



The Newsletter of the Florida Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

President's Column

.As we shift to the second half of 2009, it's time to take a moment and look at our achievements for the past six months or so.

Chief among them is the amazing legislative session in which so many bills have either been passed or nearly passed I can't keep track of the number! In each case, our right to practice has been strengthened. Read more details in this issue of the newsletter. It is not possible to thank enough Melinda Piller, our lobbyist, Mary Hale Haniff, President-elect, Larry Barlow, Executive Director, and the many FAMFT members who participated with information and contacts to legislators to make this legislative season an amazing success.

Expanding the areas in which we can practice could not be more important in our current economic climate. Reports are consistent from most everyone including this association about how we have all been challenged during these times.

For those that did attend the May conference, the Narrative plenary by Jill Freedman and the other workshop offerings were exciting opportunities to learn and share new ideas, reflect on our practices, and strengthen relationships. Many of our professional relationships seem like a scene from the movie "Same Time Next Year" as we only see each other at the annual conference.

There are two more opportunities to learn and reconnect planned for you. Please mark your calendar for Friday, December 4 and plan to meet in Orlando for our Second Annual Winter Conference. We'll be offering two topical tracks and a total of six CEUs for those who attend. We are thrilled to announce that Yvonne Dolan, author and Solution Focused Therapy Master, will be presenting the plenary for our 2010 May conference. Reserve the weekend of May 14 -- 15 to join us again at the Deerfield Hilton. While it seems like the distant future, be thinking now about drafting an abstract to present at the 2010 Spring conference! Keep checking the website for more details.

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Summer 2009

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Special points of interest:

- New laws in effect!
- CE Broker /DOH information about your license renewal
- Find how to obtain the CE credit you need from FAMFT
- Find out what FAMFT is accomplishing for you with government advocacy
- 2009 tAnnual Conference Photos

FAMFT Lobbying Efforts Pay-Off Big for Marriage and Family Therapists

Priority Bills and Parity Language Dominate 2009 Legislative Session!

By, Melinda Piller, Governmental Relations

This session marked major changes once again for the MFT recognition and successful lobbying efforts here in Florida. Not since the Baker Act legislation has there been such a flurry of mental health issues at stake, and the FAMFT was at the forefront of legislative activities! Working in a coalition with other mental health professionals regulated under FS 491 we were able to continue the momentum of leadership for all mental health professionals as we passed priority bills and amended many more to include MFTs on all levels!

Thanks to all Florida FAMFT leaders, and especially those in the field who responded to our requests during this fast paced session. Because of your efforts we were able to make a positive impact on the profession for all MFTs and those planning to become MFTs in the future. A special thanks to our Executive Director, Larry Barlow who always made himself available and offered his significant expertise to our lobbying efforts throughout the committee and formal legislative session.

PRIORITY PASSED: (Marriage and Family Therapist were drafted into the original bill)

"Duty to Warn"

HB 109 - Clinical, Counseling, and Psychotherapy Services

GENERAL BILL by Bemby (CO-SPONSORS) Brisé; Gibbons; Homan; Jones; Planas; Roberson, Y.; Rogers; Soto; Van Zant

Clinical, Counseling, and Psychotherapy Services: Provides for waiver of confidentiality & privileged communications when, in clinical judgment of person licensed or certified under ch. 491, F.S., there is clear & immediate probability of certain harm; provides immunity from liability for, & prohibits causes of action against, such person for disclosure of otherwise confidential communications under such circumstances.

Effective Date: July 1, 2009

Last Event: Ordered enrolled on Monday, April 27, 2009 5:32 PM

Summary:

The bill provides that there is no liability on the part of a **licensed clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor (collectively known as psychotherapists)**, if the psychotherapist discloses otherwise confidential communications to specified people when, in the clinical judgment of the psychotherapist, there is a clear and immediate probability of physical harm to the patient or client, to other individuals, or to society. This bill amends section 491.0147, Florida Statutes.

II. Present Situation:

Chapter 491, F.S., provides for the regulation of psychotherapists by the Board of Clinical Social Work, Marriage and Family Therapy, and Mental Health Counseling within the Department of Health.¹ Section 491.0147, F.S., specifies that any communication between any person licensed or certified under ch. 491, F.S.,² and his or her patient or client shall be confidential. This secrecy may be waived under the following conditions:

¹ See s. 491.004, F.S. ² Persons licensed or certified under ch. 491, F.S., include clinical social workers, marriage and family therapists, and mental health counselors, collectively known as psychotherapists. See s. 491.003(13), F.S.

When the person licensed or certified under ch. 491, F.S., is a party defendant to a civil, criminal, or disciplinary action arising from a complaint filed by the patient or client, in which case the waiver shall be limited to that action;

This is an action that has been needed for many years in Florida. Prior to this time, if a LMFT in Florida felt compelled to act to protect any individuals or society in general by contacting such persons or law enforcement, then we were liable to be sued. This actions should greatly limit our exposure!

PRIORITY PASSED: Parenting Plans (Marriage and Family Therapists were amended into the bill)**CS/CS/CS/SB 904 - Parental Responsibility and Time-sharing [SPSC]**

GENERAL BILL by Policy and Steering Committee on Ways and Means and Judiciary and Children, Families, and Elder Affairs and Deutch (CO-SPONSORS) Bullard; Altman

Parental Responsibility and Time-sharing [SPSC]: Provides for parenting coordination as an alternative dispute resolution process to resolve parenting plan disputes. Revises the elements of the rebuttable presumption that shared parental responsibility is detrimental to a child when a parent is convicted of a crime involving domestic violence. Allows the modification of a parenting plan only upon a showing of substantially changed circumstances, etc.

Effective Date: 10/01/2009

Summary:

The bill amends ch. 61, F.S., relating to dissolution of marriage and parental responsibility for minor children. The bill amends the definition of parenting plan, and allows the court to establish a parenting plan with or without the use of a court-ordered parenting plan recommendation. The bill also amends the definition of parenting plan recommendation to allow not only psychologists, but also court-appointed mental health practitioners and other professionals to make parenting plan recommendations.

The bill clarifies that there is no presumption in favor of psychologists.

A parenting plan recommendation is distinguishable from the social investigation prescribed by s. 61.20, F.S. A social investigation may be ordered by the court when parents are unable to agree and may **be conducted by conducted by staff of the court, a child-placing agency, a psychologist, or a clinical social worker, marriage and family therapist, or mental health counselor.** Unless the parties are indigent, they are responsible for the cost of the investigation. 7 Section 61.046(13), F.S. 8 Section 61.046(22), F.S. 9 Section 61.13(2)(b), F.S.

Last year when the legislature changed the Parenting Plan provisions in Florida law, LMFTs in Florida were inadvertently omitted. Even though the bill sponsor indicated that he never intended for that omission to occur, many Florida Family courts did restrict our ability to practice in this manner. Now it clearly states that LMFTs in Florida have the same right as psychologists to be appointed by Family Courts as Parenting Plan evaluators.

PRIORITY PASSED: (Marriage and Family Therapists were amended into the bill)**CS/CS/CS/CS/SB 1276 - Care of Children [SPSC]**

GENERAL BILL by Health and Human Services Appropriations and Governmental Oversight and Accountability and Judiciary and Children, Families, and Elder Affairs and Storms (CO-SPONSORS) Lynn

Care of Children [SPSC]: Creates the "Zahid Jones, Jr., Give Grandparents and Other Relatives a Voice Act." Provides for the DCFS to analyze certain unaccepted reports to the central abuse hotline. Renames "children's zones" as "children's cooperatives." Provides for the DCFS to enter into a contract with a not-for-profit corporation to implement the children's cooperative project. Provides for the reappropriation of funds, etc.

Effective Date: 07/01/2009

Summary: This bill creates the "Zahid Jones, Jr., Give Grandparents and Other Relatives a Voice Act" and makes a number of changes to sections of law relating to children, in order to give relatives notice of all proceedings and hearings regarding a child during child protective investigations and dependency court proceedings. Additionally, the bill provides that if a protective investigation is commenced based on a report to the central abuse hotline from certain specified reporters, the reporter must be given the contact information of the investigator within 24 hours after an investigator has been assigned. The bill also permits such a reporter to give a written summary of the report made to the central abuse hotline to the investigator, which will become part of the master file. ***This is another opportunity for LMFTs in Florida to be considered as treating practitioners. The bill further provides that the child abuse records of a child are available to a physician, psychologist, or mental health professional treating or caring for the child.***

DID NOT PASS

PRIORITY (MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS WERE AMENDED INTO THE LANGUAGE AND THIS BILL WILL BE FILED AGAIN FOR NEXT SESSION)

BILL #: CS/HB 89 Autism
SPONSOR(S): Precourt and others

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

The bill provides that parents or legal guardians who believe their minor child exhibits symptoms of Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) may report their observation to a licensed physician. Based on the reported observation of the parent or guardian, the physician must immediately refer the minor to an appropriate specialist for screening if the referral is clinically indicated after examination and initial screening. An exception is made for physicians providing care under s. 395.1041, F.S. The bill also provides a list and qualifications of medical and other professionals who may be appropriate specialists for screening. The bill adds evaluation and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder as a required coverage for health insurance plans under s. 627.6686, F.S. The bill also requires health maintenance organizations under chapter 641, Florida Statutes to provide direct patient access to specialists for screening, evaluation and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder.

Adds evaluation and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder as a required coverage for Health insurance plans under s. 627.6686, F.S., (means a group health insurance policy or group health benefit plan offered by an insurer which includes the state group insurance program provided under s. 110.123.) This may have an impact on cost to these organizations through increased frequency of evaluation and diagnosis services.

Adds direct patient access to specialists for screening, evaluation and diagnosis of autism spectrum disorder for health maintenance organizations under chapter 641, Florida Statutes. This may have an impact on cost to these organizations through increased frequency of screening, evaluation and diagnosis services.

The bill was reported favorably and the bill analysis has been updated to reflect the committee substitute. Again it is important for parity for LMFTs in Florida to be "at the table" and be considered as relevant and appropriate providers.

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PRIORITY (MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS WERE PART OF AN AMENDMENT FILED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF CHILDREN AND FAMILIES TO "INCLUDE" APPROPRIATE MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AS OPPOSED TO THE NEW LANGUAGE THEY ORIGINALLY INTRODUCED WHICH "EXCLUDED" MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS OTHER THAN PSYCHOLOGISTS)

SB 2018 - Mental Health [WPSC]

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DID NOT PAS

CS/CS/CS/CS/HB 349 Forensic Mental Health Policy

SPONSOR(S): Full Appropriations Council on General Government & Health Care; Health & Family Services Policy Council, Public Safety & Domestic Security Policy Committee, Health Care Services Policy Committee, Adkins and others

SUMMARY ANALYSIS

This bill creates a workgroup to review state policy and budgeting issues affecting adults with serious mental illness who also have involvement with the state criminal justice system. The bill directs the workgroup to conduct a review of various aspects of the criminal justice and mental health systems and produce reports with findings and recommendations. The Secretaries of the Agency for Health Care Administration and the Department of Corrections will oversee and provide staff and administrative assistance to the group. These agencies and the Department of Children and Family Services may use the assistance of outside research organizations to collect information for the workgroup. The workgroup will:

- Identify state funds expended on mental illness as specified in the bill;
- Examine community based service systems;
- Review use and costs associated with courts and incarceration for individuals charged with misdemeanors or felonies who are diagnosed with a mental illness;



Review use and costs associated with courts and incarceration for individuals with traumatic brain injuries;
 Review of early discharge and inappropriate incarceration;
 Review the criminal code, penalties and sentencing guidelines relating to forensic mental health;
 Identify cost effective model programs and practices, and use of current funding more effectively;
 Consider the efficacy of various forensic mental health settings;
 Develop legislation in conjunction with the Agency for Health Care Administration;
 Review the effect of substance abuse issues on the system and ways to use Medicaid waivers;
 Review involuntary commitment requirements under the Baker Act;
 Assess system changes needed, including eliminating use of prisons for caring for mentally ill;
 Review use and cost of electronic medical records;
 Review and compare of mental health care practices and standards used during incarceration;
 Consider methods of diverting mentally ill inmates through the use of conditional release or probation;
 Review probation and parole requirements for individuals diagnosed with a mental illness; and
 Review discharge practices for individuals diagnosed with a mental illness.

The workgroup must complete an interim report no later than January 5, 2010, and a final report with recommendations by January 5, 2011. The workgroup will terminate and this section will expire on July 1, 2011. The bill has no fiscal impact on local government. The impact to the General Revenue Fund is estimated to be \$487,398 in Fiscal Year 2009-10 and \$137,398 for Fiscal Year 2010-11.

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As you can observe from reading about this work, this is the most active legislative season FAMFT has experienced perhaps since gaining licensure. The Board wishes to express appreciation to our Lobbyist, Melinda Pillar, for her dedication and responsible representation of MFTS in Florida!

Also, many of our members responded when the call to action came which was essential to our success. You contacted your local representatives to seek inclusion on our behalf. Many doors were opened as a result for us to expand our work opportunities as mental health professionals in Florida.

Our PAC funds, Florida Family TEAM, have been exhausted. Can you contribute a donation equal to one hour of your time. We need to contribute to many of the government representatives who are campaigning and have supported MFTS and FAMFT.

Please make your check payable to: Florida Family TEAM

Send it to our Board Treasurer:

***Arthur D. Cleveland at 1115 North Gadsden St,
 Tallahassee, FL 32303.***

Include your address and phone number please for his records.

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

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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.) 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.

Importance of Recently-Passed “Duty to Warn” Legislation

Written By Mary Hale-Haniff, PhD, LMFT President Elect, FAMFT

This article was written in response to those MFT members who have asked us to elaborate on the significance of the “duty to warn” legislation that was recently passed.

For the most part, communications that take place between therapist and client are privileged and confidential. That is, the therapist cannot disclose any protected information without a written release of information from the client(s). In addition to responding to routine requests for release of information (FS 491.0147), there are several other circumstances where privilege and confidentiality do not exist: These include: 1) When a client puts his or her own mental health at issue (such as in claiming a psychiatric disability) (FS 90.503); 2) During a court ordered examina-

tion of a client’s mental or emotional status (FS 90.503); 3) When a therapist is defending herself or himself from a client law suit (where the therapist may only disclose information directly pertinent to the complaint) (FS 90.503, FS 491.0147); 4) When a therapist knows of or suspects abuse, neglect, or exploitation of children (FS 39.201), the elderly, or disabled adults (FS 415.1034); and 5) When a therapist determines that there is likelihood that a client might harm herself or himself or another (FS 491.0147). This last instance is commonly known as “duty to warn.”

New Provisions

While there are statutes in place that protect the therapist from lawsuit subsequent to making a good-faith disclosure for the first four situations listed above, up until now, only *psychiatrists* have enjoyed statutory protection when exercising the duty to warn option. (FS 456.059). However, up until this time, 491 licensees (*MFT’s*, *CSW’s*, and *MHC’s*) have had *no parallel immunity*.

What Chapter 491.0147 currently states is that client confidentiality “may” be waived...

“When there is a clear and immediate probability of physical harm to the patient or client, to other individuals, or to society and the person licensed or certified under this chapter communicates the information only to the potential victim, appropriate family member, or law enforcement or other appropriate authorities.” The wording of statute has been problematic for therapists because the law does not specify that a therapist *must* warn but only that

a therapist *may* warn and doesn’t offer any legal protection to therapists who feel they must warn.

Because there are legal precedents both where therapists have been sued both for *not* warning potential victims and for warning potential victims, the current 491 law left therapists in a vulnerable “Catch 22”. The 1976 Tarasoff v. Regents of the University of California ruling--a case most of us recall from graduate school days--is a landmark example of the former. Perhaps not as familiar is the case of a Georgia psychologist Anthony Stone who was sued by a client who was a police officer after Stone notified police officials that his client had homicidal fantasies of killing his superior officer and any other people who got in his way. The Georgia court ruled against the psychotherapist and the jury awarded the officer \$280,000 in damages.

Effective July 2009, a new law amending FS 491.0147 goes into effect. This law prohibits legal action against 491 psychotherapists who exercise the duty to warn.



December 4, 2009 North/Central FAMFT Conference

Again this year, FAMFT will host a second annual conference. Last year's initial conference in Jacksonville was a great success. The program last year had two tracts including one that focused upon licen-

sure renewal. This year's program will again feature two tracts. One tract will highlight working with couples. At our May conference the most attended and popular workshop was produced by Dr. Paul Maione

and Melissa Bridges. It is entitled, "*Couples on the Brink.*" *This popular workshop will be presented again in Orlando in December. Registration details will follow.*

"Great dynamic team—wonderful flow to the presentation."

"Makes me re-think ways to do therapy or even adjust my own practice."

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

So far, 2009 has been a great year for our Central Florida chapter. We have a strong active membership and Board of Directors. We meet the first Thursday of every month and already this year we have received continuing education credits from a diverse group of amazing, intelligent, and informative speakers including Cindy West- Cross Cultural Kids and their Families, Teresa Guerard- Reactive Attachment Disorder, Reg Morrow- Relationships, Addictions, and Trauma, and Eric Muenks- Treating the LGBT Population. I thank all of them sincerely for their service to our organization. In March, we co-sponsored a workshop with Dr. Clifton Mitchell -Dealing with Highly Resistant Clients. Coming up this year we are looking forward to Roadmaps for Shared Parenting, Erickson Approaches to Help Couples and Families, Best Practices Guidelines: Examining the Role of Diversity in Group Work, Eating Disorders and the Impact on Family, and Legislative Update: Why it Matters to You. We are very grateful to our lobbyist Melinda Piller who works diligently for Marriage and Family Therapists. We appreciate all that she does for us and understand how important it is for our voices to be heard. I encourage everyone to stay informed, know their legislators and issues involving MFTs, and support the Political Action Committee. Some of our CFAMFT members attended the FAMFT conference which we enjoyed immensely and we are looking forward to the FAMFT winter conference which will be held here in Orlando in December. I encourage everyone to check out our great website www.cfamft.org. Thanks go out to President Elect Debbie Goodwin for all of her hard work in making this web site and our on line directory so successful.

Gail York, CFAMFT President

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Student/ Associate Board News

Hello to all students, registered interns and newly licensed MFTs!

Welcome to the Student/New Professional corner of the May FAMFT newsletter. The month of May brings many challenges for all of us. Students are finishing up another school year and may be graduating, transitioning into the "real world" and becoming registered interns. Interns are working towards achieving those important clinical hours or they are anxiously studying for the upcoming licensure exam period. New professionals are starting on their remarkable journey as licensed professionals. My hope is that during this time of change, FAMFT can provide all students and new professionals with the support and training to achieve their goals.

On a personal note, my first few months as your representative have been very enlightening. I have attended several board meetings and the state conference in early May. During this short time, I have realized how important the student/new professional voice is to our organization. FAMFT values the opinions and wishes of students/new professionals because they view us as the future leaders of this organization!

I have also learned how important it is to have a voice within the political arena and to stand up for the needs of MFTs across the state and at the federal level. At the May Conference I met and talked with our state lobbyist Melinda. She opened my eyes to the many important bills that impact the future of MFT here in Florida. I also learned about how I could make a personal difference by contributing to the Political Action Committee (PAC) which supports Melinda's work with FAMFT. I believe that as students and new professionals we can invest in our future by donating to the PAC. If you are interested in donating towards the PAC, feel free to contact me at ameyer@fsu.edu.

I believe that as a community we can be stronger the more we communicate with each other. For this reason, one of my primary goals during the next year will be to enhance communication at the state level between students and new professionals. I have several ideas for increasing our communication. First, I will be hosting student/new professional networking events at the conferences both in December (Orlando) and next May (Deerfield Beach). Second, I am working on a social networking site (Facebook) which should be up and running within the next few weeks. Third, I am working with local chapters across the state to establish student/new professional positions for each chapter and to communicate monthly with these representatives. Finally, I am open and waiting for personal communication from each and every student/new professional in Florida. If you have ideas or questions, feel free to contact me at any time!

As students and new professionals there are many ways you can become more involved with FAMFT. I want to encourage all students/new professionals to consider submitting a poster for your research or clinical work at both the December 2009 and May 2010 conferences. I have been involved in the poster sessions at FAMFT and they are a great way to collaborate and share information with other MFTs in the state. It is also a great avenue for networking, especially if you are looking for a future clinical job or academic position! In addition to the poster sessions, students are invited to submit abstracts for workshops as well as volunteer at the conference. At the May 2009 conference we had a wonderful group of volunteers that really helped in making the conference run smoothly and I thank you all for that! If you have any questions about submitting a poster or workshop abstract or if you are interested in volunteering in the future do not hesitate to contact me!

Finally, I want to thank you for electing me into this amazing position. I have already met and talked with so many remarkable people and I know that these experiences will shape me in many ways. I also know that during the next few years these experiences will only multiply as I complete my tenure as your student/new professional representative. I would love to hear from you, so please contact me! I wish you all the best!

Sincerely,

Andrea Meyer

FAMFT Board – Student / New Professional Representative

Contact: ameyer@fsu.edu



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

2009 May Conference



2009 Conference "Fun at Deerfield Beach Reception"





Jill Freedman, Plenary Speaker
Lobbyist, Melinda Pillar
Board Member, Andrea Meyer



Dr Tommie Boyd and students



President AnnaLynn Schooley
and
Board Member, Art Cleveland

"Let's dance"



Presidents Column Continued from page 1

Speaking of the website, we hope you cannot help but notice our shiny new website! While it is still somewhat under construction, we hope that you will find it easier to navigate and find the information you want. Registering for conferences will be easier as well, as we are now able to accept credit card payments through this website. Encourage your chapter boards to forward chapter news, workshop announcements, and other information so that we can all share in each other's triumphs and struggles.

One of those struggles is finding and nurturing new leadership at both the chapter and division levels. We are taking nominations for President-Elect (2010-2014), Board Member (2010-2012) and Elections Committee (2 members, 2010-2012). Each of us is called to serve our profession in one way or another. Some teach, some write, some supervise, some advocate, and some lead. You may have never thought to participate in the governance of our organization, thinking that it would take up too much time, you're not politically oriented, or it simply never occurred to you. To clinical members: you have become the supervisors, mentors, and teachers of the next generation of our profession and you have the opportunity to shape what the future will look like. You also have the chance to pay forward what was given to you. To registered interns and students: begin now to participate in your professional organization, beyond paying your dues and receiving the journals. Clinical member status is no longer needed to serve any post at the chapter level, so get involved! Some of our largest chapters are struggling to find members to step up and keep the chapter going; some chapters have yet to fully rise from the ashes of their previous life, and others are working to come into being. We need everyone to participate in our professional family.

To that end, FAMFT and AAMFT are joining forces to initiate a statewide Membership Drive. Florida currently has 2250 licensed and registered MFTs of which 1200 are FAMFT members. FAMFT/AAMFT is your professional home, so pitch in to make it strong and productive, bring along your colleagues, and decide how you will serve.



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