



Date: May 21, 2026
To: The Board of Licensed Professional Counselors and Therapists
From: LaReé Stashek, Hearings Officer
Subject: Report on Rulemaking Hearing

Hearing Date: May 21, 2026
Hearing Location: Via Zoom Videoconference
Rule Caption: Update terms, accuracy in representations to the Board, applications, examination failure and study plan.

The rulemaking hearing on the proposed rules was convened at 9:02 a.m. Attendees were asked to enter their name and organization (if applicable) into the chat if they wished to comment on the proposed rules. They were informed of the procedures for taking comments, and notified that the hearing was being recorded. Before receiving comment, I summarized the proposed rules. The following attendees presented oral comments:

1. **Diane Bocking COO Clinical Director OYEN Emotional Wellness:** Diane requested clarification on what the proposed amendment will do regarding the competency exams.
2. **Tam Werner-Fitz Gibbon CEO, Rebel Heart Therapy:** Tam summarized their written comment submitted to the Board. They thanked the Board for revisiting the rule. They appreciate the stated commitment to accessibility and racial equity. They highlighted a study article about pass rate disparities in the MFT exams that was also included in their written comment.
3. **Malik Campbell AMFT Rebel Heart Therapy:** Malik appreciates the Board's intent to ensure providers do not harm clients and provide the best care, but believes the challenge with the current rule is that an automatic denial feels punitive and not constructive. They agree with the introduction of a study plan to help the provider improve, and believe that a mandatory time off period is not helpful for prosperity and growth.
4. **Irene Paul, LPC Clinical Director Rebel Heart Therapy:** Rebel Heart's practice has been impacted by the rule. Irene does not believe it is helpful or positive for the practitioner to need to wait one year, unable to see their clients. They believe the exam should be viewed on a case-by-case basis- perhaps the person needs more supervision or other interventions. They believe the rule change would be beneficial to everyone involved.

The hearing was adjourned at 9:12 a.m. The public comment period closed on Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 5:00 p.m.