



Dr. Jennifer Ross, *President*  
Jenny Stepp, *Vice President*  
Lauri Perdue, *Secretary/Treasurer,*  
*Public Member*  
Dr. Steve Nicholas, *Member*  
Dr. John Nixon, *Member*  
Marta Wilson, *Member*  
Dr. Sheldon Jacobs, *Member*  
Sara Pelton, *Member*

MEETING MINUTES  
FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2025 at 9:00AM

Teleconference

**Nevada Board of Examiners  
For Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors  
500 N. Rainbow Boulevard, Suite 201  
Las Vegas, NV 89107**

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**Please Note:** The Board may (a) address agenda items out of sequence to accommodate persons appearing before the Board or to aid the efficiency or effectiveness of the meeting; (b) combine agenda items for consideration by the public body; and (c) pull or remove items from the agenda at any time. The Board may convene in closed session to consider the character, alleged misconduct, professional competence or physical or mental health of a person. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030).

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**Action by the Board on any item may be to approve, deny, amend, or table**

1. Call to Order, Roll Call, Confirmation of Quorum. Meeting called to order at 9:01 AM.
  - Board members present: Jennifer Ross, Marta Wilson, Sheldon Jacobs, Jenny Stepp, Steve Nicholas (left at 10:00 AM), Lauri Perdue, John Nixon
  - Board members not present: Sara Pelton
  - Staff present: Joelle McNutt, Stephanie Steinhiser
  - Board Counsel present: Senior Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul
  - Members of the public: April Brown, Sasha DeCania, Chelsea Baca, Gwendolyn Greene, Jennifer Leach, Keyahnah Anderson, Norma Kea, Jamie Beidle, Debbie Rasmussen, Gwen Smithson

***Public comment is welcomed by the Board. Persons wishing to provide public comments remotely may access the meeting by telephone at (253) 215-8782 or through the electronic link posted on the agenda. Public comment will be limited to three (3) minutes per person and comments based on viewpoint will not be restricted. A public comment time will be available prior to any action items on the agenda and on any matter not specifically included on the agenda prior to adjournment of the meeting. At the discretion of the President, additional public comment may be heard when that item is reached. The President may allow additional time to be given a speaker as time allows and at his/her sole discretion. (NRS 241.020, NRS 241.030) Prior to the commencement and conclusion of a contested case or a quasi-judicial proceeding that may affect the due process rights of an individual, the Board may refuse to consider public comment. (NRS 233B.126)***

2. Public Comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

- No public comment.

### 3. Legislative Updates (Advisement)

- Joelle: The special session started on the 13th of November, and I included the Governor's proclamation in your supporting documents, so that will give you the agenda. There is an agenda item to appropriate funding to the Office of Boards, Commissions, and Council Standards. Also, Business & Industry is holding a workshop to get public comments on regulations.

### 4. Discussion, recommendation, and possible action regarding review and approval of minutes from the October 24, 2025, meeting (For possible action)

- Motion to approve minutes from the October 24th meeting: 1st Sheldon, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jenny; Jennifer abstains; Motion approved.

### 5. Discussion and possible action regarding requesting an appeal to the Nevada Supreme Court regarding Case Nos. NV23MFT011 & NV23MFT012 (For discussion/possible action)

- Motion to request an appeal on NV23MFT011 & NV23MFT012: 1st Jenny, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lauri; No abstentions; Motion approved.

### 6. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding inclusion of diet culture & weight stigma in the definition of cultural competency pursuant to NRS 641A.260, section 2 (b), subsection 3 (8) – Joelle McNutt

- John: Looking over the materials that you gave us and that you've summarized are well within the kinds of sessions that they've sponsored because when it focuses on minoritized groups, that's an important aspect of cultural understanding. So, I don't really see a problem.
- Sheldon: It's a very specialized population, and obviously there's a lot of cultural implications as it pertains to this population as well.
- This agenda item was tabled.

### 7. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding approval of April Brown's application for licensure as an MFT intern and consideration of intern hours accrued under previous license numbers MI0164 & MI0670 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Joelle: April Brown is reapplying for an internship license. She does have prior discipline and action by the Board. The terms of her consent decree have been satisfied. The consent decree states that she will be on probation for the entirety of her internship if it's granted.
- Jennifer: April, you have over 12,000 hours.

- April Brown: Yes, I know. I had three children during that time.
- Jenny: What are you thinking as far as an internship plan?
- April Brown: I was waiting until after I was approved. I have been looking on Indeed and I have found a few agencies that I would like to work with.
- Jenny: Thank you.
- Steve: Are we just reviewing the satisfaction of the consent decree and the new supervision agreement before considering hours?
- Jennifer: The first question is, does the Board approve the internship? If so, how many hours carry over?
- Steve: I reviewed the internship application. It's very thorough.
- Motion to approve April Brown's application for licensure as an MFT intern: 1<sup>st</sup> Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Sheldon; No abstentions; Motion approved.
- Jennifer: What I am seeing is that there have not been any direct client hours since September of 2019. So, I would like to see the bulk of the remaining hours be devoted to direct client care.
- Steve: I don't know if we are actually allowed to count the hours from the first internship. It was so long ago without a test passed.
- Sheldon: I wasn't sure what the cut-off is. How long ago?
- Joelle: We don't have anything in regulation that is a direct cutoff, so it would be just what the Board decides.
- Jennifer: Do we have a precedent on how this was handled in the past? I seem to remember counting indirect hours.
- Joelle: We did have a case like this in the past, and the Board counted group hours, additional training, and hours from school. They had to do supervision and direct client hours over. April has 600 group hours, nine hours in teaching, and 14.5 hours in additional training.
- Steve: I like moving the group hours and her graduate course hours. That leaves ample time to complete her direct and supervision hours. Now, technically, would this be under a new internship number?
- Joelle: Yeah. So that would mean that if you wanted to stick with what you've done in the past, it would be a total of 623.5 hours and then I can work with April to get hours from school.
- Motion to accept 623.5 hours to the new internship license: 1<sup>st</sup> Steve, 2<sup>nd</sup> Lauri; No abstentions; Motion approved.

8. Review, discussion, and possible action regarding review of financial statements 1st Quarter FY26 ending September 30, 2025 (For discussion/possible action) – Joelle McNutt

- Motion to approve financial statements 1st Quarter FY26 ending September 30, 2025: 1<sup>st</sup> John, 2<sup>nd</sup> Jennifer; No abstentions; Motion approved unanimously.

#### 9. Report from President (Advisement)

- Jennifer: One of the things that I'd like to pose to the Board is consideration to include in our discussion of NAC changes to reflect very specifically the inclusion of language that specifies Medicaid, state, and federally funded programs as part of the licensing body certification or registration. The other thing that I wanted to bring forward to the Board is about internship trajectories. For some folks who have been in an internship for a very, very long time, do we want to consider putting some things in place to help incentivize finishing? For example, some folks who haven't tested before asking for an extension, do we want to consider saying, "Please at least try to take your test before extending your internship," or that during any given internship license period, you need to attempt the test. I want to open it up to ideas.
- Marta: I tell my supervisees that they have to attempt the test at least once per year. Unfortunately, the anxiety about the exam can really hinder interns.
- Sheldon: From my perspective, interns are taking the test multiple times per year, they just are not passing it.
- John: How many of the interns who do not pass have purchased and used a test preparation program? Have you noticed any trends?
- Marta: I have had several interns have the programs and pass them, and others do not.
- Sheldon: I've also noticed a pattern of interns of color seemingly having a hard time passing. I feel some responsibility in terms of changing that narrative a bit.
- Jennifer: I so appreciate all of the thoughts here. Maybe after the regulation changes, we can put some thought into what opportunities we may have to provide resources.

#### 10. Report from Treasurer (Advisement)

- Lauri: The biggest change is the increase in legal fees so Joelle will revise the budget to accommodate that.

#### 11. Report from Executive Director (Advisement)

- Joelle: The Certemy contract has been approved. I wanted to let you know that we had an issue with credit card processing, and I have been working with Wells Fargo and Authorize.net to get that restored. Our audit is done, so that will be on the next meeting agenda for approval.

#### 12. Report from Senior Deputy Attorney General Henna Rasul (Advisement)

- Henna: No report.

13. Discussion regarding future agenda items and possible future meeting dates

- Joelle: We have 1/16/2026, 02/20/2026 & 03/37/2026 scheduled.

14. Board member comments

- Lauri: Happy holidays, everyone.

15. Public comment

No vote may be taken upon a matter raised during a period devoted to public comment until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action may be taken. (NRS 241.020)

- No public comment.

16. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 10:21 AM.

Meeting agendas are available for download at the Nevada State Board of Marriage Family Therapists & Clinical Professional Counselors website: <http://marriage.nv.gov>. Anyone who needs the agenda or supporting materials for this meeting is invited to call or email Joelle McNutt at (702) 486-7388 or [mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov](mailto:mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov). The agenda and supporting materials may be provided by email or can be arranged to be picked up in person. This agenda has been sent to all members of the Board and other interested persons who have requested an agenda from the Board. Persons who wish to continue to receive an agenda and notice should make a formal request to Joelle McNutt at [mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov](mailto:mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov).

We are pleased to make reasonable accommodations for members of the public who are disabled and wish to attend the meeting. If special arrangements for the meeting are necessary, please notify Joelle McNutt at (702) 486-7388 or [mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov](mailto:mftbd2@mftbd.nv.gov) no later than 48 hours prior to the meeting. Requests for special arrangements made after this time frame cannot be guaranteed.

THIS MEETING HAS BEEN PROPERLY NOTICED AND POSTED IN THE FOLLOWING PUBLIC LOCATIONS AND WEB SITES:

State of Nevada Administrative Website: <https://notice.nv.gov/>

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors: 500 N. Rainbow Boulevard Suite 201, Las Vegas, Nevada 89107

State of Nevada Board of Examiners for Marriage & Family Therapists and Clinical Professional Counselors Website: <https://marriage.nv.gov/>