



MEMORANDUM

DATE	January 30, 2026
TO	Board Members
FROM	Steve Sodergren, Executive Officer
SUBJECT	AMFTRB Transition Update

Background

At the November 2025 meeting, staff presented a plan for the Board’s transition to the potential acceptance of the Association of Marital and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards (AMFTRB) Marital and Family Therapy National Exam (AMFTRB National Exam). The plan identified four major focus areas, or workstreams: the rulemaking process, system development and readiness, outreach to stakeholders, and the exam transition period.

This report provides a brief status update on the activities and progress to date for each focus area.

The Rulemaking Process

The regulation to adopt the AMFTRB National Exam is currently in the production phase, and staff will be submitting the regulation package for review and approval by the Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA). During the preparation of the package, the Board’s regulation counsel raised a concern that, to further support the regulation, it would be beneficial to have a more recent evaluation completed of the AMFTRB National Exam by the Office Professional Examination Services (OPES), as the last evaluation was conducted in 2022.

Since that time, AMFTRB has completed a role delineation study that informed the content and knowledge assessed on the AMFTRB National Exam beginning January 1, 2026. Accordingly, in December 2025, staff requested that OPES conduct an evaluation, in the form of a linkage study, of the current AMFTRB National Exam content. The purpose of the linkage study is to determine whether there are any areas of LMFT practice that are not measured by the national exam.

Board staff will facilitate coordination between OPES and AMFTRB to ensure that any questions and concerns are fully addressed. The linkage study is planned to be completed in advance of the Board’s May meeting.

System Development and Readiness

Staff have initiated discussions with AMFTRB and their examination developer Professional Testing Corporation (PTC) regarding the system requirements for transferring exam eligibility data and examination scores. Based on these discussions, staff submitted a request to DCA's BreEZe team and have engaged in preliminary conversations with the Office of Information Services (OIS) regarding the system development needed to support this process. At this time, the anticipated system solution appears comparable to the process currently used to transfer and accept scores for Association of Social Work Boards (ASWB) National Exam.

Outreach and Stakeholder Communication

Board staff have been drafting informational materials and are developing a plan to post information online regarding the potential transition to AMFTRB National Exam. In addition, staff assisted the California Association of Marriage and Therapist (CAMFT) by reviewing a frequently asked questions (FAQ) document addressing common questions about the AMFTRB National Exam. Staff will continue to collaborate with CAMFT on future outreach efforts.

Staff are also developing additional guidance documents to clearly explain candidate options during the potential transition period, including details related to exam eligibility, scheduling, and taking the AMFTRB National Exam.

Examination Transition

Accessibility

To estimate the accessibility of the AMFTRB National Exam, board staff have been evaluating current and past eligibility data as well as historical vendor data on exam candidate scheduling patterns. Staff confirmed that AFMTRB is also committed to ensuring that the exam is accessible and is considering extending the current test availability from one week to two weeks a month. They are also committed to working with the Board monitoring real time-scheduling data during the potential transition period to proactively identify and mitigate any scheduling constraints that would adversely affect exam candidates.

Eligibility Transfers

To mitigate any negative impact the potential transition to the AMFTRB National Exam may have to candidates with existing exam eligibilities, staff have evaluated multiple transition scenarios to ensure a smooth and equitable process. Based on this review, staff are considering the following approach:

- Candidates who currently hold an eligibility to take the CA LMFT Clinical Exam will have the ability to schedule and take that exam up to the day prior to the transition

date, provided the exam is scheduled in advance in accordance with standard scheduling timelines.

- Following the transition date, eligibility data for candidates who were approved to take the CA LMFT Clinical Exam and still hold a valid eligibility will be transferred to the AMFTRB National Exam. As part of this process, candidates who paid a CA LMFT Clinical Exam fee but did not take the exam and still hold valid eligibility will receive a refund.
- Recognizing the potential for increased exam scheduling demand at the beginning of the transition period, the Board will extend eligibility expiration dates for candidates whose eligibility would otherwise expire between the first three months of the transition period. This will be reassessed upon review of the number of eligible candidates and exam seat availability.