



Board of Behavioral Sciences

Memo

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To: Board Members

Date: September 3, 2021

From: Steve Sodergren
Executive Officer

Telephone: (916) 574-7847

Subject: Licensing Report - September 2021

LICENSING POPULATION

A total of 1,694 initial licenses were issued in the fourth quarter of FY 2020/2021. As of August 10, 2021, the Board has 125,928 licensees which is less than a 3% gain since the third quarter of FY 2020/2021. This figure includes all licenses that have been issued and that are current and/or eligible to renew.

LICENSE POPULATION (As of 4/16/2021)				
License	Active	Current Inactive	Delinquent	Total Population
AMFT	12,413	NA	2,435	15,011
ASW	13,564	NA	3,048	17,173
APCC	3,926	NA	1,698	5,354
LMFT	43,039	3,832	3,537	49,826
LCSW	29,252	2,204	2,088	32,792
LEP	1,502	307	325	2,101
LPCC	2,541	138	79	2,604
TOTAL	106,237	6,481	13,210	125,928

BOARD STATISTICS

Included in this report is a comparison of the Licensing statistical data for the past three fiscal years (Attachment A)

Licensing Program Applications Received

Overall, licensing application received volumes increased by 81% in the third quarter of FY 2020/2021. The greatest increase occurred in ASW registration applications. The

increase in registrant applications during this quarter coincides with the graduation season.

Application Received	3rd QTR FY 20/21 Volumes	4th QTR FY 20/21 Volumes	Difference
AMFT Registration	542	857	+58%
AMFT Registration Subsequent Number	166	170	+2%
LMFT Examination	256	556	+17%
ASW Registration	408	1,303	+219%
ASW Registration Subsequent Number	148	143	+3%
LCSW Examination	361	571	+84%
LEP Examination	40	26	-35%
APCC Registration	262	367	+40%
APCC Registration Subsequent Number	12	17	+42%
LPCC Examination	88	111	+26%
Total Applications	2,283	4,121	+81%

Licensing Program Processing Times

Because of the seasonal increase in applications, the processing times have increased during the fourth quarter.

Board evaluators are making progress on reducing the LMFT Licensure application backlog. Approval of the LMFT Licensure application allows an applicant to take the California LMFT Clinical Examination. The Board received 1,110 applications in December 2020. Historically, the average monthly intake has been 250 applications. The December 2020 increase in these applications can be contributed to applicants wanting to take advantage of the “Option 2 – Multiple Categories” application process before it was eliminated on January 1, 2021. Additionally, applicants may have also submitted applications in December 2020 to avoid the fee increase that was also implemented on January 1, 2021. To compound the delay in processing these applications, the Board unexpectedly lost staff due to promotional opportunities.

Currently there are 824 open applications that have been received since January 1, 2021. The Board has hired an additional staff member who has experience as a LMFT evaluator. With the addition of new staff, and the remaining applications being evaluated under the new Option 1 requirements (this simplifies the supervised experience categories), Board staff anticipate being under a 60-day processing time frame by the end of October. To mitigate the Board’s increased workload, we have redirected and

trained staff, and are currently in the process of recruiting and filling any vacant positions.

Application	3rd QTR FY 20/21 Processing Days	4th QTR FY 20/21 Processing Days	Difference
AMFT Registration	49	43	-6
LMFT Examination	90	153	+63
ASW Registration	22	36	+14
LCSW Examination	41	59	+18
LEP Examination	20	36	+16
APCC Registration	46	59	+13
LPCC Examination	47	37	-10

Renewal Activity

Overall, renewal activity increased by 8% in the fourth quarter of FY 2020/2021.

Renewals	3rd QTR FY 20/21	4th QTR FY 20/21	Difference
AMFT	2,369	2,408	+2%
LMFT	5,639	5,233	+7%
ASW	1,574	3,132	+98%
LCSW	3,725	3,417	-9%
LEP	217	207	-5%
APCC	531	735	+38%
LPCC	219	248	+13%
TOTAL Renewals	14,274	15,380	+8%

Administrative Applications

Overall, administrative application volumes decreased by 7% in the fourth quarter of FY 2020/2021.

Application	3rd QTR FY 20/21 Volumes	4th QTR FY 20/21 Volumes	Difference
Name Change	350	294	-16%
Address Change	3,692	3,528	-4%
Duplicate License	1,173	971	-17%
License Certification	740	736	-1%
TOTAL Admin Applications	5,955	5,592	-7%

COVID-19 RESPONSE

Waivers

The Board has worked on six wavier requests with the Department; four of which were directly requested by the Board. All four requests submitted by the Board were approved. Staff continues to update wavier information on the website to ensure applicants and licensees have a clear understanding of each wavier.

Law & Ethics Exam Waiver for Subsequent Registration Number (Extended)

This waives the requirement that Associate Marriage and Family Therapists (AMFTs), Associate Clinical Social Workers (ASWs), and Associate Professional Clinical Counselors (APCCs) must pass the California Law and Ethics Examination before a subsequent registration number is issued. The waiver applies to all associates who are in their last year of renewal, if that renewal expires between **September, 2021 and October 31, 2021**. The California Law and Ethics Exam will still need to be passed at the by the next renewal date.

Face-to-Face Training and Supervision Requirements (Extended)

This waives the component of the law that only permits AMFTs, ASWs, and APCCs to obtain their required weekly direct supervisor contact via videoconferencing if they are working in an exempt setting. (An exempt setting is defined as a government entity, a school, college or university, or an institution that is both nonprofit and charitable.) It also waives BPC sections 4980.36(d)(1)(B)(ii) and (d)(1)(B)(vi)(II) for MFT trainees, and 4999.33(c)(3)(K) for PCC trainees, that specifically requires provision of “face-to-face” mental health services in order to complete required practicum hours. This waiver was extended and is now effective from the beginning of the social distancing order in **March 2020 until October 31, 2021**.

Waiver Extending Eligibility Period to Retake Examinations for Marriage and Family Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Clinical Social Worker, and Professional Clinical Counselor Applicants (Extended)

This waiver extends examination eligibility for LMFT, LEP, LCSW, and LPCC applicants that failed to take or retake a required examination, and whose one-year eligibility to take or re-take the examination expired between **March 31, 2020 and September 30, 2021**. Instead of having one year to take or retake the examination, these individuals will instead have 20 months to take or retake the examination. For individuals who have not taken the required exam yet, the 20-month timeframe starts on the date the applicant was notified of initial eligibility to take the examination. For individuals who need to retake a required exam, the 20-month timeframe starts on the date the applicant most recently participated in the exam.

Practicum Enrollment Requirement Waiver for MFT Trainees

Under current law, marriage and family therapist trainees (MFT trainees) are permitted to gain experience hours outside of practicum, but they must be enrolled in a practicum course to counsel clients. However, the law permits MFT trainees to counsel clients

while not enrolled in practicum if the period of lapsed enrollment is less than 90 calendar days, and if that period is immediately preceded by enrollment in a practicum course and immediately followed by enrollment in a practicum course or completion of the degree program. **The Director has issued a law waiver that extends the lapsed enrollment period from 90 days to 180 days.** The waiver applies to trainees who were last enrolled in a practicum course between March 31, 2020 and December 31, 2020. These trainees are permitted to counsel clients while not enrolled in practicum if the period of lapsed enrollment is less than 180 calendar days, and if that period is immediately preceded by enrollment in a practicum course and immediately followed by enrollment in a practicum course or completion of the degree program.

Licensing Renewal Requirements

This waiver allows that registrants (associate marriage and family therapists, associate clinical social workers, and associate professional clinical counselors) whose registrations expire between **March 31, 2020 and September 30, 2021** do not need to attempt the California Law and Ethics Examination in order to renew their registration. It also allows that Board licensees who are set to renew between **March 31, 2020 and September 30, 2021** do not need to complete continuing education in order to renew their license.

Waiver of Laws Requiring Individuals Reactivating or Restoring a Retired, Inactive, or Cancelled License to Complete Continuing Education and Pay a Renewal or Delinquency Fee (Extended)

This waiver permits an individual with a retired, inactive, or cancelled license who wishes to restore their license in order to help with the current State of Emergency to do so during this time without being subject to the normally required continuing education requirements and renewal and delinquency fees. This only applies to individuals whose license has been retired, inactive, or cancelled for no more than 5 years. A license reactivated or restored pursuant to these waivers is valid until **November 1, 2021**, or when the State of Emergency ceases to exist, whichever is sooner.

BBS THREE YEAR COMPARISON OF LICENSING STATISTICS

LICENSING POPULATION

License	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
AMFT	16,631	15,918	14,848
ASW	15,862	16,469	16,612
APCC	4,208	4,859	5,624
LMFT	46,500	47,849	50,156
LCSW	29,703	30,959	33,544
LEP	2,079	2,085	2,134
LPCC	1,957	2,276	2,758
TOTAL	116,940	120,415	125,928

Licensing

Program Applications Received

Application Received	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
AMFT Registration	3,222	2,852	3,249
AMFT Registration Subsequent Number	710	743	777
LMFT Examination	3,360	3,011	3,279
ASW Registration	3,395	3,422	3,745
ASW Registration Subsequent Number	519	593	689
LCSW Examination	2,438	2,230	2,653
LEP Examination	158	156	160
APCC Registration	1,234	1,282	1,498
APCC Registration Subsequent Number	13	48	61
LPCC Examination	344	411	470
Total Applications	15,393	14,748	16,581

Licensing Program Processing Times

Application	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
AMFT Registration	27	43	41
LMFT Examination	77	118	89
ASW Registration	27	26	51
LCSW Examination	72	102	68
LEP Examination	18	28	39
APCC Registration	48	22	55
LPCC Examination	24	20	31

Renewal Activity

Renewals	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
AMFT MANUAL	2,097	1,299	2,486
AMFT ONLINE	9,518	10,538	10,269
LMFT MANUAL	2,417	1,695	3,463
LMFT ONLINE	18,931	19,655	21,216
ASW MANUAL	1,935	1,159	2,900
ASW ONLINE	8,701	10,482	10,703
LCSW MANUAL	1,451	989	2,010
LCSW ONLINE	12,022	12,426	13,987
LEP MANUAL	341	139	229
LEP ONLINE	550	786	833
APCC MANUAL	536	427	922
APCC ONLINE	1,140	2,432	2,767
LPCC MANUAL	27	38	127
LPCC ONLINE	684	979	878
TOTAL Renewals	60,350	63,044	72,790

Administrative Applications

Application	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
Name Change Manual	1,493	1,379	1,171
Address Change	10,741	11,170	14,748
License Certification Manual	1,414	1,123	1,290
License Certification Online	269	614	1,587
Duplicate License Manual	206	174	174
Duplicate License Online	3,404	3,440	4,729
TOTAL Admin Applications	17,527	17,900	23,699



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To: Board Members

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Subject: Enforcement Report - September 2021

ENFORCEMENT DATA FY 2020/2021

	1st Quarter	2nd Quarter	3rd Quarter	4th Quarter	TOTAL
Consumer Complaints	494	518	396	385	1,793
Criminal Convictions	368	335	248	265	1,216
Cases Closed	636	556	457	514	2,163
Referred to Attorney General	32	34	20	15	101
Cases Pending at Attorney General	117	123	102	61	N/A
Accusations Filed	9	16	23	10	58
Statement of Issues Filed	4	6	8	2	20
Citations Issued	3	13	8	8	32
Final Disciplinary Orders	32	27	21	53	133
AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS					
Average Number of Days to Complete Formal Discipline *	487	389	400	418	424
Average Number of Days a Case is at Attorney General **	373	297	352	327	337
Average Number of Days to Complete Board Investigations	31	32	28	31	31

*This statistic is measured by the average number of days to complete the Enforcement process for cases investigated and transmitted to the AG's Office for formal discipline within the reference period. The DCA Performance Measure to complete Formal Discipline is 540 days.

**This statistic is measured from the date the Board refers the matter to the Attorney General's to the date the case is complete.

BBS ENFORCEMENT DATA FISCAL YEAR COMPARISON

	FY 2018/2019	FY 2019/2020	FY 2020/2021
Consumer Complaints	1,701	1,841	1,793
Criminal Convictions	1,318	1,082	1,216
Cases Closed	2,458	2,611	2,163
Referred to Attorney General	148	136	101
Cases Pending at Attorney General	117	115	61
Accusations Filed	100	101	58
Statement of Issues Filed	56	27	20
Citations Issued	172	243	32
Final Disciplinary Orders	234	189	133
	AVERAGE NUMBER OF DAYS		
Average Number of Days to Complete Formal Discipline *	349	353	424
Average Number of Days a Case is at Attorney General **	336	268	337
Average Number of Days to Complete Board Investigations	45	45	31

CONTINUING EDUCATION AUDITS

Continuing education audits were suspended temporarily during the FY 2020/2021. Board staff have completed an audit of licensees who renewed in January 2021 and are currently auditing licensees that renewed in February 2021.