



Board of Behavioral Sciences

# Memo

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**To:** Board Members  
**From:** Steve Sodergren  
Executive Officer

**Date:** April 30, 2021

**Telephone:** (916) 574-7847

**Subject:** Licensing Report - May 2021

## LICENSING POPULATION

A total of 1,733 initial licenses were issued in the third quarter of FY 2020/2021. As of April 16, 2021, the Board has 124,733 licensees which is less than a 0.5% gain since the second 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                                 | 12,470         | NA               | 2,541         | 15,011           |
| ASW                                  | 13,754         | NA               | 3,126         | 17,173           |
| APCC                                 | 3,838          | NA               | 1,660         | 5,354            |
| LMFT                                 | 42,618         | 3,935            | 3,273         | 49,826           |
| LCSW                                 | 28,580         | 2,254            | 1,958         | 32,792           |
| LEP                                  | 1,499          | 322              | 300           | 2,101            |
| LPCC                                 | 2,388          | 137              | 79            | 2,604            |
| <b>TOTAL</b>                         | <b>105,147</b> | <b>6,648</b>     | <b>12,938</b> | <b>124,733</b>   |

## BOARD STATISTICS

### Licensing Program Applications Received

Overall, licensing application received volumes decreased by 49% in the third quarter of FY 2020/2021.

| <b>Application Received</b>                | <b>2nd QTR FY 20/21 Volumes</b> | <b>3rd QTR FY 20/21 Volumes</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|--|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>AMFT Registration</b>                   | 624                             | 542                             | <b>-13%</b>       |
| <b>AMFT Registration Subsequent Number</b> | 218                             | 166                             | <b>-24%</b>       |
| <b>LMFT Examination</b>                    | 1453                            | 256                             | <b>-82%</b>       |
| <b>ASW Registration</b>                    | 648                             | 408                             | <b>-37</b>        |
| <b>ASW Registration Subsequent Number</b>  | 168                             | 148                             | <b>-12%</b>       |
| <b>LCSW Examination</b>                    | 886                             | 361                             | <b>-59%</b>       |
| <b>LEP Examination</b>                     | 54                              | 40                              | <b>-26%</b>       |
| <b>APCC Registration</b>                   | 316                             | 262                             | <b>-17%</b>       |
| <b>APCC Registration Subsequent Number</b> | 17                              | 12                              | <b>-29%</b>       |
| <b>LPCC Examination</b>                    | 148                             | 88                              | <b>-41%</b>       |
| <b>Total Applications</b>                  | <b>4,532</b>                    | <b>2,283</b>                    | <b>-49%</b>       |

**Licensing Program Processing Times**

| <b>Application</b>       | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> QTR FY 20/21 Processing Days</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> QTR FY 20/21 Processing Days</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|--------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| <b>AMFT Registration</b> | 46   | 49   | <b>+3</b>         |
| <b>LMFT Examination</b>  | 78   | 90   | <b>+12</b>        |
| <b>ASW Registration</b>  | 48   | 22   | <b>-26</b>        |
| <b>LCSW Examination</b>  | 67   | 41   | <b>-26</b>        |
| <b>LEP Examination</b>   | 24   | 20   | <b>-4</b>         |
| <b>APCC Registration</b> | 51   | 46   | <b>-5</b>         |
| <b>LPCC Examination</b>  | 24   | 47   | <b>+23</b>        |

### **Renewal Activity**

Overall, renewal activity increased by 1% in the third quarter of FY 2020/2021.

| <b>Renewals</b>       | <b>2nd QTR FY<br/>20/21</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> QTR FY<br/>20/21</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------------|
| <b>AMFT</b>           | 2,428                       | 2,369                                  | <b>-2%</b>        |
| <b>LMFT</b>           | 4,935                       | 5,639                                  | <b>+14%%</b>      |
| <b>ASW</b>            | 2,004                       | 1,574                                  | <b>-21%</b>       |
| <b>LCSW</b>           | 3,362                       | 3,725                                  | <b>+11%</b>       |
| <b>LEP</b>            | 194                         | 217                                    | <b>+12%</b>       |
| <b>APCC</b>           | 957                         | 531                                    | <b>-45%</b>       |
| <b>LPCC</b>           | 239                         | 219                                    | <b>-8%</b>        |
| <b>TOTAL Renewals</b> | <b>14,119</b>               | <b>14,274</b>                          | <b>+1%</b>        |

### **Administrative Applications**

Overall, administrative application volumes increased by 12% in the third quarter of FY 2020/2021.

| <b>Application</b>              | <b>2<sup>nd</sup> QTR FY<br/>20/21<br/>Volumes</b> | <b>3<sup>rd</sup> QTR FY<br/>20/21<br/>Volumes</b> | <b>Difference</b> |
|---------------------------------|--|--|-------------------|
| Name Change                     | 279  | 350  | +25%              |
| Address Change                  | 3,351  | 3,692  | +10%              |
| Duplicate License               | 1,024  | 1,173  | +15%              |
| License Certification           | 649  | 740  | +14%              |
| <b>TOTAL Admin Applications</b> | <b>5,303</b>                                       | <b>5,955</b>                                       | <b>+12%</b>       |

### **ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM**

During the third quarter, the Enforcement staff received 396 consumer complaints and 248 criminal convictions. A total of 457 cases were closed and 20 cases were referred to the Attorney General's office for formal discipline. As of March 31, 2021, there were 102 cases pending at the Attorney General's Office. A total of 23 Accusations and 8 Statement of Issues were filed this quarter. The number of final citations for the third quarter was 8.

There was a total of 21 Final Disciplinary Orders. The average number of days to complete Formal Discipline in the third quarter was 400 days. 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.

The average number of days the case is with the Attorney General's Office in the third quarter was 352. This statistic is measured from the date the Board refers the matter to the Attorney General's to the date the case is complete. The average number of days to complete all Board investigations in the third quarter was 28 days.

### **Continuing Education Audits**

Due to the current Continuing Education waiver, Continuing Education audits are currently suspended.

## **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 **March 31, 2020 and June 30, 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 June 30, 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 May 31, 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 May 31, 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 May 31, 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 **July 1, 2021**, or when the State of Emergency ceases to exist, whichever is sooner.