

# AGENDA ITEM #8

Stephen Stepanovich, MFT-I

(Previously tabled agenda item from 10/20/17)

Petitions the board for guidance on alternative methods of  
competence other than the national written examination

(For discussion/possible action)

**From:** Kierra Bracken  
**Sent:** Friday, September 14, 2018 8:33 AM  
**To:** [jake@zephyrwellness.org](mailto:jake@zephyrwellness.org)  
**Cc:** Sherry Rodriguez <[mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov](mailto:mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov)>  
**Subject:** Governor's Office Constituent Mail - Stepanovich

Good morning,

Our office received the below correspondence from Mr. Stepanovich with concerns related to your board. I will notify Mr. Stepanovich that his correspondence has been sent to your board's attention for review of his concerns.

Thank you for your assistance.

Prefix: Mr.  
First Name: Stephen  
Last Name: Stepanovich  
Email: [REDACTED]  
Phone: [REDACTED]  
Street: [REDACTED]  
Zip: [REDACTED]  
City: [REDACTED]  
State: [REDACTED]

Topic:  
Health  
Subject:  
MFT and CPC State Board  
Message:  
Dear Governor Sandoval,

I am writing to you to ask for your help with a matter I have been dealing with the past 2 years.

I am currently a Marriage, Family, and Child therapist intern in Las Vegas. I have began my career interning in Pahrump, NV and eventually opened up my own practice to Las Vegas and have been serving Las Vegas and Henderson area the past 4 years.

The issue I have been dealing with is the licensing process with the State Board. I have been unsuccessfull in acheiving a passing score on my AMFTRB exam, this is not from lack of effort in fact quite the opposite.

In October I will attempt to pass the AMFTRB exam, this will by my 5th attempt. My previous attempts I scored a 70% (passing score was 70.5%) and a 72% (passing score was 74%) respectively.

The AMFTRB sets a national curve which is determined by the applicants taking the exam and then board of examiners determines the difficulty of the question which then sets the curve. Passing score

ranges are anywhere from 68% to 81%. A colleague of mine just took the exam and failed the exam with a score of 76% (Passing score was 81%)

I am not asking for your help the the AMFTRB board, however I believe you may be able to help me and future family therapists by requiring the Nevada State board to follow the NRS statutes as they are currently written.

NRS 641A.230, Marriage and family therapists: Examinations.

1. Except as otherwise provided in subsection 2 and NRS 641A.241 and 641A.242, each qualified applicant for a license to practice as a marriage and family therapist must pass a written examination given by the Board on his or her knowledge of marriage and family therapy. Examinations must be given at a time and place and under such supervision as the Board may determine.

2. The Board shall accept receipt of a passing grade by a qualified applicant on the national examination sponsored by the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards in lieu of requiring a written examination pursuant to subsection 1.

3. In addition to the requirements of subsections 1 and 2, the Board may require an oral examination. The Board may examine applicants in whatever applied or theoretical fields it deems appropriate.

When I asked if the board could issue me a written or oral exam due to the unique circumstance I have run into I was informed that that there has never been a written exam issued or an oral exam administered.

Even though that was the answer I received from my supervisor I decided to write the board and highlight the fact that the NRS statutes state the board can administer a written or oral exam (October 2017). Unfortunately I did not hear back from the board or the front office.

Recently after registering for a license renewal and having to do a google search for my NPI number I did come across the board meeting notes and was able to see their response which was given in December of 2017.

Mr. Stephen Stepanovich MFT-Intern, petitions the Board to approve him to take the national MFT exam pursuant to NAC 641A.095(1). (For Possible Action)

Mr. Schoen motions to approve Mr. Stephen Stepanovich's pursuant to take the MFT exam. Ms. Wendy Nason explains that his request is for the board would to allow him to take a verbal exam and that is what is being voted on. Mr. Wiskerchen explains that there cannot be a verbal exam given to Mr. Stepanovich from the board but they can approve him taking the national test again. There is then a discussion if this can be allowed considering there is signature missing from a supervisor. A motion is made by Mr. Schoen to table the agenda item until Mr. Stepanovich can testify. Mr. Schoen withdraws his motion to approve Mr. Stepanovich until the board can talk to him in person.

Had I been informed of the boards answer I could have testified in January of 2018 and possibly be licensed. I suppose I am able to still testify to the board and state my case.

Governor Sandoval I am not asking for any special treatment. I am simply asking that the Board follow the NRS statues as they are currently written.

I feel that if the statues are followed this will provide the highest level of standards for our state. Being able to meet each candidate and determine if they will be an asset to our community is what the board is in theory designed to accomplish.

As I stated before I am scheduled to take the exam in October and am preparing to pass it after several attempts. My hope would be to prevent my experience from happening to other interns and see the state of Nevada be able to answer the demand for mental health and drug counseling.

Thank you for your service and your time in this matter.

Truly,

Stephen M. Stepanovich MS, MFTIntern

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