

NOTICE OF PUBLIC RULE HEARING AND BOARD MEETING

The New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board and Regulation and Licensing Department will hold a rule hearing on Friday, May 1, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. Immediately following the rule hearing, the Board will convene a regular board meeting to consider adoption of rules and take care of regular business. The hearing and board meeting will be held at the Regulation and Licensing Department, located at 5500 San Antonio Dr., Albuquerque, NM in the Sandia Conference Room.

The hearing and subsequent Counseling and Therapy Practice board meeting may also be accessed virtually via Microsoft Teams.

Meeting Link: <https://teams.microsoft.com/meet/29536352493621?p=GP2F6epF5B8uiO8SoG>

Meeting ID: 295 363 524 936 21

Passcode: PZ3aU7M3

Dial in by phone

1 505-312-4308, United States, Albuquerque

Phone conference ID: 698 404 256#

The purpose of the hearing rule is to consider the initiation if the rule making for the following rules:

Rule 16.27.2 NMAC – Mental Health Core Curriculum Requirements

Rule 16.27.6 NMAC – Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)

Rule 16.27.9 NMAC – Requirements for Licensure as a Mental Health Counselor (LMHC)

On Wednesday, April 1, 2026, copies of the proposed rules may be obtained through the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board website at: <https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/counseling-and-therapy-practice/statutes-rules-and-rule-hearings/> or by contacting the Board Administrator for the Board at (505) 476-4622.

The New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board and Regulation and Licensing Department will begin accepting written public comment regarding the proposed rule changes beginning Wednesday, April 1, 2026, 8:00 a.m. and ending Friday, May 1, 2026, 8:00 a.m. Written comments may be submitted either by email to counseling.board@rld.nm.gov or by postal mail to the following address:

New Mexico Regulation and Licensing Department
Attn: New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practices Board
P.O Box 25101
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Written comments received during the public comment period (April 1, 2026- May 1, 2026) will be posted to the website page linked above. Public comment will also be accepted during the rule hearing and may be submitted in writing or presented orally by those attending in-person. The members of the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practices Board will not engage in substantive discussion of public comments during the rule hearing but will consider all public comments during the regular board meeting immediately following the conclusion of the rule hearing.

The agenda for the New Mexico Counseling and Therapy Practice Board regular meeting which will begin immediately after the public rule hearing, will be posted and available at least 72 hours before the meeting on the

Board website: <https://www.rld.nm.gov/boards-and-commissions/individual-boards-and-commissions/counseling-and-therapy-practice/board-information/> . Copies of the agenda may also be obtained by contacting Roxann Ortiz, Senior Board Administrator.

For inclement weather: If the New Mexico state offices are placed on a two-hour delay due to inclement weather, the rule hearing will be pushed two hours from the notice hearing time. If New Mexico state offices are closed due to inclement weather, the rule hearing will be rescheduled as soon as possible.

An individual with disability who is in need of a reader, amplifier, qualified sign language interpreter, or other form of auxiliary aid or services to attend or participate in the hearing, please contact Roxann Ortiz, Senior Board Administrator at (505) 476-4622 at least 7 days prior to the rule hearing and regular board meeting. Public documents, including the proposed rules, meeting agenda and minutes, can be provided in various accessible formats.

Statutory Authority:

The rule changes are authorized by the Counseling and Therapy Practice Act, NMSA 1978, Section 61-6A-1 through 61-6A-30, specifically authorizes the Board to adopt and file in accordance with the State Rules Act, Sections 14-4-1 through 14-4-11 NMSA 1978, and the Default Procedural Rule for Rulemaking promulgated by the New Mexico Department of Justice, Parts 1.24.25.1 through 1.24.25.16 NMAC, in accordance with the provision of the Uniform Licensing Act, NMSA 1978, Section 61-1-1 through 61-1-37.

Purpose of the Proposed Rules:

The proposed rule changes are intended to amend the rules to provide an alternative path to licensure for individuals who completed a clinical training program that did not require the necessary number of credit hours of practicum/internship. More generally, the proposed rules are intended to provide greater clarity in existing regulatory and statutory requirements, ensure continued high levels of professionalism among licensees and certificate holders, and to generally satisfy the Counseling and therapy Practice Board's statutory obligation to promote, preserve and protect the public health, safety and welfare.

Summary of Proposed Changes:

16.27.2 NMAC-Mental Health Core Curriculum Requirements – The amendments to this rule establish an alternative pathway to licensure for individuals whose counseling degree programs do not satisfy the required practicum and/or internship credit hour requirements.

16.27.6 NMAC – Requirements for Licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT)- The amendments to this rule create an alternative pathway to licensure for applicants who do not meet the prescribed practicum and/or internship credit hour requirements.

16.27.9 NMAC – Requirements for Licensure as a Mental Health Counselor (LMHC) – The amendments to this rule provide an alternative pathway to licensure for applicants who do not meet the required practicum and/or internship credit hour requirements.