I can furnish to you and your committee, please call on me.

Respectfully,


Robert W. Nelson, Rel.D.
President, AKAMFT



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

5 March 1991

Senator Arliss Sturgulewski
Alaska State Senate
P. O. Box V
Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Sturgulewski:

I appreciated the opportunity to testify this morning before the Senate HESS Committee. Your committee will be taking action on SB 40, sponsored by Senator Drew Pearce concerning the regulating of marriage and family therapists soon. I would like to urge you to support this important piece of legislation in your role as Chair of that committee as you have in the past.

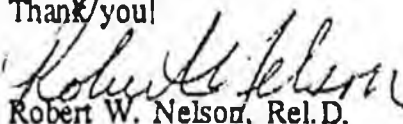
The Alaska Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy has worked long and hard for this legislation that, if and when it becomes law in Alaska, will be a first-step in protecting the mental health consumers seeking marriage or family therapy. It will also be a step in bringing about much-needed equity between mental health professionals in Alaska.

As you know, the State of Alaska presently regulates psychiatrists, psychiatric nurses, clinical psychologists, psychological associates and clinical social workers. The only clearly defined mental health field that is not presently licensed and regulated by the State of Alaska is marriage and family therapy. At the same time, marriage and family therapy is the preferred treatment modality for many of the problems facing marriages and families in our communities, and those who are specialized to provide that treatment are not regulated. The mental health consumer does not have a public agency that sets standards for the practice and does not regulate who is trained to provide quality services. At a time when the consumer is under marital or family distress, s/he is not in an optimum position to make such decisions. And, there are many, many persons across Alaska at this time who are offering marriage and family therapy services who simply do not have training to do so. This legislation will establish academic, clinical, ethical and supervisory standards and the means to regulate them.

As you heard this morning, there is some urgency about this legislation. The Division of Medical Services will produce new Medicaid regulations this June which will require marriage and family therapists to be licensed by the State of Alaska. Like our Association, the State Division of Medical Services is supportive of SB 40 so as to ensure quality treatment services to Medicaid patients. This bill is necessary to guarantee continuation of marriage and family therapy services under the new regulations. A number of Clinical Members of our Association have been Medicaid providers for many years and will no longer be able to provide such services without passage of SB 40.

I am available to provide additional information about our Association and the field of marriage and family therapy. Please feel free to contact me at 563-3341. I urge your positive action and support of SB 40.

Thank you!


Robert W. Nelson, Rel.D.

President Robert W. Nelson, Rel.D. + + President-Elect Timothy Bander, M.Ed. + + Secretary Sara Griffith, M.Ed.
Treasurer Lowell Roddy, M.Ed. + + Board Member Rhoda Vander Voort, M.A. + + Board Member Phillip S. Kloss, Ph.D.
Board Member Richard Stenbakken, M.A. + + Student/Associate Representative to Board Martin Garriques, M.S.

FEB 1 1991



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

Tal

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 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.

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

President Robert W. Nelson, Rel.D. ++ President-Elect Timothy Sander, M.Ed. ++ Secretary Sara Griffith, M.Ed.
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Board Member Richard Stenbakken, M.A. ++ Student/Associate Representative to Board Martin Garriques, M.S.

AAMFT MEMBERSHIP REQUIREMENTS

CLINICAL MEMBERSHIP

Education

Master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and an equivalent course of study as defined by the AAMFT Board of Directors.

Equivalent Course of Study

For all applicants who have completed a degree program from a regionally accredited institution which is not accredited by AAMFT's Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, coursework is subject to review by the Membership Committee. Meeting the educational qualifications consists of the completion of a course of study substantially equivalent to the following curriculum:

- **Marriage and Family Studies (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)** - Coursework may include introductory systems theory, family development, family systems, special family issues, gender and cultural issues, all with a major focus from a systems theory orientation.
- **Marriage and Family Therapy (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)** - Coursework may include advanced systems theory/interventions, major systemic marriage/family treatment approaches (structural, strategic, neoanalytic [object relations], behavioral marriage/family therapy, communications, sex therapy, etc.)
- **Human Development (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)** - Coursework may include human development (normal and abnormal), personality theory, human sexuality, psychopathology-abnormal behavior, preferably integrated with systems theory.
- **Professional Studies (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours)** - This area focuses on professional ethics as a therapist, including legal and ethical responsibilities/liabilities, family law, etc.
- **Research (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours)** - This area is designed to provide assistance to students in becoming informed consumers of research in the marital and family therapy world.
- **Clinical Practicum (1 year, 300 hours)** - Face-to-face contact with individuals, couples and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

Curriculum Equivalencies for Pre-1979 Graduates

Applicants who have earned their first qualifying graduate degree prior to or in 1979 may document coursework equivalency in the following manner:

Workshops/Seminars - Forty-five attendance hours of relevant content equals one three-credit semester or one four-credit quarter course. Documentation should be arranged by coursework area on the application (Human Development, etc.) and should include content covered by each workshop, date, title, presenter, number of hours attended and certificate of attendance (CEUs are not acceptable) or descriptive material, if available.

Graduate Courses Taught - One graduate level course taught on a related subject equals one three-credit semester or one four-credit quarter course. Documentation should include a copy of the course syllabus.

AAMFT HANDBOOK CONTINUED

Publications Written: Documentation for books written should include a copy of the title page, table of contents and bibliography. Documentation for journal articles written should include the title of the article, date of publication and publication name.

Experience: Documentation should include current resume or curriculum vita and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Clinical Experience

Minimum of two (2) years professional work experience in marriage and family therapy and supervision following receipt of the first qualifying graduate degree and the practicum required as part of the course of study.

Also, applicants must document successful completion of at least 200 hours of supervision on a minimum of 1,000 hours of marital and family therapy conducted in face-to-face contact with couples and families. Only supervised clinical contact may be credited for this requirement. At least 100 of the 200 hours of supervision must be individual supervision.

Applicants who have completed programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education may count all supervision and clinical hours completed during the program on a one-to-five ratio. This supervision may be documented on a report form by the program director and must meet the requirements outlined above.

Supervision must be provided by AAMFT Approved Supervisors. Lists of AAMFT Approved Supervisors, by state or province, are available from the Membership Department. If AAMFT Approved Supervisors are not available within 50 miles or employment or doctoral program requires an appointed supervisor, alternate supervisors will be considered by the Membership Committee. Proposed alternate supervisors must submit an Alternate Supervision Request form and meet standards of marriage and family and supervisory training set by the Committee. They are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for each applicant.

Licenses/Certificates

Applicants with a state-issued marriage and family therapy license/certificate recognized by the AAMFT Board of Directors and a graduate degree recognized by that state for licensure/certification, are deemed to have met the educational and clinical experience qualifications for Clinical membership.

PROPOSED

QUALIFICATIONS FOR LICENSE TO PRACTICE

SEC. 08.63.100

S.B. 40 / H.B. 18

3(B)

Education

Master's or doctoral degree in marriage and family therapy from a program accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, or a graduate degree from a regionally accredited educational institution and an equivalent course of study as defined by the BOARD.

Equivalent Course of Study

For all applicants who have completed a degree program from a regionally accredited institution which is not accredited by AAMFT's Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education, coursework is subject to review by the BOARD. Meeting the educational qualifications consists of the completion of a course of study substantially equivalent to the following curriculum:

- **Marriage and Family Studies (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)** - Coursework may include introductory systems theory, family development, family systems, special family issues, gender and cultural issues, all with a major focus from a systems theory orientation.
- **Marriage and Family Therapy (3 courses: 9 semester or 12 quarter hours)** - Coursework may include advanced systems theory/interventions, major systemic marriage/family treatment approaches (structural, strategic, neoanalytic [object relations], behavioral marriage/family therapy, communications, sex therapy, etc.)
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- **Professional Studies (1 course: 3 semester or 4 quarter hours)** - This area focuses on professional ethics as a therapist, including legal and ethical responsibilities/liabilities, family law, etc.
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- **Clinical Practicum (1 year, 300 hours)** - Face-to-face contact with individuals, couples and families for the purpose of assessment, diagnosis and treatment.

OR

Curriculum Equivalencies

7. Applicants may document coursework equivalency in the following manner.

Workshops/Seminars - Forty-five attendance hours of relevant content equals one three-credit semester or one four-credit quarter course. Documentation should be arranged by coursework area on the application (Human Development, etc.) and should include content covered by each workshop, date, title, presenter, number of hours attended and certificate of attendance (CEUs are not acceptable) or descriptive material, if available.

Graduate Courses Taught - One graduate level course taught on a related subject equals one three-credit semester or one four-credit quarter course. Documentation should include a copy of the course syllabus.

Note:
Extensive
documentation
needed for
curriculum
equivalencies

PROPOSED LICENSING QUALIFICATIONS CONT.

Publications Written: Documentation for books written should include a copy of the title page, table of contents and bibliography. Documentation for journal articles written should include the title of the article, date of publication and publication name.

Experience: Documentation should include current resume or curriculum vita and will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

3(C)

Clinical Experience

Minimum of two (2) years professional work experience in marriage and family therapy and supervision following receipt of the first qualifying graduate degree and the practicum required as part of the course of study.

Also, applicants must document successful completion of at least 200 hours of supervision on a minimum of 1,000 hours of marital and family therapy conducted in face-to-face contact with couples and families. Only supervised clinical contact may be credited for this requirement. At least 100 of the 200 hours of supervision must be individual supervision.

Applicants who have completed programs accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education may count all supervision and clinical hours completed during the program on a one-to-five ratio. This supervision may be documented on a report form by the program director and must meet the requirements outlined above.

Supervision must be provided by LICENSED MFT. Lists of LICENSED MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS are available from the BOARD. IF LICENSED

Supervisors are not available within 50 miles or employment or doctoral program requires an appointed supervisor, alternate supervisors will be considered by the BOARD. Proposed alternate supervisors must submit an Alternate Supervision Request form and meet standards of marriage and family and supervisory training set by the BOARD. They are evaluated on a case-by-case basis for each applicant.

Please feel free to
contact me if there are
any further questions
about this.

Mercy Dennis
243-8174 (Home Mon-Wed-Fri)
274-2724 (Tues-Thurs)
Office

Fax 248-2602

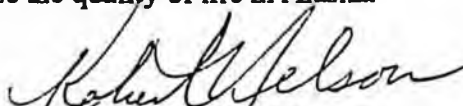
THE ALASKA ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

NEWSLETTER

SPECIAL BULLETIN FOR STATE LEGISLATORS

This special bulletin of the Alaska Marital and Family Therapists is being distributed to all state legislators and their staff. This is AkAMFT's way of thanking legislators for taking time to learn more about the practice and profession of marriage and family therapy; acquainting them with the many ways with which our profession impacts family life at both the national and state levels; and encouraging an atmosphere of mutual cooperation and assistance between AkAMFT and Alaska legislators.

AkAMFT and its members welcome future opportunities to provide assistance and information to legislators and staff in their efforts to increase the quality of life in Alaska.



Robert Nelson, Ed.D.
President-AkAMFT

Mercy Dennis, M.A.
Randall G. Jones, M.A.
Co-Chair, Legislative Affairs

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE:

Since the early 1980's, the Alaska Association for Marriage and Family Therapy has been engaged in the process of developing legislation which would license the mental health profession of marriage and family therapy. Founded on the belief that licensure is one of the most effective recognized vehicles at the state level to protect the public, AkAMFT is committed to the development of licensure for all health education professionals. Currently, there are six free-standing legitimate, fully-accredited, and educationally sound mental health professions which form the major component of mental health industry, i.e., psychology, marriage and family therapy, mental health counseling, and clinical social work, making up the non-medical arm, while psychiatry and psychiatric nursing form the medical branch.

The need for licensure arises out of several factors. All mental health professions, by whatever name they call themselves "dispense strong medicine" which takes many system-psychotherapeutic forms. The various therapeutic interventions have the power to profoundly impact the family relationship or individual for better or for the worse at the deepest levels. It is the mandated responsibility of the state to protect the (mental) health of its citizens. One way the state has chosen to protect its citizens is through the vehicle licensure. Four mental health professions to this date are licensed by the state. They are: psychiatry, psychiatric nursing, psychology, and social work. Unfortunately, instances where consumers have been disadvantaged or mistreated by those claiming to be mental health professionals are well-documented. It is our strong belief that by

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

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.



Aron S. Wolf, A.D., R.A.P.A.—President
Thomas Turner, Administrator
Randall Jones, M.A.—Vice President
Heleen Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.—Secretary/Treasurer
Greg McCarthy, M.D.
David Halliday, M.D.
Maeve Arago, Ph.D.
Karen A. Jonsig, Psy.D.
Nishi J. Nelson, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Wendy Chase, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Joshie F. Jodoy, 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,

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

DS/cs

CORRECTION

**THIS DOCUMENT
HAS BEEN REPHOTOGRAPHED
TO ASSURE LEGIBILITY**

FACT SHEET

LICENSING MARRIAGE & FAMILY THERAPISTS

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++ 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 as 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).



Aron S. Wolf, M.D., F.A.P.S.—President
Theresa Turner, Administrator
Randall Jones, M.A.—Vice President
Helen Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.—Secretary Treasurer
Greg McCarthy, M.D.
David Holladay, M.D.
Morris Atweiss, Ph.D.
Karon A. Sensig, Psy.D.
Nikki J. Nielson, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Wendy Choo, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
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December 27, 1990

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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,

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

DS/cs



Aron S. Wolf, M.D., F.A.P.A. — President
 Theresa Turner, Administrator
 Randall Jones, M.A. — Vice President
 Helen Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. — Secretary/Treasurer
 Greg McCarthy, M.D.
 David Holladay, M.D.
 Martin Atrops, Ph.D.
 Karen A. Senzig, Psy.D.
 Nicki J. Nielsen, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
 Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
 Wendy Chase, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
 Jackie T. Joddy, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.

February 5, 1991

Senator Drue Pearce
 Alaska State Legislature
 P.O. Box V (MC 3100)
 Juneau, Alaska 99811

Dear Senator Pearce:

I am writing in support of SB40. This provides a licensure process for Marriage and Family therapists. I believe that such a process, with its credential review and competency standards, would be beneficial to mental health consumers in this state, and I urge your support of this bill.

Sincerely,

Karen Senzig, Psy.D.

Karen Senzig, Psy.D.
 Licensed Psychologist

KS/cs

bill file

JAN 3 1991



- Aron S. Wolf, M.D., F.A.P.A. — President
- Theodora Turner, Administration
- Randall Jones, M.A. — Vice President
- Helen Conry, M.S.W., C.S.W. — Secretary/Treasurer
- Greg McCarthy, M.D.
- David Holliday, M.D.
- Martin Adams, Ph.D.
- Stuart A. Serey, Psy.D.
- Dicki L. Hovson, M.S.W., C.C.S.W.
- Danahel Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
- Wendy Chason, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
- Richard Today, M.S.W., C.C.S.W.

December 11, 1990

Senator Dru Pearce
3111 C Street, Fifth Floor
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Dear Senator Pearce:

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,

Aron S. Wolf, M.D.
President, Langdon Psychiatric Corporation

ASW/cs

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:

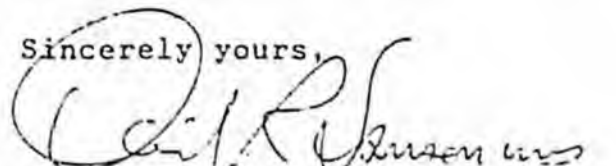
This letter is in support of licensing for marriage and family therapists. I wrote a similar letter on October 20, 1989 supporting it for last year's legislature.

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.



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



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



CHARTER NORTH HOSPITAL

COUNSELING CENTERS

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

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

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

Optimat 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, 13 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.

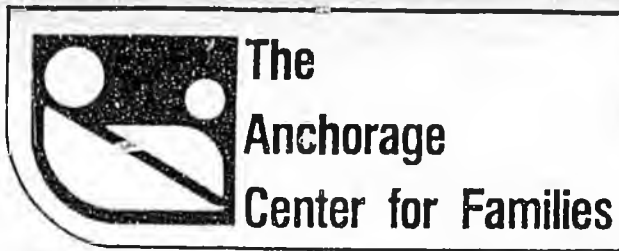
Best of luck in this endeavor. Please feel free to contact me for further support on this matter.

Sincerely,


Kathleen M. Cronen, CPA, MS
Administrator

KMC:rlr
2088





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

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

April 5, 1989

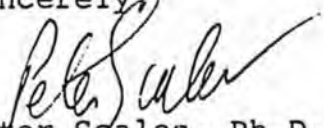
Mercy Dennis
2550 Denali, Suite 905
Anchorage, Alaska 99503

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



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

Sharon Richards
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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

WILLIAM A. WORRALL, MD

2550 Denali Street, Suite 603

Anchorage, Alaska 99503

Telephone: (907) 276-1504

December 10, 1990

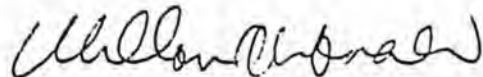
We urge the Alaska State Legislature to support licensing for masters level therapists as proposed by the Alaska Association of Marriage and Family Therapists.

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.

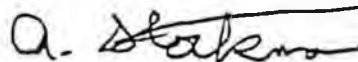
Sincerely,



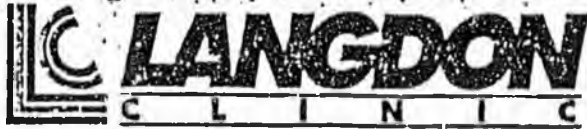
William Worrall, M.D.



David Sperbeck, Ph.D.



Ann Stockman, MSW, LCSW



Aron S. Wolf, M.D., J.A.P.A. — President
Theresa Turner, Administrator
Randall Jones, M.A. — Vice President
Nolan Craig, M.S.W., A.C.S.W. — Secretary/Treasurer
Greg McCarthy, M.D.
David Hallett, M.D.
Martin Atwood, Ph.D.
Karen A. Sontag, Psy.D.
Nehi J. Nielsen, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Donald Sparrow, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Wendy Chase, M.S.W., A.C.S.W.
Jackie T. Joddy, 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,

Greg McCarthy, M.D.

GM/cs

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.