



The Newsletter of the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Building Your Skills for Clinical Practice

Www.famft.org

FAMFT December Conference

December 4, 2009.....Downtown Orlando Sheraton

Friday, 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM

Track 1

Track 2

Morning

Couples on the Brink

**Working with Children
and Families**

*Paul Maione, PhD, LMFT
Melissa Bridges, MS*

*Sandra M. Barlow,
PhD, LCSW, RPT-S
Arthur D. Cleveland,
LCSW, RPT-S, BCD*

Afternoon

**The Role of the Mental
Health Professional
In Collaborative
Family Law Process**

*Randy Heller, Med, LMHC
LMFT
Enid Miller Ponn,
Esquire*

**What Works in Family
Reunification**

*Ronald J. Chenail, PhD
Melissa DeVincentis
MS, LMFT, BCBA
Aurelia Melloul, MS
Adri Stewart, MS*

Call 850-906-0258

To Register by Phone

Summer 2009

Inside this issue:

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Special points of interest:

- Complete Report on Government Advocacy Efforts for this year.
- CE Broker /DOH information about your license renewal
- Find how to obtain the CE credit you need from FAMFT
- Find out what FAMFT is planning for continuing Education
- Bylaws revision inside for FAMFT.

FAMFT Is Representing Your Interests As Sex Offenders Headline the National News

By Melinda Pillar, Lobbyist

The FAMFT is participating in a working group made-up of mental health and criminal justice professionals dedicated to meeting the challenges in determining the right kind of assessments, standards, and practices that are needed to provide genuine and effective oversight for the Florida Department of Correction. Our goal is to identify and adopt in rule or legislative a standardized procedure for probation officers to utilize while working directly with these offenders.

This is a daunting challenge for any state to deal with as recently witnessed by us all with the national news reporting on the young girl being abducted 18 years ago and held hostage by a known sexual predator. Probation officers in Florida, as well as in many other states across the country, are limited in their scope of control when offenders are able to doctor shop, are assessed by sub-standard methods, or fall under a faulty tracking system. The Florida Department of Corrections is greatly frustrated with their relentless efforts to oversee activities of these convicted felons.

Questions regarding the court's responsibility, training for mental health practitioners who specialize in sex offender therapies and the DOC's oversight capabilities are part of the working group's agenda. Watch for updates from your FAMFT Tallahassee office regarding this important mental health issue.



WATCH FOR THE BALLOT IN THE MAIL IN A MONTH

Information is included in this newsletter

ELECTIONS WILL INCLUDE NEW FAMFT BOARD MEMBERS

See page 14

RATIFICATION OF THE NEW PROPOSED BYLAWS

See pages 3-8

Association Bylaws

FLORIDA ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY BY-LAWS REVISED AS OF AUGUST, 2009

ARTICLE 1. Name, Organizational Structure, Location and Relationship

Section 1. The name of this organization shall be the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (FAMFT) - A Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT).

Section 2. This Division (FAMFT) is responsible to the duly elected Officers and Board of Directors of AAMFT and all rules and orders lawfully made thereunder.

Section 3. The bylaws of this Division shall be consistent with those of the AAMFT and shall be approved by the AAMFT before formal adoption by the Division.

Section 4. Offices of the Association shall be located in and/or such other localities as may be determined by the Board of Directors

ARTICLE 2. Purposes

Section 1. The purposes for which this Division is formed are as follows:

- (a) To promote the common professional interests of those who are marriage and family therapists.
- (b) To represent marriage and family therapy as a mental health profession to the public and before governmental bodies.
- (c) To cooperate with other organizations and agencies in furtherance of the profession.
- (d) To fulfill other purposes stated in the AAMFT bylaws as those purposes may be pursued appropriately at the Divisional level.

Section 2. To further the objectives of the Division by meetings, conferences, clinical sessions, publications, research in the field, and other relevant activities.

ARTICLE 3. Membership

Section 1. The membership of FAMFT shall be divided into two (2) classes:

Voting Members. The voting membership shall be composed of Clinical Members of AAMFT.

(b) Non-voting Members. The non-voting membership shall be composed of Student Members, Associate Members and Affiliate Members of AAMFT. Student, Associate and Affiliate Members shall be considered non-clinical members.

Section 2. All members of the Division shall be members in good standing with AAMFT and all AAMFT members maintaining an address of record in Florida with the AAMFT offices, shall be members in good standing of the Florida Division (FAMFT).

Section 3. Members shall be governed by and abide by the bylaws of AAMFT and by the bylaws of FAMFT and all rules and orders lawfully made thereunder.

Section 4. All members shall pay both their AAMFT and FAMFT dues annually through the national organization.

ARTICLE 4. Officers

Section 1. The Officers of the Division shall be a President, a President-Elect, a Secretary, a Treasurer, and a Past-President.

Section 2. The President shall serve a term of two (2) years, following a term of two (2) years as President-Elect. The President shall be the Chief Officer of the Division and of the Board and shall perform such duties as are customary for presiding officers, including making all required appointments with the approval of the Board. The President also shall serve as a member ex-officio with right to vote on all committees except the Elections Committee.

Section 3. The President-Elect shall serve a term of two (2) years, succeeding to the office of President upon completion of that term. The President-Elect shall serve as Presiding Officer of the Division and Board during the absence of the President.

Section 4. The Secretary shall serve a term of two (2) years. The Secretary shall keep the records of all business meeting of the Division and meetings of the Board, and shall direct the distribution of minutes and reports and correspondence as authorized by these bylaws and by the Board.

Section 5. The Treasurer shall serve a term of three (3) years. The Treasurer shall be Chairperson of the Finance Committee, shall oversee the management of funds for duly authorized purposes of the Division, shall prepare the annual budget, and shall present periodic financial reports to the Board and an Annual report to the membership. The fiscal year of the Division shall begin on January 1.

Section 6. The Past President shall serve a term of one (1) year immediately following completion of a term of office as President.

Section 7. Divisional officers shall be assumed to have resigned from office at such time as they move outside of the Divisional geographic boundaries. If any Officer ceases to be in good standing the Board shall declare his/her office to be vacant.

Section 8. If any office, other than President or President-Elect becomes vacant, the President with the approval of the Board of Directors may appoint individuals to fill

vacancies on the Board. In the event that the President is unable to complete the current term of office, the President-Elect shall assume the Presidential duties and office, a special election shall be called to elect a new President-Elect through a mail ballot by the voting membership.

In the event that the President-Elect is unable to complete the current term of office, a special election shall be called to elect a successor through a mail ballot by the voting membership.

In any event, the term of the presidency shall not be for less than two (2) years nor more than three (3) years.

Section 9. If an officer of the Association ceases to be in good standing by reason of non-payment of dues, or fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board, his or her position as an Officer shall be declared vacant by the Board.

Section 10. If any office, other than President or President-Elect, becomes vacant, the Board may appoint a successor to complete the term of the office.

Section 11. The Executive Committee shall be composed of the Elected Officers and the Past-President. The Executive Committee shall be empowered to act on behalf of the Board of Directors at other than regular Board Meetings and with limitations established by the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE 5. Board of Directors

Section 1. The Board of Directors shall consist of the Officers, three (3) Directors and a Student-Associate Representative, all members of AAMFT in good standing. The Directors shall serve three (3) year terms, staggered so that one (1) Director shall be replaced each year. The Student-Associate Representative shall serve a two (2) year term. The Election Committee Chairperson shall not be a member of the Board of Directors.

Section 2. The Board of Directors shall exercise all powers of the Division, except as specifically prohibited by these bylaws and the AAMFT bylaws. The Board of Directors shall be authorized to adopt and publish such policies, procedures, and rules as may be necessary and consistent with these bylaws and AAMFT bylaws, and to exercise authority over all Division business and funds.

Section 3. The Board shall meet at the call of the President at least once each year, or at the written request of at least five (5) members of the Board directed to the Secretary. A quorum shall consist of no less than one-half of the membership of the Board at any given time. Each member of the Board shall be entitled to one (1) vote and may take part and vote in person, or arranged by e-mail and conference. The meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts' Rules of Order, Revised.

Section 4. If any member of the Board ceases to be in good standing by reason of non-payment of dues, or fails to attend three consecutive meetings of the Board, his or her position on the Board shall be declared vacant. The position may remain vacant or the Board may appoint a successor to serve the remainder of the unexpired term, except that vacancies in the offices of President and President-Elect shall be filled in accordance with the provisions of section 4.08

ARTICLE 6. Task Forces, Committees, and Councils.

Section 1. Task Forces: The purposes of task forces are two-fold: 1) to help the Board govern in an informed and strategic manner, and 2) to build and maintain an active and involved membership. The Board shall authorize task forces to ensure that both of these purposes are fulfilled. When advisable, task forces shall be used, with members drawn from the broad segments of the membership, to study and provide background information, and to present proposals and various options for action to the Board. They shall serve to fulfill their specific charge within the scope, time frame, and resources defined by the Board. All task forces shall operate pursuant to procedures established by the Board.

Section 2. Committees: Committees are authorized by the Board to conduct on-going governance activities that require member input separate from the Board. Primarily, these committees will address issues of professional standards and conduct. The committees shall therefore be formed as deemed necessary by the Board. The Standing Committees of the Division shall include the following: Ethics, Finance, Membership and the Elections Committee, and such other standing committees as shall be authorized by the Board of Directors. The Committees are responsible to the Board of Directors.

All Committee chairpersons shall be Clinical voting members of the Division, except for the Student-Associate Representative. Each committee shall be composed of Division Members. Representatives of the public may be appointed as needed, to serve in an advisory capacity and are **non-voting members** of committees. Members of committees may be removed by the President with the approval of the Board, for malfeasance or non-performance of duties.

The members of the Elections Committee shall be elected by mail ballot by the voting membership of the Division, and shall serve a term of three (3) years, staggered so that one (1) member shall be replaced each year.

The President (with the approval of the Board) shall appoint a chairperson for each standing committee, except as otherwise provided by these bylaws. Following the Annual Membership Meeting, the President shall authorize a continuing member of the Elections Committee to convene, the Chairperson being elected by the Committee. The Division Treasurer shall be ex officio Chairperson of the Finance Committee.

The Ethics Committee shall be responsible for educating the membership and the public regarding the AAMFT Code of Ethics. The FAMFT Ethics committee shall not conduct investigations nor consider allegation of violations of ethical principles made against members, nor shall it issue or render advisory opinions on ethical matters but shall refer such matters to the AAMFT Ethics Committee. The AAMFT

The Finance Committee shall assist the Treasurer in preparing the Annual Budget for approval by the Board and the membership, and shall be responsible for making recommendations to the Board and membership in matters pertaining to the finances of the Division.

The Membership Committee shall be responsible for dispensing information on AAMFT membership requirements and application procedures to potential members. The committee will help facilitate application to and retention with AAMFT.

The Elections Committee shall prepare a slate of nominees for all elected positions, and shall oversee the elections of such positions as provided in these bylaws and in rules and procedures adopted by the Board for elections.

Section 3. Councils: The councils of the association are the Council of Chapter Presidents and such other councils as shall be authorized by the Board. All councils shall operate pursuant to procedures approved by the Board. The Council of Chapter Presidents shall consist of the current Presidents of all active FAMFT Chapters. The Council shall meet with the Board of Directors at least once annually, to advise the Board and give feedback regarding significant matters which are facing the Division.

ARTICLE 7. Local Chapters

Local chapters of the Division may be formed at the discretion of the Board of Directors providing that such chapters conform to AAMFT and FAMFT bylaws and policies with regard to membership, voting, holding office, serving on committees, and related matters.

Section 1. A Chapter of the Division must adopt the Division Chapter Charter

Section 2. Chapters of the Division must develop by-laws that are in accordance with the Division Chapter Charter.

ARTICLE 8. Meetings of the Membership

Section 1. The Annual meeting of the membership of FAMFT shall be held at a date and location to be determined by the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Special meetings of the membership may be called by the President or a majority of the Board of Directors.

Section 3. Notice of all Annual and Special meetings shall be sent to all voting members of the Division at least 45 days in advance of the meeting by the Board of Directors. Action at called special meetings shall be limited to those agenda items contained in the notice of the meeting.

Section 4. A quorum at all Annual and Special meetings of the Division shall be five (5) percent of the voting membership of the Division, present and in person at the meeting, not including the Officers and Directors. No proxies shall be permitted.

Section 5. All meetings shall be conducted according to Roberts' Rules of Order, revised.

ARTICLE 9. Nominations and Elections.

Section 1. The nomination and election of all elected positions shall be conducted annually. All voting members of the Division shall have the right to vote in the election which shall be conducted by mail ballot. Student and Associate Members shall have the right to vote in the election for the Student-Associate Representative only. Discrimination in election and nomination procedures on the basis of gender, age, race, color, creed, national origin or sexual orientation is forbidden. Candidates who are elected shall assume office on the first day of January following their election and shall hold office for the tenure of their office, or until their successors have been elected and qualified.

Section 2. The Elections Committee shall prepare a slate containing at least two nominees for each position and shall determine the eligibility and willingness of each nominee to stand for election. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Additional nominations may be made by petition of five (5) percent of the voting members until thirty (30) days prior to the date ballots are to be mailed at which date nominations shall be closed. The Elections Committee shall have the ballots mailed to and counted by an independent auditor. The candidate who receives the largest number of votes for each office shall be elected.

ARTICLE 10. Dues

Section 1. Dues for the Division shall be established by majority vote of the Division's Board of Directors, under policies and procedures established by AAMFT, except in such instances where the proposed increase is greater than ten (10) percent of the previous year's dues. In that event, dues shall be set by a majority of votes cast by voting members within the Division, voting by mail ballot under procedures established by the Board.

Section 2. All dues billings, dues collections and dues disbursements shall be performed by AAMFT.

Section 3. When a member fails to pay full Association and division annual dues, upon notification by mail from the Association, his or her name shall be removed from the list of members and membership terminated.

Section 4. In special circumstances, the Board shall have the power to remit, adjust, or waive for a specified time the dues of a member.

Article 11. Discipline

Section 1. Charges against an Officer or Director of the Association or a member of a council, except for non-payment of dues, shall be brought to the AAMFT (judicial/ethics?) committee. If said committee determines that they are no longer a member in good standing, the position shall be declared vacant in accordance with these by-laws as pursuant in Article IV, Section 9.

Section 2. Charges against a member, except for non-payment of dues, shall be made in accordance with the procedures set forth in the Ethics Committee and Judicial Committee procedures. The Ethics Committee, in accordance with its procedures, shall have the power to take disciplinary action against a member found to have violated the AAMFT Code of Ethics including dismissal from membership provided, however, that any member found by the Ethics Committee to have violated the AAMFT Code of Ethics shall have the right to a hearing before the Judicial Committee.

ARTICLE 12. Executive Director

The Board shall have the power and responsibility to hire an Executive Director to carry out the necessary business of the Division. The Executive Director shall be responsible to the Board and shall hire and direct such other employees as the Board authorizes. Discrimination in the selection and retention of employees on the basis of race, color, creed, gender, or sexual orientation is expressly forbidden. The Division and its employees shall be bound by such personnel practices as are established by the Board.

ARTICLE 13. Amendments

These bylaws may be amended or repealed by two-thirds vote of the voting members by mail ballot returned within thirty (30) days of the date by which members can be reasonably presumed to have received the ballot. Amendments may be proposed by the Board of Directors on its own initiative, or upon petition by five (5) percent of the voting members addressed to the Board. All such proposed amendments shall be presented by the Board to

FAMFT ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF ALL NEW HOME STUDY AND ON-LINE COURSE OFFERINGS

We are pleased to announce the addition of 50 plus new online and home study course offerings which can be accessed through our website located at WWW.FAMFT.ORG. The Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy has teamed up with a nationally recognized and approved CE provider to offer high quality, yet affordable, 24 hour a day continuing education programs. We now also offer these programs to all other 491 licensed professionals, Psychologists, Mental Health Professionals, Drug and Alcohol professionals, and Florida Nurses. Also included are the Florida required courses for Prevention of Medical Errors 2 CE Credits, Domestic Violence 2 CE Credit (every 3rd), and HIV/AIDS 3 CE Credits. Coming soon will be the new required Ethics and Boundary Issues 3 CE Credit course which will also be available through the website.

All proceeds from these offerings will be used to provide further education, supervision, and advocacy for our 1200 plus members at the state and local levels.

www.famft.org

www.famft.org

www.famft.org

Address Change

To change your address with FAMFT, you must change it at AAMFT. We automatically download their list each quarter.

Please do not send us a change of address, simply go to the AAMFT website at

WWW.AAMFT.ORG

Look for the profile link on the first page, make your changes, AAMFT updates within two days.

Classified Ads

Would you like to place a classified ad in the newsletter? Rates for classified ads are \$11 per line (three line minimum). There is a 10% discount for FAMFT members. Ads will be grouped by: office space, supervision, trainings, general announcements.

Submit to: famft@famft.org. Deadlines are 15th of the month prior to publication which is in March, June, September, and December.

What to do When Hope is a Dirty Word

An Evidence based Solution-focused Approach

FAMFT 2010 Annual Conference

May 14, 2010

Deerfield Beach, Florida

Yvonne Dolan, M.A.



About the Presenter

Yvonne Dolan has been a psychotherapist for 30 years. She is Director of the Institute for Solution-focused Therapy, co-founder and past-president of the Solution-focused Brief Therapy Association (SFBTA) and conducts training seminars on SFBT throughout the U.S., Canada, Europe, Asia and South America. Her work is an integration of solution-focused therapy and Ericksonian hypnotherapy and reflects a life long interest in the linguistics of hope and its practical applications to clinical and everyday life situations.. She is co-author with the late Steve de Shazer, Insoo Kim Berg and colleagues of *More than Miracles: The State of the Art of Solution-focused Brief Therapy* (Haworth/Taylor & Francis, 2007) and has authored numerous articles and books including *Resolving Sexual Abuse: Solution-focused therapy and Ericksonian Hypnosis for Survivors* (W.W. Norton, 1991), *A Path With a Heart: Ericksonian Utilization with Resistant and Chronic Clients*, (Brunner-Mazel, 1985, distributed by Taylor & Francis), *One Small Step: Moving Beyond Trauma and Therapy to a Life of Joy* (2000, Excel Press, available through [www. iUniverse.com.](http://www.iUniverse.com)) and has co-authored *Tales of Solution: A Collection of Hope Inspiring Stories* (with Insoo Kim Berg, W.W. Norton, 2001) *Solution-Focused Brief Therapy: It's Effective Use in Agency Settings* (with Teri Pichot Haworth Press, 2003. In workshop settings, Yvonne is known for her unique combination of practical techniques, detailed handouts, hands-on practice sessions and lively demonstrations, punctuated by gentle humor.





Workshop Description

The workshop objectives included: "With the Couples on the Brink Project, the presenters have challenged traditional; ideas of working with couples in crisis both

in form and function. They will discuss their conceptual ideas and practice strategies including the logic and rationale for a non-pathological, strength-based per-

spective, marathon sessions and the use of collaborative co-therapy teams.

All day program at Downtown Orlando Sheraton Hotel

The other tract will be determined soon and posted online.

Watch for registration information.

Watch for the new FAMFT website at www.famft.org

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FAMFT Annual Conference

December 4, 2009

Downtown Orlando

Sheraton Hotel

North/ Central Florida

CFAMFT- Orlando Chapter News

Holiday Breakfast—December 3
For information contact:
Gail York, CFAMFT President

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All Day BAMFT workshop; Friday, January 29, 2010.

New Board takes office for BAMFT January 1, 2010.
President—Michael Rhodes
President Elect = Samatha Toney
New boradr member—

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Andrea S. Meyer
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All-Day BAMFT workshop. Save the date: Friday, January 29, 2010. Details to be announced soon!

Results of recent balloting by mail**NEW BOARD TAKES OFFICE
JANUARY 1, 2010**

President Sloane Veshinski announced the results of the recent BAMFT elections. Those newly elected and assuming office on January 1, 2010 are: President, Michael Rhodes; President-Elect, Samantha Toney; and new Board Members, John McNamara and Jason W. Congratulations!

Continuing on the board will be Secretary, Evelyn Fisboin; Treasurer, Carol Captain; and Board Member Jerry Gluck.

Thank you to all who participated in this election process: the candidates, the elections committee, and the voting membership.

2010 FAMFT BALLOT

The Elections Committee shall prepare a slate containing at least two nominees for each position and shall determine the eligibility and willingness .of each nominee to stand for election. Officers may not serve more than two consecutive terms. Additional nominations may be made by petition of five (5) percent of the voting members until thirty (30) days prior to the date ballots are to be mailed at which date nominations shall be closed. The Elections Committee shall have the ballots mailed to and counted by an independent auditor. The candidate who receives the largest number of votes for each office shall be elected.

The Elections Committee puts forth the following ballot for 2010:

President Elect—Mary Monica Burton

Board Member—Kay Allen
— Mary Neal

Elections Committee—William Farley

A ballot will be mailed to those eligible to vote within 30 days from this publication.

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Platform Statement: Nominee for President Elect

Name and member number

Mary Monica Burton , MS, LMFT

Professional Positions-Current & Past:

I am a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist. I have a private practice in New Port Richey, FL. In my practice I work with couples, families and children. I have also worked as a family therapist going into elementary schools to provide prevention based programs for children and their families, as well as working with the teachers at the school. A previous position that I held was working with juvenile sex offenders, providing group and family therapy.

Service to AAMFT/FAMFT/Chapters:

I have served on the FAMFT board as the Election Chair and am currently serving the FAMFT board as the division secretary.

Position statement about the needs of MFTs in FL or FAMFT future needs:

I have always been very proud to be a marriage and family therapist. I am excited and honored to be nominated as the president elect. One issue that I am passionate about is seeking out connections with other MFT's and making our association stronger. I believe we are on a good path, but we must improve in involving new graduates, interns and newly licensed therapist. I believe it is important to keep them active, included, and feeling supported as they begin this profession. This will greatly improve the diversity and long term sustainability of this association. I believe that if we continue to work together we will continue to be a strong voice in Florida.



Pre and Post Divorce Mediation

Martin W. Murphy, J.D., LMFT

Supreme Court Certified Family Mediator

Member, Florida Bar, Family Law Section

Member, Florida Academy of Professional Mediators

Clinical Member, AAMFT

2699 Stirling Road, Suite A-105, Hollywood, Florida 33312

954-632-2539 www.therapyassistance.com

Mediation, Not Litigation



Name and Member number: Kay L. Allen, M.S.W., Ph.D. AAMFT #161,

Tallahassee, Florida

Professional Positions: I am a licensed marriage and family therapist and, for the past fifteen years, have worked in the office of two family practice physicians. While I primarily see their patients, I also have contracts with two employee assistance programs. Prior to that time, I was in private practice for approximately eight years. Since 2007, I have worked with a program through the College of Medicine at Florida State University and grant funded, to train caregivers of Alzheimer's/dementia patients. I have been involved in all aspects of the research including counseling, training, supervising, and collecting data.

I have a master's degree in social work and a Ph.D. in family relations, both from Florida State University.

I previously served on the Alumni Board for the College of Humans Sciences, Florida State University, as a board member and also as President.

I served as a board member for the Tallahassee Association for Marriage and Family Therapy for one year, was president-elect for two years and am currently president. My term will end in April, 2010

I have been a clinical member of AAMFT for over 20 years.

[Position Statement about the needs of MFT's in Florida or FAMFT future needs:](#)

I believe that it is very important for us to work on increasing our membership particularly with younger MFT's. There seems to be a growing feeling on the part of some students that membership in AAMFT is unnecessary and there is minimal value in joining the organization. This is an issue that we need to address as student membership is an entrée to clinical membership. Since this seems to be a problem nationwide, I would like to see FAMFT collaborate with board members in other states to implement new strategies for recruiting student membership.

As a state organization, I believe there is an ongoing need to expand our membership; one way may be for each chapter to conduct an annual membership recruitment drive.

Additionally, I would like to see continued involvement in legislative action to insure that MFT's have parity with other helping professions. I believe that we may need to improve efforts to make the public more aware of the profession of marriage and family therapy, its similarity to other helping professions as well as its differences in methodology and focus.

I would like to see us work toward unity as an organization, listening to and valuing the opinions and ideas of one another, while focusing on working towards consensus and common goals. An integral part of this goal is the importance of furthering our work on the issue of diversity within AAMFT/FAMFT.

I welcome the opportunity to serve on the board for FAMFT and, if elected, I hope that I could be instrumental in advancing its goals.



Mary B. Neal, Ph.D., LMFT (97621)
Jacksonville/St. Augustine, Florida

Professional Positions-Current & Past:

I am a psychotherapist in private practice and professor of marriage and family therapy for Nova Southeastern University and Capella University. I am also an AAMFT Approved Supervisor

Service to AAMFT/FAMFT/Chapters:

Past president of NEFAMFT

Position statement about the needs of MFTs in FL or FAMFT future needs:

Marriage and family therapists need an advocate between the local and national level. When the Florida Division stays connected with state and national issues, they become the liaison that local membership need to stay informed of impending industry legislation. Not only is this important, it is also critical that the Division understand and support the needs of the local chapters. As a board member, I will serve to strength the connective bonds between the local, state, and national levels. I will help identify the needs of the membership on the various levels, and I will support the work in helping each level achieve their defined goals for the future.

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What constitutes a chapter?

Several divisions have local chapters within their states. The *AAMFT Division Charter Agreement* and the *Model Bylaws for Divisions* govern the actions of a division towards their chapters and the structure of the chapters themselves.

The *AAMFT Division Charter Agreement* states that local chapters may be formed at the discretion of the division's Board of Directors ("division"). The question which must be asked and answered at this point is "What will constitute a chapter?" Not all groups of members from a small geographic area meeting on a regular basis within your state will constitute a chapter. Some groups may be large and meet irregularly, others may meet regularly but be very small.

Several divisions have stated that if the number of people meeting exceeds ten (10) then this will constitute a chapter. Other divisions may state that a certain number of meetings per year will constitute a chapter. AAMFT believes that if the number of people meeting is such that the group has Continuing Education meetings, or an Annual Conference, or other money making activities that generate non-dues revenue, the grouping should be considered a chapter. This is not to say that a group of 20 members which meets on a regular basis, but does not generate non-dues revenue should not be considered a chapter. The group which does generate non-dues revenue must be considered a chapter, while the one that does not will not have to be recognized by the division as a chapter if they so Decide.

When the division decides that a group of individuals within a small geographic area could be considered a chapter, the division must then approve or disapprove the formation of a formal chapter. According to the *AAMFT Division Charter Agreement*, if the division approves of the formation of a chapter, the chapter must agree to a formal charter with the Division.

CHARTER

Every chapter of a division is required to be formally chartered by the division. The Charter must contain several of the key sections contained in the *AAMFT Division Charter Agreement*. The charter must address the following: Preamble, Charter Agreement, Chapter's Responsibilities to the Division, Name and Relationship, Bylaws for the Chapter, Membership, Dues, Officers, Committees, Membership Meetings, Nominations and Elections, Fiscal Operations, Member Services, Complaints Against the Chapter, Revocation of this Charter, Indemnification.

FAMFT is interested in forming new chapters. If interested, contact the office (page 13).



Dear FAMFT Members:

It is my pleasure to serve as your chair for the Ethics & Diversity Committee on the FAMFT Board. Our president, Anna Lynn Schooley, recently appointed me to this position, as our former chair was unable to complete her term. I am a member of the Central Florida Chapter and most recently served two terms as that chapter's Legislative Chair. I have been in private practice for 6 years and enjoy working with couples, children and families.

As your Ethics & Diversity Chair it is my hope to promote the following goals in our organization:

- To promote diversity among the Florida chapters and recognize members who promote diversity in their practice, agency, community or scholarly setting.
- To encourage members to adhere to the strict set of ethical standards as put forth by AAMFT and to address any concerns members may have about ethics in their practice.

To inform the membership about issues regarding ethical concerns and diversity in the practice of our profession.

It is my hope in the next coming months to meet with you chapter's local chairs to gather ideas on diversity, inclusion, fairness and ethics. In the meantime, please begin to share your concerns or ideas with your chapter chairs about these subject matters. You may also contact me at lyrisbacchus@yahoo.com. I look forward to hearing from you.

Lyris Bacchus Steuber, MS, LMFT
Ethics & Diversity Committee Chair, FAMFT



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