

# North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Board Question and Answer Session: Structure and Process

March 20, 2026

NCAMFT Conference

# Trainer Introductions

Jon Winek, Ph.D., LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor.

Appointed as a professional member in 2023 and is currently serving as chair.

Jon Earned his Ph.D. in sociology from the University of California in 1992. He and his wife Jessica Chute Moved to Boone when he joined the faculty at Appalachian State University. There he is a professor in the Department of Counseling Family Therapy and Higher Education where he teaches courses in family therapy.

# Trainer Introductions

Jeff Krepps, Ph. D. ,LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor.

Jeff Krepps, PhD, is the Program Director for the Doctor of Behavioral Health (DBH), Campbell University School of Osteopathic Medicine (CUSOM). He is co-chair of the Department of Behavioral Health and Associate Professor. During his time at CUSOM, Dr. Krepps has developed several programs, including the Doctor of Behavioral Health and the behavioral health training program for CUSOM's graduate medical education, which included 19 programs across 5 sites.

# Trainer Introductions

Heather Stehberger, MS, LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor

Appointed as a professional board member in 2018.

Heather graduated with her MFT degree from East Carolina University. Two years after graduation, she married former classmate, Andy Stehberger. She has worked in the field of mental health with youth and families involved with juvenile justice for the past twenty years. Dual licensed in NC and TN, her recent focus has been on clinical implementation of a community violence intervention for adolescents in Memphis, TN.

She enjoys providing supervision to students and LMFTAs.

# Disclaimer

Although presents serve as current board members, since a quorum of members is not present, these board members are speaking as LMFT professionals, not as board members. They are using their experience to present on the topic and to field questions.

# Learning Objectives

|            |  |
|------------|--|
| Know       | Participants will know the structure of the N.C. Marriage and Family Licensure Board.              |
| Understand | Participants will understand the mission and function of N.C. Marriage and Family Licensure Board. |
| Interact   | Participants will get questions answered asked of the panelists.                                   |

# According to North Carolina, what are occupational licensing boards?



NC General Statute 93B outlines definitions, rules and functions that govern occupational licensing board



Occupational licensing board. - Any board, committee, commission, or other agency in North Carolina which is established for the primary purpose of regulating the entry of persons into, and the conduct of persons within, a particular profession or occupation, and which is authorized to issue licenses. The phrase "occupational licensing board" does not include State agencies, staffed by full-time State employees, which as a part of their regular functions may issue licenses.

# How do regulations govern how the board executes its mandate to protect the public?

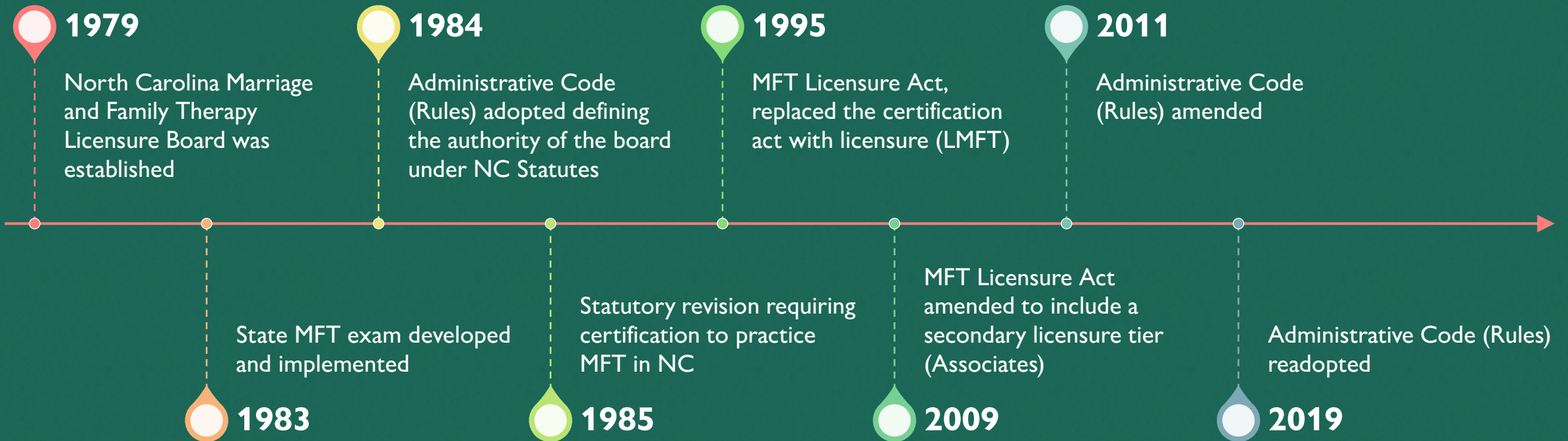
Chapter 90 Article 18C North Carolina General Statute: Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure

## § 90-270.51. Powers and duties.

Summarized:

- The board shall administer and enforce this Article
- The board may adopt, amend or repeal rules to administer and enforce this Article
- The board may adopt a seal
- The board may authorize expenditures to carry out the provisions of this Article but expenditures should not exceed revenue
- The board may order any records relevant to a complaint

# History and Overview of the North Carolina Marriage and Family Therapy Licensure Laws



# Composition of the NC MFT Licensure Board and how Members are Selected

The Board Consists of:

Executive Director (not a voting member, more of an administrative role).  
Currently, Randolph Cloud & Associates serves this role.

4 Practicing Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists

3 Public members

- Members are selected based on different congressional districts
- Board members are appointed by The Governor
- Board members may fill a vacancy of an unexpired term.
- Board members serve a 4-year term and can be appointed a second term.
- Board members volunteer their time but can be reimbursed a per diem for board business and reimbursed travel expenses related to board duties

# Current Board Members

- Licensed MFT:

Jon Winek, Chair

Jeff Krepps, Vice Chair

Heather Stehberger, Secretary

Sandy Perry

- Public Members

Mary Jane Richardson

Vacancy

Vacancy

# Board Executive Leadership

- The board contracts with Randolph Cloud & Associates to perform the executive director roles and responsibilities including but not limited to scheduling board meetings, maintaining board files, maintaining board financials, participates in state audit requirements, facilitates maintenance of the website, manages online applications, responds to emails etc.
- Employed by Randolph Cloud & Associates, Paola Learoyd Gibbs is the current Executive Director and receives assistance from Tara Strickland
- The contract is reviewed annually for renewal.

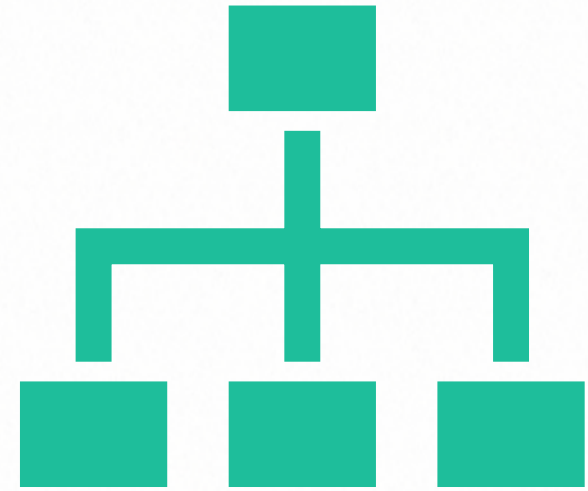
# Board Meetings

- Board meetings are held face to face (virtual or in person) four times per calendar year. The dates are published on the website.
- MFTs and members of the public are always welcome to join and to make comment. Unless there is an agenda item involving the public, the board may not have time to respond or comment at that time, but the comments are noted.
- Board meetings include “open session” where general agenda items are discussed and votes are held. Board meetings also include “closed session” topics that may contain sensitive or confidential information that is not released to the public.



# Committee Meetings

- Board votes to form committees and their functions so that board business does not have to wait for quarterly meetings
- Some committees are ongoing like the ethics committee and licensure committee. Other committees may run short term based on the need.
- If a committee can not reach a consensus, then the matter may come before full board review



# Recent Board Milestones



Applications are finally moved to digital/online



Board upgraded the digital platform for applications/renewals to Learning Builder



Board approves new applications from COAMFTE degrees within days of submission



Board forms committee to review non-COAMFTE degree applications twice per month versus quarterly board meetings



Builds process for background checks for all new applicants

# Questions and Answers

