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To: Workforce Development Committee

Date: March 25, 2025

From: Steve Sodergren, Executive Officer

Subject: Discussion of Potential Recommendations Regarding Education Survey for Educators and Associates

Overview

To assist the Workforce Development Committee in its review of LMFT and LPCC education requirements, staff proposes conducting a survey to gather input from educators, students, and registrants. The purpose of the survey is to identify any concerns or issues with current education standards or licensure education programs to provide feedback to the Committee that will enhance and further the discussion around the Board's education requirements.

Staff proposes two separate, anonymous surveys: one for educators (Attachment A) and one for students and registrants (Attachment B).

The educator survey will collect general demographic information and include questions regarding the respondent's perspectives on:

- Current education requirements
- Practicum or field experience components
- A more formal program approval process for California institutions

The student and registrant survey will also collect demographic information and include questions about the respondent's perspective on the:

- Extent to which they believe their education program prepared them for licensure
- Obtaining practicum placements
- Education programs and practicum placement in general

With the Committee's approval, staff will finalize the surveys and distribute them in May 2025. A report summarizing the survey findings will be presented at the Committee's July 31 meeting.

Recommendation

Conduct an open discussion regarding the survey and questions and direct the staff to make any recommended changes and to distribute the survey.

Attachments

Attachment A: BBS California Education Survey – Educators

Attachment B: BBS California Education Survey – Students & Registrants

Attachment A: BBS California Education Survey-Educators

California Board of Behavioral Sciences: Education Requirements Survey

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the Board's current education requirements for Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Licensed Professional Clinical Counselor (LPCC) licensure. Your responses will help inform potential improvements to better prepare students for professional practice. Your responses are collected anonymously.

Section 1: General Information

1. Which category best describes you? (Select all that apply)

- Educator/Faculty Member
- Program Chair/Co-Chair
- Program Vice Chair
- Department Chair
- Clinical Training Director
- AMFT/APCC Supervisor
- Other (please specify) (Open Text)

2. Which type of institution do you work at?

- Public University
- Private University

3. What types of accreditations or approvals does your school or program hold?

Mark all that apply. (Select all that apply)

- Approval by the Bureau for Private Postsecondary Education (BPPE)
- A regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education
- Council for Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs (CACREP)
- Commission of Accreditation for Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE)
- Masters in Psychology and Counseling Accreditation Council (MPCAC)
- Other: (Open Text)

4. If your program is accredited by a regional or national institutional accrediting agency that is recognized by the United States Department of Education, please specify the regional or national institutional accrediting body: (Open Text)

- N/A

5. What type of program does your institution offer? (Select all that apply)

- In-Person Only
- Online Program
- Hybrid Program
- Other (please specify) (Open Text)

Section 2: LMFT Education Sufficiency

LMFT Education Requirements

7. Do you believe the current education requirements for LMFT licensure adequately prepare students for clinical practice in California?(For reference you can review the education requirements here: [LMFT Education Requirements](#))

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A (we do not have a LMFT program) (Skip to Question 10)

8. If no, what areas do you feel need improvement? (Select all that apply)

- Assessment, diagnosis and prognosis
- Treatment planning and treatment interventions
- Other Clinical coursework
- Legal and ethical training
- Cultural competency training
- Supervised practicum experience
- Trauma-informed care
- Substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction
- Clinical coursework with children and adolescents
- Other (please specify) (Open Text)

9. Are there any specific coursework topics you believe should be added to the current LMFT educational requirements?

- Yes
- No

If yes, please specify and describe your rationale. (Open Text)

Section 3: LPCC Education Sufficiency

LPCC Education Requirements

10. Do you believe the current education requirements for LPCC licensure adequately prepare students for clinical practice in California? (For reference you can review the education requirements here: [LPCC Education Requirements](#))

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A (we do not have a LPCC program) (Skip to Question 15)

11. If no, what areas do you feel need improvement? (Select all that apply)

- Assessment, diagnosis and prognosis
- Treatment planning and treatment interventions
- Other Clinical coursework
- Legal and ethical training
- Cultural competency training
- Supervised practicum experience
- Trauma-informed care
- Substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction training
- Clinical coursework with children and adolescents
- Other (please specify) (Open text)

12. Are there any specific coursework topics you believe should be added to the current LPCC educational requirements?

- Yes
 - No
- If yes, please specify and describe your rationale. (Open Text)

13. For LPCC programs, do you believe the Board's law should continue to require a specific number of units for each of the 13 core content areas?

- Yes
 - No
- If no, please specify why (Open Text)

14. For LPCC programs, do you believe the Board's law should continue to require a specific number of units for advanced coursework?

Yes

No

If no, please specify why (Open Text)

Section 4: General Education Requirements

15. Do you believe that the Board's law should continue to specifically identify the content requirements, or should it instead focus on establishing defined competencies?

Content

Competencies

A mix of both

Unsure

16. Are there any coursework topics you believe should be removed or revised from the current requirements?

Yes

No

If yes, please specify (Open Text)

17. Do you believe the Board's law should allow for certain courses to be taken outside of the degree program?

Yes (specify why/which courses/content): (Open Text)

No (specify why): (Open Text)

18. Should the Board's law continue to require 60 semester units or 90 quarter units for a qualifying degree?

Yes

No, the number of units should be higher

No, the number of units should be lower

If yes, please specify and describe your rationale. (Open Text)

19. Are you aware of any schools that technically meet the Board's requirements but do not adequately prepare students for clinical practice in California? If yes, please specify in what way the school(s) are lacking.

Yes

No

If yes, please specify (Open Text)

Section 5: Practicum or Field Study Experience

20. Does your program require students to complete specific (pre-requisite) coursework prior to providing clients with clinical counseling services? If yes, please specify course topics and units.

Yes

No

If yes, please specify (Open Text)

21. Does your program have any other requirements students must meet prior to providing clients with clinical counseling services? If yes, please specify.

Yes

No

If yes, please specify (Open Text)

22. Did your students face challenges in securing a practicum site?

Yes

No

If yes, what were the main challenges? (Select all that apply)

Limited availability of practicum sites

Lack of supervisors

Financial burden of unpaid or low paying practicum

Financial burden of being required to pay for practicum

Geographic limitations

Inconsistent quality of supervision

Other (please specify) (Open Text)

23. Do you believe the number of Board-required practicum face-to-face counseling hours should be adjusted?

Increase required hours

Decrease required hours

Keep the same

24. What changes, if any, would improve the practicum experience? (Open Text)

Section 6: Board Approval of Programs

25. Currently, it is voluntary for schools to obtain Board approval prior to offering a degree program. Do you believe the Board should require a formal approval process for educational programs to qualify them for Board acceptance?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

If yes, please specify (Open Text)

Section 7: Additional Feedback

26. What barriers to licensure do your students face and how can the Board address those barriers? (Open Text)

27. How can the Board better support your institution in aligning its programs with the Board's requirements?

- More detailed guidance from the Board
- Improved communication by the Board with the school
- Improved communication by the Board with the students
- Clearer educational requirements
- Other (Please specify)

28. What recommendations do you have to improve the Board's LMFT educational requirements? (Open Text)

29. What recommendations do you have to improve the Board's LPCC educational requirements? (Open Text)

30. Do you have any additional comments or concerns regarding LMFT and/or LPCC education? (Open Text)

Attachment B: BBS California Education Survey-Students and Registrants

Education Survey for Students & Graduates of a Degree Program Designed for Licensure in California

Thank you for taking the time to provide feedback on the Board's education requirements for LMFT and LPCC licensure. Your input will help us understand how well your program prepared you for clinical practice and identify areas for improvement. All survey responses are anonymous.

Section 1: About You

1. What is your current status? (Select one)

- Current LMFT Student
- Current LPCC Student
- Current dual track (LMFT/LPCC) Student
- Graduated from an LMFT program within the last five years (2021-2026)
- Graduated from an LPCC program within the last five years (2021-2026)
- Graduated from a dual track (LMFT/LPCC) program within the last five years (2021-2026)
- Graduated from an LMFT program over five years ago (Before 2021)
- Graduated from an LPCC program over five years ago (Before 2021)
- Graduated from a dual track (LMFT/LPCC) program over five years ago (Before 2021)

2. What university did you attend? (Dropdown and Other)

3. What degree title did you earn or are you pursuing? (Dropdown and Other)

4. What type of program are you/were you attending? (Select all that apply)

- In-Person Only
- Online Program
- Hybrid Program
- Other (please specify) (Open Text)

Section 2: Education Preparation

5. Do you feel that your education is adequately preparing you, or has adequately prepared you for clinical practice?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure

6. If no, what areas do you feel needs or needed more focus? (Select all that apply)

- Assessment, diagnosis and prognosis
- Treatment planning and treatment interventions
- Clinical coursework with children and adolescents
- Legal and ethical training
- Cultural competency training
- Supervised practicum experience
- Trauma-informed care
- Substance use disorders, co-occurring disorders and addiction
- Other Clinical coursework (Please specify) (Open Text)
- Other (please specify) (Open Text)

7. Are there any topics or courses that are not included within your degree program that you wish were?

- Yes (please specify)
- No

Section 3: Practicum or Field Study Experience

8. Did you experience challenges finding a practicum site?

- Yes
- No
- Unsure
- N/A

9. If yes, what were the main challenges? (Select all that apply)

- Limited availability of practicum sites
- Lack of supervisors
- Financial burden of unpaid or low paying practicum
- Financial burden of being required to pay for practicum
- Geographic limitations
- Inconsistent availability of supervision
- Other (please specify) (Open Text)
- Unsure
- N/A

10. Did you receive individual, triadic or group supervision during your practicum?

- Individual (one-on-one) or Triadic (two to one)

- Group
- Both types

11. If you received group supervision, how many supervisees were typically in your group?

- 3-8
- 9 or more

12. Do you feel that the practicum experience in your program provides/provided enough hands-on training for clinical practice?

- Yes
- No

13. What changes, if any, would improve the practicum experience? (Open Text)

Section 4: Additional Feedback

14. What recommendations do you have to improve LMFT/LPCC education and training? (Open Text)

15. Do you have any additional comments or concerns about your education or training experience? (Open Text)