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The Communicator

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists

Government Publications
Texas State Documents

Governor Bush Appoints Three New Board Members.

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Earlier last year, Governor George Bush reviewed all the nominations received and appointed three new members to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists; Anna Beth Benningfield, Ph.D., George Pulliam, M.S.S.W., and Ellen Harrison, M.A., replace Lucille Romeo, Ph.D., Jerome McNeil, Ph.D., and Bobbie Henderson respectively. The new board members as well as the others have met three times and are working on a myriad of items, including amendments to the proposed rules.

New License Types

There are now three different types of licenses provided by the Board. They are a Temporary License, a Provisional License, and a Regular License for those who complete all requirements and successfully pass the exam. Those who hold licensure as a marriage and family therapist in another state may apply for a Provisional License. A temporary license will be issued to a qualified associate, for a period of 30 months and may be extended for (180) days with the Board's approval. For more information on these licenses types or required elements may be

found in Sections 801.92, 801.203, and 801.204 of the Board Rules.

DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS ☹

As a result of an order issued by the Board; revocations, suspensions, probations, reprimands and any other disciplinary action will be printed in future Board newsletters along with the individuals name, license number, type of violation, and action taken.

COMPLAINT HOTLINE ☹

Those who wish to file a complaint against a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist may call the Board office at 1-800-942-5540. This toll free number is for complaints against marriage and family therapists only!

SPEAK YOUR MIND ☺

The Board is under legislative constraints concerning lobbying. If you feel strongly about a particular issue which may affect you, the public, or the profession of marriage and

family therapy. You are encouraged to call or write the Board, your State Senator, State Representative, or the Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapy.

THE RULES ARE COMING...THE RULES ARE COMING! ☹

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists has recently completed a set of proposed rules. These rules have been reviewed by the program's legal counsel and will be posted in the Texas Register for a 30-day comment period. This agency has compiled comments submitted by the licensees, and other interested parties. The Board has reviewed those comments, and they were adopted and put in effect as of November 22, 1996.

VERY INTERESTING! ☼

Three of the mental health profession regulatory boards are now housed under the Texas Department of Health's Professional Licensing and

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Certification Division; the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, the Texas State Board of Licensed Professional Counselors, and the Texas State Board of Social Work Examiners. Remember, if you are applying for licensure with one or more of the above mentioned programs you **MUST** send all applicable documentation to each program along with the required applications and fees.

EXAMINATION INFORMATION

The Texas Marriage and Family Therapy examination was developed by Applied Measurement Services, a testing company from New Jersey, with the guidance of various professional members of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, a national panel of professionals at Princeton and Educators from several universities throughout Texas which offer marriage and family therapy degree programs.

The test consists of 200 multiple choice questions. Examinees are given four hours to complete the test. The examination is broken down into the following content areas:
 Assessment and Diagnosis - 19%
 Designing a Treatment Plan - 17%
 Conducting a Course of Treatment - 21%
 Establishing and Maintaining Appropriate Networks - 12%
 Assessing the Outcome of Treatments - 15%
 Maintaining Professional Standards - 16%

EXAMINATION RESULTS FOR, 1996

The marriage and family therapy examination was given in Austin, Texas on February 10, 1996 and July 13, 1996 and October 12, 1996. There was a 100% pass rate at the February exam, four failures at the July exam and two failures at the October exam.

FUTURE TEST DATES

Future examinations will be held on the second Saturday of February, June, and October of each year. All tests will be held in Austin, Texas. Applicants meeting the qualifications for examination will be notified of the exact times and locations. Additional information regarding testing procedure may be found in Subchapter H. of the Board rules, or by contacting the board office.

WELCOME ABOARD NEWEST STAFF MEMBERS!

Sandy Guyn, Executive Assistant, Donna Roberts, Administrative Assistant. Barbara Jackson, Administrative Assistant.

FAREWELLS'

Elizabeth "Liz" Scott and Robin Altmiller. Good luck with your new positions!

DONNA'S DO'S AND DON'TS!

1. Licensees who have continuing education due, please use the documentation form provided by our office to document hours. Completed documentation forms should be sent with your renewal fee and survey form. Please **do not** send certificates.
2. Renewal fees - To avoid a late penalty, the postmark date must be on or before the **last day** of your birth month. Remember to make any necessary changes to addresses, etc., on survey forms. Please be sure to answer questions #3 and #4, and sign and date the form to avoid delays in receiving your license.

BARBARA'S BIT!

At the time of renewal, acceptable continuing education credits are only valid during your renewal cycle

period. Any hours accrued beyond the 20 hour requirement cannot be carried over to your next renewal period.

A WORD FROM THE DIRECTOR...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists for the dedication and commitment each of them exhibit on a day-to-day basis. I welcome the three new Board members Anna Beth Benningfield, Ph.D., Ellen Harrison, and George Pulliam, M.S.S.W. I look forward to working with each of you. I also would like to welcome Sandy Guyn to the Board staff. Ms. Guyn will be my Executive Assistant and comes to us from the Texas Board of Nursing Facility Administrators. She replaces Liz Scott. The Board also has a new legal counsel, JoAnn Duda, welcome. I would like to thank Linda Wiegman for her guidance and input to this Board. Ms. Wiegman is now the supervising counsel for the Office of General Counsel. Thank you and good luck in your new position! I hope that the information we will be able to provide you through the upcoming newsletters (The Communicator) will be beneficial to you. If you have any suggestions on how we can improve the newsletter or information you would like to see, please do not hesitate to call.

Bobby D. Schmidt
 Executive Director

HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?

Licensees and applicants **MUST** notify the Board office of any address changes. The Board is not responsible for lost, misdirected or undelivered correspondence if sent to the last address reported in writing to the Board. ✍

Up close and personal...

This month, Tom Milholland, Ph.D., Chair

Meet Tom Milholland, Ph.D., one of the original board members and chairperson of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists. Dr. Milholland has a Ph.D. in Family Studies/Therapy from Texas Tech University (1979). He is a Clinical member and approved Supervisor in the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy, he also is the Director of a Commission on Education master's program in Marriage University. He has been practicing in addition, he has also been training and Therapists associates since 1979. He has well as other related committees.

An Article from Dr. Milholland

In the new LMFT Rules, the Board This means that all post-graduate LMFT in Texas must be licensed as a Holding the "associate" license allows 1,000-hours of direct clinical contact supervision from a supervisor approved academic and clinical requirements, the examination.

The best way to understand what is LMFT is reading the rules with special Requirements for Examination and sections include the requirements for the work, and the setting where the clinical process can be started during the last therapy graduate degree. To avoid a long applicant can obtain a written and university or department chair stating the notarized letter is only a good faith forthcoming, the applicant **MUST** submit an official transcript as soon as the degree is posted. Failure to submit an official transcript will result in the revocation of the temporary license.



Figure 1

changed the term "intern" to "associate." individuals working toward licensure as a Marriage and Family Therapy Associate. one to work toward the completion of the while receiving the 200-hours of by the State. Upon completion of all associate must pass the written

required to become fully licensed as an attention to Subchapter G, Experience Licensure §801.142-§801.144. These applicant, the supervisor of his/her clinical work is performed. The application semester of the marriage and family delay due to the posting of the degree, a notarized document from his/her projected graduation date. Since this statement that an official degree is

The Board is interested in knowing how well the licensed associate rules are functioning. Recently, a survey was mailed to all current licensed associates (N=200) with a good response (N=90). The following is a brief summary of the results: [some questions were not answered by all the respondents].

Is your graduate degree in Marriage and Family Therapy?	73=Yes 17=No
Is your internship?	Full-time [39] Part-time [49]
Are you paid for your internship?	61=Yes 27=No
Are you employed outside your internship	32=Yes 55=No

[The following are averages for all respondents]

How many hours per week are you employed outside your internship?	10 hours
How many client contact hours do you have per month?	76 hours
How many supervision hours do you receive per month?	9 hours
How long have you been an MFT intern?	18 months
What is your total number of client contact hours to date?	780 hours
What is your total number of supervision hours to date?	147 hours

SPEAKING OF CONTINUING EDUCATION...

I would like to take this opportunity to say "hello" to the licensees. This past year has been a learning experience for me, and I would like to thank everyone for making me feel welcome! I hope you enjoy the official Licensee Roster and the newest edition of the newsletter. It is the intent of this board, the executive director and myself to relay as much information as possible to the licensees on a regular basis. I apologize for any gap in the arrival of the newsletter(s); but rest assured, corrective action is being taken! Watch your mail for a copy of the adopted rules; significant changes are in subchapter K (Continuing Education) and a new section on "Child Support". *Special thanks to Barbara Jackson for her hard work on putting this newsletter together and Donna Roberts for processing all those renewals. Please feel free to call or write in your comments! I look forward to serving you.* *Sandy Lynn*

Happy Holidays

Question of the month!**Continuing Education Documentation**

If there are any questions regarding the form "CE Documentation Form." How to fill it out, and what continuing education credits are acceptable. For continuing education to count toward the renewal requirements it must be relative to Marriage and Family Therapy and fall into one or more of the following categories, (1) American Association of MFT (AAMFT), American Family Therapy Academy (AFTA), American Counselors Association (ACA), American Orthopsychiatric Association (ORTHO), American Pastoral Association, American Psychological Association (APA), and National Association of Social Workers (NASW) or other national groups, which present family system training. (2) Participation in conferences such as the Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (TAMFT); and Texas Association in Counseling, Pastoral Work, and Psychology or Social Work which offer marriage and family systems training. To receive credit for continuing education, the manner in which it is documented on the renewal form is very important.

Sample CEU Documentation Form

Title of Program	Name of School, Provider, or Organization conducting Program	Sponsor	Date	Type of Program	# of Hours
"Getting through The loss of a loved one"	University of A & M	The Association of LMFT	Feb 1 1996	Workshop	5.0
The Compulsive Gambler	Group Therapy Society	Houston Assoc. Clinical Hypnosis	8/5/96	Conference	6
Teenage Advocacy Program	Charles H. Douglas, Ph.D.	Amer. Assoc. Of Christian Counselors	5-24-96	Seminar	3.5

The "type of program" seems to be the most frequently asked question, confusing for some people. The question is "Is it a seminar, conference, workshop or some other type of training. The second column, "name of school, provider or organization conducting program, must be done correctly, being that it is an important factor in determining the acceptance of your continuing education credits. If the provider is not an accredited college or university, the name of state or national Marriage and Family organization, the name of a nationally accredited health/mental health organization, if it's not listed, no credit will be given for the training. Please note that failure to complete this form can result in a delay in the renewal process. (3) Participation in local seminars in marriage and family therapy presented by mental health groups such as the San Antonio Marriage and Family Therapy Association, Austin Marriage and Family Therapy Association, Dallas Marriage and Family Therapy Association, local hospitals, universities, and local agencies are accepted.

NOTE: If we do not receive 20 hours of continuing education with your renewal fee, you will be sent a deficiency letter. Your renewal will not be processed until all requirements for renewal are met - including continuing education. This could include the additional late fees - (0-90 days \$62.50, 90 days - 1 year \$125.00.

THE COMMUNICATOR

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Comments concerning **THE COMMUNICATOR** or suggestions for future article(s) to be included in upcoming issues should be forwarded to the board's office:

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Bobby Schmidt, Executive Director
Sandy Guyn, Executive Assistant
Donna Roberts, Administrative Assistant
Barbara Jackson, Administrative Assistant

TEAR ALONG THE DOTTED LINE

Let Us Hear From You...

The Communicator is published to provide licensees and applicants with current information about board operations. Please drop us a note listing any topics you would like to see addressed in the newsletter or questions for the Q's & A's section.

Four horizontal lines for writing a response to the "Let Us Hear From You..." section.

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WE VALUE YOUR INPUT

Do you have a special article which you would like to see printed in **The Communicator**? We encourage you to submit your ideas, suggestions, and comments. Please fill out and return the form provided below to the Editor, c/o TSBEMFT, 1100 West 49th Street, Austin, Texas 78756-3183.

SUGGESTIONS

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

SUGGESTION(S): _____

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