



The Newsletter of the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

Dr. Mary Hale-Haniff, President

The Elections Committee of FAMFT has presented the following platform to the FAMFT Board. If any voting member wishes to nominate an additional person, please follow the Board's Bylaws. A ballot will be mailed out to the membership in December for members to vote.

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.

2011 Ballot

Board Member: Annette Reiter

Secretary: Rosario Garrido and Andrea Meyer, Ph.D.

Student/Associate Board Member:

Chesea Garrneau, Michael Alicia, and Jacqueline K. Clarke

Elections Committee: (vote for 2)

Silvia Echevarria-Doan, Ph.D. and Michael Rhodes

Thanks to the 2010 Elections Committee:

William Farley, PhD, Chair

Andres Nazarrio, PhD, Past President

Sarah Woods, Student/Associate Member

December 2010

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Special points of interest:

- Presidential Elect Update about FAMFT
- *CE Broker* /DOH information about your license renewal. To obtain the discount enter the letters of the association, FAMFT, when prompted.
- Elections information on all pages
- Find out what FAMFT is accomplishing for you with government advocacy

2011 Nominations for FAMFT Election Committee

I. Professional Positions – Current & Past

Dr. Silvia Echevarria-Doan is a tenured Associate Professor and Coordinator of the Marriage and Family Counseling Program, in Counselor Education, at the University of Florida. She is in her 18th year of teaching and supervising graduate students in this program. Her responsibilities also include research, writing, and service in the form of chairing and sitting on doctoral committees, advising masters students, and taking part in university, college, and departmental committees. In terms of scholarship, she has over 35 publications and has presented in over 50 state, national and international professional conferences. Her areas of research and writing include strength-based family therapy practice, family resilience, multicultural aspects of family therapy, qualitative research in family therapy, and grounded theory. She is a Clinical Member and AAMFT Approved Supervisor as well as a Qualified Supervisor for all 3 professions under 491. She is also dually licensed in the State of Florida as a Marriage and Family Therapist (LMFT) and Clinical Social Worker (LCSW). And she is also a member of the American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA). Currently, Silvia also maintains a small part-time practice in Gainesville, FL where she resides. Before pursuing her Ph.D. in marriage and family therapy at Purdue University in 1989, she was employed for almost 9 years as an Assistant Director and Clinical Social Worker in the Social Work Department at Miami Children's Hospital in Miami, FL.

II. Service to AAMFT/FAMFT/Chapters

Upon arrival in Gainesville in 1993, Silvia searched for a family therapy community and found the local chapter of our state division, the North Central Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (NCFAMFT). In 1996 she served as Secretary on the Board for about 2 years and remained a member as long as the chapter existed. More recently, just 1 year ago, she and another colleague restarted the North Central Florida Chapter after 5 years as an inactive chapter. With the help of a very committed and outstanding Board and core group of interested members, the North Central Chapter has had a very successful first year. Silvia has served as President for NCFAMFT during this past year and will continue to serve while the chapter makes gains in membership and stability. As many other chapters across the state, we are serving our local professional community with a professional home base where members are able to connect and expand professionally and also complete continuing education credits. This past year we have provided one outstanding workshop on ethics and a very well-received and highly praised annual conference.

At the national level, Silvia was nominated and ran for the AAMFT Elections Council last year but was not elected. As a nominee on the ballot, she was invited to participate in AAMFT's Futures Conference during the summer of 2009 - one of several steps in AAMFT's ongoing strategic planning efforts.

III. Position Statement

As noted, Silvia's service in AAMFT has taken place mostly at the local/regional level with some limited service at the national level. By serving on the FAMFT Election Committee she plans to gain exposure and experience at the state division level. As a member of the Elections Committee, she hopes to assist in the process of recruiting and creating slates of officers, board and committee members that would represent the interest of marriage and family therapists across the state and serve our needs as a state division. Based on her roles and experiences in academia and clinical practice, Silvia is also able to appreciate and understand particular issues faced by students in training, as well as practitioners and supervisors. This can be an asset for the Elections Committee in seeking candidates that might be best suited to address the needs of that portion of our membership. Silvia also views involvement at the state level during this time as an opportunity to be connected with AAMFT Central as the organization (us included) transitions through a period of membership-driven growth and reinvention. As we move ahead, it is clear that responsiveness to members' views remains key at all levels – a vital piece to consider

Nominations for 2011 Elections
Student Associate Board Member

Brief Bio

Chelsea Garneau, M.A. is currently a 2nd year Family Relations doctoral student at Florida State University in Tallahassee, FL. She received her B.A. in Psychology from Michigan State University in 2006 and completed her M.A. in Marriage and Family Therapy at the Adler School of Professional Psychology in Chicago, IL in 2009. Chelsea has been a student member of AAMFT since 2007 and of FAMFT since 2009. While attending her master's program she served for two years on the Adler Student Association board, first as the Social Responsibility Committee Chair and then as the Vice President of the executive board. Presently, Chelsea serves on the Kappa Omicron Nu Florida State University chapter executive board as the Treasurer. Her clinical experience involves a master's practicum appointment at an intensive outpatient drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility for adolescents and their families in Schaumburg, IL and two semesters working at the FSU Center for Couple and Family Therapy. While she is currently focusing on family studies research in her academics, Chelsea remains involved with the MFT community and plans to take steps toward licensure upon completing her doctorate.

Position Statement

While marriage and family therapy continues to grow as a profession, with many eager students and newly trained therapists joining us each year, we are still being challenged by competing professions to maintain and improve our status at both the state and national levels. With so many of our most prominent leaders coming up on retirement, it is up to the next generation of MFT's to get involved early and be informed of the necessity to keep moving forward with efforts to preserve our profession for years to come. Students and new associate FAMFT members are valuable resources for the greater MFT community whom I believe have much to gain through the support of FAMFT and also much to contribute. It should be an important goal of the organization to encourage new membership, foster supportive and professional relationships between new and experienced clinicians, and educate members regarding our rights as licensed professionals, responsibilities to our clients and communities, and opportunities for promotion and preservation of our profession. It would be an honor to serve on the FAMFT board, representing our students and helping our membership grow stronger and more involved than ever before!

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Seeking Professional to Lease Office Space

The Building

This is a 2 story, 13 unit office condo building. It has covered parking and is 5 minutes from I-95 and the Turnpike.

The Unit

Our suite is 1400 square feet and consists of 3 therapy rooms, a secretarial/receptionist office, a waiting room, kitchen, file room, and 3 bathrooms, all professionally and tastefully decorated. Each individual office is furnished and has a tranquil view of a wooded residential neighborhood on a canal.

The Services

Include part time secretarial support (scheduling, transcription of reports and letters, billing, etc.) telephone, fax, copier, electricity, and weekly cleaning service.

Please make confidential inquiries to Ann Pennington, Office Manager, at 561-626-2444.

2011 FAMFT Elections

Nominations for Board Member

Professional Positions-Current & Past: Annette D. Reiter, MA, LMFT (MT#1896)

I maintain a private practice for Marriage, Family and Individual clients in St. Petersburg, FL, and am the co-author of Launching: Parenting to College and Beyond. (2010).

Additionally, I offer workshops, trainings and consulting to colleges, high schools, hospitals and various non-profit companies. I provide services that focus on empowering individuals with tools to manage life's transitions. Popular topics include Generation Y and technology, launching your child to adulthood, emotional eating, compassion fatigue, stress reduction, and diversity training. Currently, I primarily work with national and local nonprofits including YWCA, Eckerd College and University of West Virginia.

I received by Bachelors from University of California, San Diego in Psychology (1985) and Masters in Marriage, Family and Child Counseling from the University of San Diego (1998). While at USD I worked as a Graduate Assistant in the Diversity Training Program for faculty, staff and students. Additionally, I had two fellowships through MFCC department and was second author to a paper on therapists' portrayal in movies. Before becoming a therapist, I held various civic offices including President of the Downtown Mainstreet in Palm Springs, CA. Currently, I volunteer at a public school, helping build their garden.

Service to AAMFT/FAMFT/Chapters:

I have been a member since 1996, when I first joined the California Association. I have always advocated for AAMFT/FAMFT platforms, met therapists, and made referrals across America on therapist locator and passionately enjoyed my membership to this association. I firmly stand behind the organization's mission, and plan to deepen my involvement with the organization in the coming years.

Over the years, I have spoken at both the FAMFT annual conference and the AAMFT annual conference, to present my research on Generation Y. Additionally, in 1999 I was invited to the Chicago National Conference for a poster session. In this year May/June edition of the Family Therapy Magazine I wrote an article, "Brave Launching".

Fortunately, I currently find myself in at a place where I can dedicate both time and energy to helping the AAMFT/FAMFT grow. I am very appreciative of how AAMFT has helped both my field, and myself and now I feel it is time for me to give back.

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

As a board member, I would be a representative of therapists treating families in Florida. My professional and personal backgrounds have prepared me to be inclusive of diverse needs. I will continue to be a strong advocate for MFT issues and lobby for our professional rights. Additionally, I would hope to inspire younger therapists to join and participate in our association by making our annual conferences more family friendly and youth oriented.

I would also add that it is important for therapists to start understanding how technology is shaping our youth, and Generation Y in general. As a board member, I will make it my personal mission to find resources to help members get as much training in this area as possible.

AAMFT Conference September 23-26, 2010
Marriage: Relational and Societal Perspectives
Article by FAMFT President Elect
Mary Monica Burton, M.A., LMFT

Hello all! I'd like to take a moment to update you about the recent AAMFT conference. It was amazing to see the scope of our profession with representatives from all over the world, and explore the topics of the plenary and breakout sessions. As the president elect of FAMFT, I attended the leadership training and learned a great deal about AAMFT and how to best serve the state of Florida. I met many people from around the country and received great ideas on increasing membership and getting people more involved in our profession. Additionally I gained insight on how to be more active with legislative issues as well as the importance of staying aware and up to date with the various legislative issues that are present.

I was encouraged to be witness to all the professionals attending and hear how they are making a difference in the field of Marriage and Family therapy. What struck me the most and made me the most excited was the poster session and seeing the great research and study that students are putting into the field of family therapy. The future of our field is going to continue to develop and be a strong voice in the community and in the academic world. I would like to thank all the students, professors, and professionals for their continuing efforts in making our profession one that is strong.

I look forward to continuing to serve as your president-elect and staying on top of current issues in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy.

Nominations for Secretary

FAMFT 2011 Ballot

Rosario Garrido

Platform Statement for FAMFT Secretary

Rosario Garrido has been in private practice in North Miami, Florida for seven years serving families, adolescent, adults, and couples. Rosario holds licensures in the State of Florida as a Marriage and Family Therapist and a Mental Health Counselor since 2003. She has been a clinical member of AAMFT also since 2003.

As the FAMFT board members continue to address the topics I hereby refer to, I envision FAMFT strong membership growth through the different chapters' involvement in promoting interest in their respective local areas and networking with those licensed and not presently members of FAMFT. I foresee Florida Marriage and Family Therapists penetrating the school system and collaborating in better serving the students and their families by bringing in our expertise and knowledge of the family system.

FAMFT Board President Mary Hale-Haniff appointed me to occupy the position of secretary to the board for the year 2010. I am grateful for the opportunity to be part of a hard working and dedicated group of individuals and to better appreciate their commitment towards the growth and strength of the FAMFT. If elected to the position of secretary, it will be an honor to continue to serve with that same dedication and pleasure.

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2011 February Conference
Save this date!

FAMFT Winter Conference 2011

What Works In Couple and Family therapy

February 3-5, 2011

Lake Mary Marriott

Lake Mary, Florida

**Saturday Tracts for 491 License Renewal and Tract
on Couple and Family Therapy**

Register at www.famft.org



Doug Sprenkle and Sean Davis

Purdue Univesrity

Plenary on Friday, February 4

**Common Factors in Couple and Family Therapy: The
Overlooked Foundation for Effective Practice**



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: Dr. Larry Barlow, Executive Director at lbarlow110@msn.com.

Deadlines are 15th of the month prior to publication which is in March, June, Sep-



2011 FAMFT Nominations Student/Affiliate Representative

Brief Bio

Jacqueline K. Clarke, currently a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Family Therapy at Nova Southeastern University, is working on her dissertation research on “Christian beliefs practiced by one partner after marriage: A qualitative study of clinical implications.” She has served as a Graduate Assistant for three faculty professors in the Department for two years. She has co-taught as a teaching assistant in family therapy courses including Diversity in Human and Family Development, Substance Abuse/Addictions and Critical Issues, and others. In completing her supervisory practicum, she supervised master’s student interns in multiple schools in the Broward County areas. Her clinical engagement with clients has led her to recognize the importance of embracing relational therapy. Embracing systemic thinking and training, she helps facilitate change for individuals, couples, families, and other systems. She considers interventions with clients are best made within a systemic environment that involves building on individuals’ resources and strengths within relationships.

Jacqueline received her Master of Art degrees in Counseling Psychology and Interdisciplinary Studies at the Caribbean Graduate School of Theology in Jamaica. She is a Florida Certified Addictions Professional. Jacqueline’s clinical experiences involve seven years in mental health services as a Case Manager for at-risk youths and substance abusing individuals. Her focus is to develop excellence and competence as a Marriage and Family Therapist. Jacqueline has been a student member of AAMFT since 2008. She served as a student volunteer at the 2009 FAMFT annual conference.

Position Statement

The field of Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) achieved a maturational level that epitomized one of its core epistemologies, being systemically and relationally oriented. This level of maturation involves a circular flow of maintenance, transition, change, and reshaping. With this circular interaction the commitment and involvement of student members in the profession become paramount. As FAMFT has continued to encourage the participation of its members at the state and national level, there remains a challenge in fostering the vision of commitment, inclusion, and collaboration among MFT student members. That will be my focus if elected.

Nurturing Commitment - The imprint FAMFT officers and members created within the field must be recognized. We must continue to nurture a strong belief in what we offer in the mental health services as MFTs and maintain the promotion of excellence and competence in the delivery of services. FAMFT needs to continue to expand its target market that generates jobs and positive reputations for MFT. FAMFT needs to ensure that student members have confidence as MFTs and continue to be reassured in relation to the benefits to be derived as members of the organization. This is aimed at encouraging more MFT students to become AAMFT/FAMFT members and to remain members beyond graduation.

Foster Inclusion—As FAMFT continues to promote excellence and competence through training and skill building, we must foster growing opportunities for students participation in the development of our field. FAMFT must continue to reduce gaps of non-participation and ensure that student members are included in building bridges that continue to strengthen the field.

**FAMFT
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***The FAMFT expresses ap-
preciation to our outgoing
FAMFT Board members:***

Dr. AnnaLynn Schooley

Past President

Ms. Rosario Garrido

Secretary

Dr. Roxanne Bamond

Board Member

Dr. Andrea S. Meyer

Student/Associate

Board Representative

***Thanks to these members
who have volunteered their
time to serve on the FAMFT
Board.***

**FAMFT
CHAPTER
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Nominations for 2011 Elections

Position: Secretary

Brief Bio

Andrea Meyer, Ph.D. currently serves as Adjunct Professor in the Family and Child Sciences Department at Florida State University. Dr. Meyer is also the Assistant Clinic Coordinator for the Center for Couple and Family Therapy at Florida State University.

Dr. Meyer received her Ph.D. in Marriage and Family Therapy from Florida State University in May of 2010. Dr. Meyer is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Florida and a clinical member of AAMFT. Currently Dr. Meyer is working towards AAMFT approved supervisor status.

Dr. Meyer's clinical experiences include several years in residential, day treatment, and outpatient services for children and families. Dr. Meyer has also provided in-home therapy for at risk families involved in the child welfare system. Presently, Dr. Meyer conducts therapy in a private practice in Crawfordville, Florida.

Dr. Meyer has been active at the state and national levels of AAMFT for several years. During the last two years she was the student/new professional board member for FAMFT. In this position, Dr. Meyer was able to observe and take part in important decisions, assist in planning for conferences and network with other leaders across the state. Dr. Meyer has also presented at several state MFT conferences as well as at the national AAMFT conference.

Position Statement

Within the field of couples and family therapy, change is inevitable. As an elected representative of MFTs in Florida, it is my responsibility to listen and validate the concerns of couple and family therapists while keeping in mind the overall purpose and goals of the organization. As the secretary, I will fulfill these responsibilities while also improving the communication between FAMFT members. If elected to the position of secretary, I plan to support the following areas:

Continuing to promote parity – During the last two years on the FAMFT board I became acutely aware of the importance of parity for couple and family therapists across the state. No issue of parity is too small. Each must be addressed in order to ensure that the profession continues to grow and MFTs are given the freedom to practice competently within their profession. In addressing parity issues, I will continue to support the use of a lobbyist at the state level, in order to adequately represent the needs of couple and family therapist in Florida.

Communication between members and with FAMFT – An important component of FAMFT is the ability to network between members and to receive updates from the organization. Communication can take many forms, including discussions at conferences, newsletters, emails, and social networking. As the secretary of FAMFT I will assist in improving opportunities for communication between members. I plan to increase the use of social networking, such as AAMFT's "Community." I will provide assistance and training for this technology at conferences and for local division leaders. Finally, I believe that communication between an organization and its membership should be bidirectional. As the secretary of FAMFT it is my responsibility to share the opinions expressed at board meetings with members across the state. Furthermore, I will use technology and other methods to improve the ability to communicate effectively with board members.



Increasing membership – FAMFT must maintain adequate membership in order to provide important services to couple and family therapists in Florida. In order to address membership, I will support an ongoing membership drive to obtain new members as well as reinstate previous members. As the elected secretary, I will assist the membership chair in increasing membership in the following categories: students, new professionals, and clinical members. Part of this process includes understanding and addressing the different needs of each membership category and bringing this information back to board members for discussion.

Research informed therapists – During both my master’s and doctoral programs I learned how couple and family therapists provide unique services that are effective for many presenting problems. I believe that increasing knowledge of this effectiveness is essential towards maintaining competent couple and family therapists. I also understand that the term “research” can be viewed negatively. However, in the current world of providing cost-effective and time limited services, an ongoing understanding of research in MFT is essential for practicing clinicians. During my tenure as secretary of FAMFT, I plan to increase the educational opportunities for therapists who desire to advance their knowledge of evidence based practice. This will occur through supporting FAMFT members’ (students/practitioners/researchers) presentations of cutting edge clinical work at state and local conferences.

As an elected representative of couple and family therapists across Florida, I plan to address these issues. I will also keep an open mind towards opinions and ideas of change for the organization. As a board member for the last two years, I have learned that many state divisions view FAMFT as a model organization. I feel that we must continue to provide an example of how couple and family therapists can work together to improve our profession. However, I also believe that to provide the best environment for our members the organization must be willing to change. I would be honored and excited to serve as your FAMFT Secretary.

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Jacqueline K. Clarke Continued from page 9

Promote Collaboration – FAMFT can promote the expansion of dialogue at various levels that will create involvement and gather feedback from student members. This dialogue can promote conversations among student members, officers, and members on issues such as expanding and reshaping our organization. FAMFT must ensure reasonable collaboration among ourselves, as we continue to gain allies among health and mental health professionals that will aim at promoting systemic/relational practices among families, couples, community systems, and mental health services.

As AAMFT embarked on maintenance, transition, change, and reshaping our organization, we also are challenged to remain open, flexible, and savvy, while holding on to our professional identity, credibility, and influence in the process. Much appreciation goes to our current and past officers who built an organization that is vigilant and effective in meeting the needs of our state, its residents, students, and members. It would be an honor and pleasure to serve as Student/Affiliate Representative of FAMFT.

2011 Ballot Nomination for Student/Associate Member

Michael J. Alicea, MS, MSW, (EdD Candidate) has been a practicing Marriage and Family Therapist for over twenty years in the South Florida area. He has been credited with organizing and revitalizing the Miami-Dade Chapter of Marriage and Family Therapist with a membership in excess of more than two hundred and sixty active members, and is also an active member of the Miami-Dade Chapter of Social Workers, and is a Steering and Membership Committee member as well.

He has worked as a contractual independent consultant to the State of Florida, as well as a consultant Medical Social Worker/Case Manager for Baptist Hospitals Health Network at South Miami Hospital's Social Work and Continuing Care Coordination Department, as well as Baptist Hospital Home Health Care. He currently facilitates a support group for males with prostate cancer, and has worked in a number of community mental health clinics in the South Florida area; these facilities have included Switchboard of Miami, Inc., Family Counseling Program of Miami, Charter Behavioral Hospital's Intensive Outpatient Services (I.O.P.) for recovering substance and alcohol abusers, as well as Columbia Hospital of South Florida. He has experience as a family therapist and was a Program Coordinator for one of the largest geriatric Partial Hospitalization Program to in the State of Florida (Residential Plaza in South Florida). He has held responsible positions with Citrus Health Network, Inc (formerly Northwest Dade Center Inc.) and was Program Director for a Day Treatment Program for the chronically mentally ill, and was also a consultant and visiting family therapist for a residential treatment facility for expectant mothers recovering from substance abuse

He is an adjunct faculty professor for Miami Dade College, and has also taught at Barry University as well as having been a visiting professor. He has experience as an adult education instructor and educator for the Miami Dade County Public School System. He has experience teaching the chronically mentally ill, disabled, and elderly population in Day Treatment settings as well as in Adult Living Facilities (ALF's) as part of the Miami-Dade County Public School Systems Continuing Education Outreach Program.

He is a certified (currently active) law enforcement officer with a combined twenty-eight years experience with both the Miami and the Coral Gables Police Departments. He has held numerous responsible positions that included Uniformed Patrol, Hostage Negotiations, and Certified Crisis Intervention Team Member, Investigator/Detective and Undercover assignments in the Criminal Investigative Division, as well as having worked in Community Relations, Youth Resource Unit, and has been an Administrative Assistant to various first-line supervisors and commanders. He has also held positions in the Accreditation Section, Staff Inspections, Planning and Research and was responsible for managing more than nine million dollars as the Grants Manager and Coordinator for the City of Coral Gables.

He obtained his undergraduate degrees from Miami-Dade College and St. Thomas University, where he obtained an Associate of Arts Degree in Psychology, an Associate of Science Degree in Criminal Justice Administration, and a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Psychology. He also received a Masters of Science Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy from St. Thomas University, and completed a Masters in Clinical Social Work from Barry University. He is presently completing his doctoral degree in Counseling Psychology (with a concentration in Marriage and Family Therapy) from Argosy University.

He served as a member of the United States Coast Guard Reserve during the Desert Storm Campaign of the early 1990's as a Ready Reserve Unit Officer in Port Security, Communications Operations, and Search and Rescue Support Services. He received an Honorable Discharge from the service after eight years of duty.

He has participated and co-organized and presented at many local, state and nationally sponsored conferences throughout the United States as well as the University of Chicago.

He was born and raised in the Bronx, New York, and is of Puerto Rican/Italian origin. He migrated to the South Florida area in the mid 1970's. He has a practical knowledge and experience in dealing with many of the diverse cultures and ethnic groups that are native to South Florida as well as throughout the State of Florida.

POSITION STATEMENT:

PARTNERSHIP

I believe in the concept of partnership and the spirit of working together with a common interest in advancing parity with the other mental health disciplines. Towards this end, FAMFT should direct its efforts at more tangible and measurable outcomes that facilitate a shared collaboration that would be of mutual interest to all of us.

STEWARDSHIP:

I support a process oriented approach in the management for FAMFT, and challenge the traditional notion of conduct that oftentimes uses a “bifocal approach” in which the concentration has often relied primarily on the content, while others would attend to the process. This paradigm model of interaction is vulnerable at best in meeting and responding sufficiently to the individual chapters that makeup FAMFT. I support a stewardship process whereby a continuity of communications is made possible that facilitates an opened dialogue that is fluid and receptive on multiple levels.

ACCOUNTABILITY:

Accountability for consequences has to rely on the level of interest that is in essence the definitive source of all human actions and discussions in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. When I refer to accountability, I mean that we all share a common notion about causal sequences of interactional events in our functionality as therapist and members of FAMFT. These interactions and role relationships with our clients and each other as professionals in due course have cost for us all. AAMFT Code of Ethical Principles state that Marriage and Family Therapist are dedicated to advancing the welfare of family and individuals, therefore, in keeping with this standard of conduct, I believe that the time has come that as therapist and FAMFT members, consideration should be given towards endorsing a continuity of accountability that promotes the welfare of the family and the individual clients that we serve.

ETHICAL STANDARDS OF CONDUCT:

In this postmodern world, it is no longer possible to bolster an ethical stance by appealing to some outside or universal standard; nor is it necessary to discount such a stance as inadequately subjective. I propose that FAMFT develop an open exchange of ideas among our peers and our clients in an effort at encouraging a mutual process that best ensures our continued ethical code of conduct.

These are but a few issues that I sponsor that challenges us all to re-examine where we are at this period of time, and compels us to examine what lies within and outside the system of FAMFT; opening our world to multiple inputs and possibilities. Being truly systematic means ultimately confronting the important role that we all have in the field of Marriage and Family Therapy. Given this concept, I believe it is time for us all to focus on the goal of building the most efficacious organization that is within our reach and in essence, endorse a positive reciprocal influence that will last beyond my tenure as a viable candidate Board Member for FAMFT.

Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

FAMFT is a division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

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