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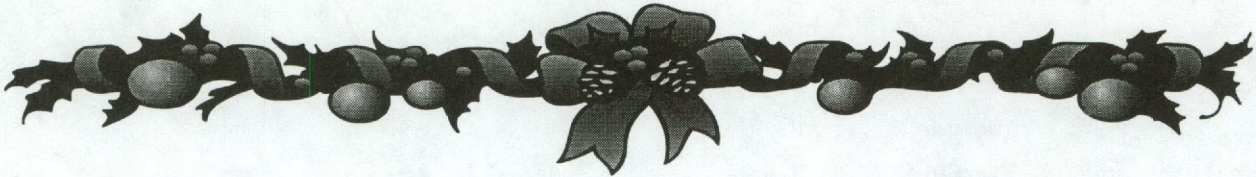
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# The Communicator

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage  
and Family Therapists



## WHERE, OH WHERE, Am I Going to Find Continuing Education Hours?

Just ask! The State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists, has a list of Approved Continuing Education Sponsors available upon request. These continuing education sponsors are approved for a cycle of **5 years**. The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists (board) will approve an institute, agency, office, organization, association, or individual as a continuing education sponsor of continuing education.

The Board will grant a five-year certificate to organizations which shall permit the organizations to approve continuing education units for their marriage and family therapy courses, seminars, and conferences. These organizations do not need prior permission from the Board, but must submit an annual list of their seminars, workshops, and courses to the Board.

Any university, professional organization, or individual who meets the required criteria may advertise as approved sponsor of continuing education for licensed marriage and family therapists.

- (1) Sponsors shall verify attendance of participants and provide participants with a letter or certificate of attendance.
- (2) Sponsors shall maintain all continuing education records and documentation for at least five years.
- (3) Sponsors shall provide participants a mechanism for evaluation of each continuing education activity.

Attendance at programs shall be in accordance with of Title 22, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 801 Licensure and Regulation of Marriage and Family Therapists. Each continuing education experience submitted by a licensee or sponsor will be evaluated on the basis of relevance of the subject matter, objectives of specific information and skill to be learned, subject matter, educational methods, materials, etc., sponsorship and leadership of programs.

All information listed above, can be found in the most current issue of Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapist's Board Rules.

**BARBARA DELANE'S MONEY MATTERS...**



Remember to include both the renewal form and continuing education form, when renewing your license, please retain your certificates for a minimum of two

years since we do not maintain continuing education certificates. Send the appropriate late fees if the envelope is postmarked after your expiration date. By taking these basic precautions, you can be confident of a "worry free" renewal process. Should you have any questions, please feel free to call.

**BARBARA'S BIT!**

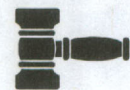
As you probably know, my voice is usually the first one you will hear when calling our office. In an effort to clarify some of the most frequently asked questions, please note the following:

- 1.) There is no charge for verifying licenses at this time;
- 2.) **ONLY three** licenses can be verified at a time when calling in by phone; and
- 3.) Please note, at this time there is not a limit on the amount of verifications that can be mailed in; however, a minimum of 10 working days should be allowed for processing.

**CORRECTION!**

*Please note the following correction. In the last edition of the Communicator, (Barbara's Bit), when mailing renewals in with payment, do not separate correspondence from the money. My apologies.☺*

**DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS:**



The following disciplinary actions have been taken:

The board adopted an order on January 29, 1997, the suspension of license with probation on Denise Weinberg.

On August 25, 1997, the Board adopted an order accepting the surrender of Martin Brophy's license.

**BOARD MEETINGS**

**The Board shall meet at least biannually and may meet at other times as the chair deems necessary.**

**All meetings shall be in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act.**

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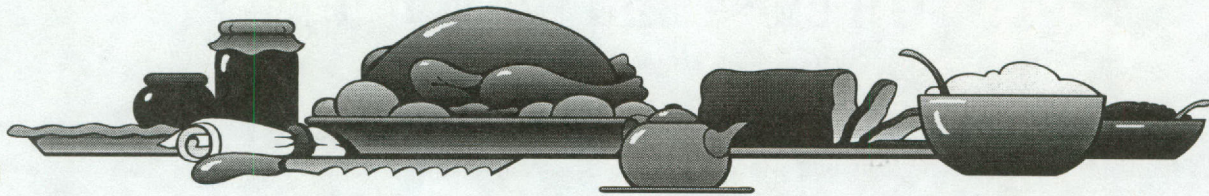
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## CAN WE TALK?

Let's talk about late fees. A person who renews a license after the expiration date but on or within 90 days after the expiration date shall pay the renewal fee plus one-half the examination fee. If a person's license has been expired for 90 days but less than one year the person may renew the license by paying to the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists (Board) the renewal fee and a fee that is equal to the examination fee for licensure. A final notice will be sent 30 days after the expiration date. A person whose license was not renewed within one year of the expiration date may obtain a new license by submitting to re-examination and complying with the requirements and procedures for obtaining an original license. **Please keep in mind that no renewal fee shall be accepted by the Board until the licensee has met all the applicable continuing education requirements.** The Board shall not consider a license to be renewed until it receives the completed licensure renewal form, continuing education requirements (20 hours) documented on the provided form and the renewal fee or appropriate late 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 1997

The marriage and family therapy examination was given in Austin, Texas on October 18, 1997. There was a total of 23 tests given. There were 22 passing grades, and one failing grade. The next exam will be given on February 14, 1998.

## 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, unless otherwise announced. 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!

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to Barbara Delane our newest staff member, she is filling the position of Word Processing Operator III. Barbara comes to us from the Texas Board of Nursing Facility Administrators. She will be replacing Donna Roberts who had to leave for medical reasons.



## Up close and personal...

This month, George P. Pulliam, M.S.S.W

Hi, I'm George, my wife and I, Betty Lou have stayed married for almost 40 years, despite my imperfections. I have three children who despite my lack of parenting skills have become responsible, productive and caring adults; I am a fortunate man! I recently retired from the faculty of the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston after 27 years in the University of Texas school system, 19 years at the medical school in Galveston, and the rest at the medical school in Houston. I have been involved in the family therapy movement since the late 60's and have been a strong advocate for training and supervision in all of the mental health professions. Along with Harry Goolishian, Harlene Anderson and Paul Dell, I was one of the founders of the Houston-Galveston Institute (formerly the Galveston Family Institute). Presently, I supervise marriage and family therapy associates at the Devereux Treatment Center in League City one day a week. In addition I consult at three agencies, two days a month, and I remain on the faculty of the Houston/Galveston Institute. I have been on the Marriage and Family Therapists Board for two years. I serve on the Ethics, Rules and Supervision Committees, and I still have a Virginia accent!

*George P. Pulliam*

### COMPLAINTS: AN IN DEPTH LOOK!

**READ THE RULES! READ THE RULES! READ THE RULES!** Once you become a Licensed and Marriage Family Therapist (LMFT) in the state of Texas, you are held accountable according to the Board Rules under Title 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 801, Licensure and Regulation of marriage and family therapists. Sounds legalistic doesn't it? Well it is! The rules cover everything from Ethics, to how many continuing education credits you need a year, and a lot more. One of the most important things that I have incorporated since being on the Board is that my primary job is to protect the citizens of Texas, and to assure that a person who is licensed by this Board meets

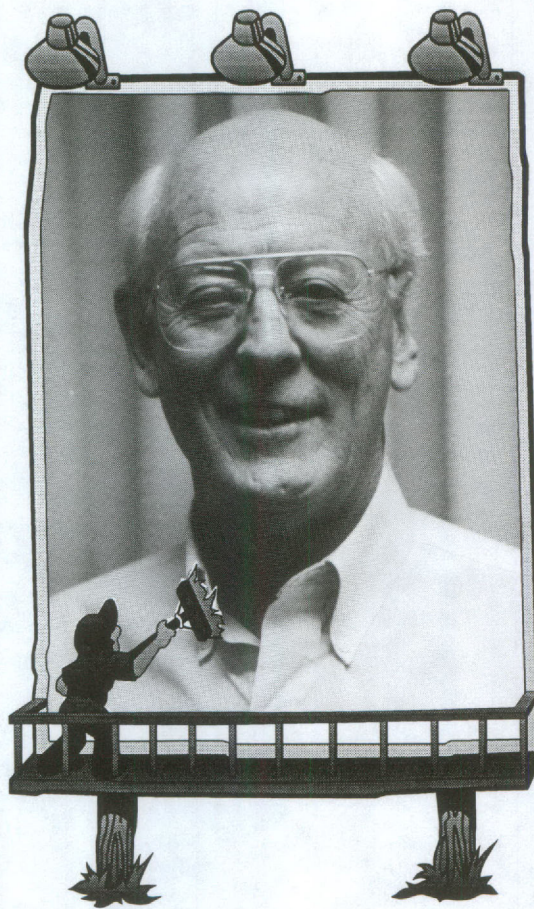
the minimum qualifications set forth in the Board Rules, and upon becoming licensed, that the licensee will continue to operate under those rules.

### COMPLAINTS:

Anyone can lodge a complaint; a client, colleague or citizen. All they have to do is call or write the board office in Austin. When they do, they will be sent a form to complete. This form basically asks the individual to name the person to whom they are complaining about and to write a narrative explaining the nature of the complaint. After that form is received in the office, within 45 days, the executive director, or the executive director's designee, must notify the respondent, that a complaint has been made about them. Generally, the respondent is notified by mail and may be asked to respond in writing.

The respondent may also send collaborating evidence such as copies of records, statements from others etc. In some cases, the first person the respondent hears from is the investigator assigned to the case. The investigator's job is simply to discover whether or not the

complaint can be substantiated. In order to do that, the investigator may interview the complainant, the respondent and anyone else who may have information about the complaint. He or she may ask for copies of records, billing or anything else that might help to clarify or substantiate the complaint. Once the investigator completes his/her report, the case is put on the agenda for the Ethics Committee to review. The respondent, is notified prior to the Ethics Committee meeting that their case is on the agenda.



**Complaint...con't**

They are informed that they may attend the Ethics Committee meeting and they are allowed to make a statement. They may have an attorney present if they wish. If the Ethics Committee determines the complaint cannot be substantiated, the case may be tabled until more information is presented or it may be closed. If the Ethics Committee determines that a rule violation has occurred, there are many actions they can recommend to the Board. The most severe, of course, is asking for the surrender of an individual's license or revoking an individual's license. The respondent has a couple of choices. Obviously, one may be to accept the Ethics Committee recommendation, or one may elect to ask for a hearing before an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ). Such a hearing is a formal procedure following all the legalities of any court procedure. The respondent may have a lawyer and the Attorney General's Office assigns a lawyer to represent the Board. Witnesses may appear and be cross-examined. At the conclusion of this procedure, the ALJ writes an opinion and makes his/her recommendations. The opinions and recommendations are reviewed by the Board and may be accepted, amended or refused by the Board. Such a procedure can take months and be expensive. It is often possible that a settlement may be made between the respondent and the Board before the case goes before an Administrative Law Judge.

If you receive notice from the office that a complaint has been made against you, and you are asked to respond, it is important that you do so. Not to respond is a violation of a rule and may result in disciplinary action.

Beginning with this newsletter, when it has been determined that a person has violated a Board rule and disciplinary action has been taken by the Board, the name of the licensee and the disciplinary action levied will be published. The revised Board Rules became effective November 22, 1996. Please read them.

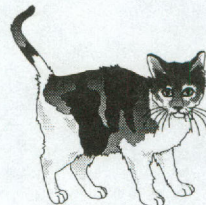
**BOBBY'S CORNER!**

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists was established in September, 1991. Those who practice marriage and family therapy in the State of Texas are bound by statute that dictates both practice and title. This means if you are not licensed or exempt, you may not practice marriage and family therapy in Texas. Additionally, if you do not hold the license, you may not use the title of "Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist" or any title that would imply licensure. I make the above statement only to make the following point. Our office works daily with the licensing boards for psychologists, professional counselors, social workers, alcohol and drug abuse counselors, and others. Please remember that for each different licensing program there are different rules that regulate the profession. In order to keep your license current you must be able to distinguish between the regulations. The Marriage and Family Therapists rules are found at Title 22, Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 801. You should have recently received a copy of this document in the mail. Pay close attention to the sections on application, examination, renewal, continuing education, code of ethics and complaint and violations. If you ever need clarification or an explanation, please do not hesitate to call our office at 512-834-6657 or E-mail at bschmidt@licc.tdh.state.tx.us. Thank you!

**SANDY'S VIEW POINT!**

In the upcoming months, a roster of licensed professional marriage and family therapists will be accessible from the board's home page (<http://www.tdh.state.tx.us/hcqs/plc/mmft.htm>). The directory will be available in alphabetical order as well as by city and will be updated monthly to ensure the information is maintained in a current status. The roster, along with board rules, application packet, MFT enabling statute, list of approved supervisors, and approved continuing education sponsors will also be available. This roster will be expected to replace the roster that is printed once every year. Printed versions of the above mentioned items may still be requested from the board office for

those individuals who do not have Internet access. The Board is excited to offer this information in such an accessible method and encourages all licensees, associates and members of the public to use the Internet as much as possible. Should



you have any questions or need further clarification, please feel free to contact me at 512-834-6657, or e-mail me at [sguyn@licc.tdh.state.tx.us](mailto:sguyn@licc.tdh.state.tx.us). Have a safe and joyous holiday season!

## FREQUENTLY REQUESTED NUMBERS & ADDRESSES

*Texas State Board of Marriage and Family Therapist*  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756  
(512) 834-6657

*Texas Association of Marriage and Family Therapy*  
1033 La Posada, Ste. 220  
Austin, TX 78752  
(512) 454-8626

*American Association of Marriage and Family Therapy*  
1100 17th Street NW, 10th Floor  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 452-0109

*Texas State Board of Medical Examiners (Psychiatrists)*  
1812 Centre Creek Dr., Ste. 300  
P.O. Box 149134  
Austin, TX 78714-9134  
(512) 305-7000

*Texas State Board of Examiners of Psychologists*  
333 Guadalupe, Ste 2-450  
Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 305-7700

*Texas State Board of Examiners of Social Workers*  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756  
(512) 719-3521

*Texas State Board of Examiners of Professional Counselors*  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, TX 78756  
(512) 834-6658

*Texas Commission of Alcohol & Drug Abuse*  
710 Brazos, Suite 403  
Austin, TX 78701  
(512) 867-8700

## Q's & A's

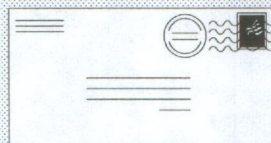
**Q - Why do the numbers on my renewal cards keep changing?**

A - Each renewal card has two sets of six numbers separated by a hyphen. The first set of numbers is the license number. The second set is a control number for the Board's use in tracking licensure cards. An insert is provided with each renewal card which explains how to read your license number. For example, if your card reads, "000123-000456" your license number is "123". The second set of numbers will change with each renewal while the first set will remain the same.

**Q - Is it possible for those licensees who maintain dual licenses (ie, LPC, LMSW etc... to combine their continuing education hours and apply them as a "group" at this time.**

A - No. At this time, each profession has their own continuing education requirements and guidelines. Although many seminars often contain materials that are applicable to a myriad of professions, most are industry related. If you attend seminars or plan on attending a seminar that you have questions about please call us for assistance and/or clarification

## HAS YOUR ADDRESS CHANGED?



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

**LMFT Internet Address <http://www.mft@licc.tdh.state.tx.us>**

**Coalition Building: A Healthy Community is Everyone's Business**

*Guest article by, Donna Nickel*

Communities in Texas are faced with many complex health problems and issues which affect everyone. Disease, poverty, crime, scarce resources, drug and alcohol abuse, and lack of health care are only a few problems concerning citizens, groups, and organizations. The search for real solutions to these issues led the Texas Department of Health to recognize coalition building as a strategic priority for creating effective health promotion programs by creating a Coalition Task Force.

*Coalition Building: A Healthy Community is Everyone's Business*, a "how-to" manual for building coalitions, is based on stages of development of a generic coalition. The stages are described using labels originally created for team building: Forming, Storming, Norming, Performing, and Adjourning.

During the Forming stage, an important social issue is identified and recognized as a problem. There is a call to action and a formal meeting of potential partners. Storming is characterized by conflict and negotiation, when the players role up their sleeves and determine each player's relative contribution to the coalition. The Norming stage finds the coalition with formal leadership structure, mission and vision statements and other indications the new entity is unique and more than the sum of its members. During the Performing stage, the coalition conducts activities that are directed to the larger community. Once goals have been reached, funds are depleted, resources have expired, etc...the coalition moves into the Adjourning stage.

Lessons learned about each stage, suggested technical support need, and steps taken to successfully work through each stage are included in the manual. Additionally, specific tools and examples with instructions have been created to assist the coalition builder.

To order *Coalition Building: A Health Community is Everyone's Business*, complete and mail the order form found in this newsletter or call(512) 458-7405.

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**ORDER FORM**

**Name/Title:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Organization:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address/City/State/Zip:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Telephone:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Fax:** ( ) \_\_\_\_\_ **Internet:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of**

**Copies (CB) Requested** \_\_\_\_\_ **@\$20.00:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **.00** **Date of Request:** \_\_\_\_\_, 19 \_\_\_\_\_

**Shipping/Handling \$5.00 (first copy):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **.00**

**(Shipping/Handling \$1.50 @ additional copy after the first):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **.00**

**Total Cost (Credit TDH Budget #: 1A140/015):** \$ \_\_\_\_\_ **.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:

### THE BOARD STAFF

Bobby Schmidt, Executive Director  
Sandy Guyn, Executive Assistant  
Barbara DeLane, Administrative Assistant  
Barbara Jackson, Administrative Assistant

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### Let Us Hear From You

#### 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.

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**Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists  
1100 West 49th Street  
Austin, Texas 78756-3183**



## 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

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NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

SUGGESTION(S): \_\_\_\_\_

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**TEXAS STATE BOARD OF EXAMINERS  
OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS**

Austin, TX 78756-3183

1100 West 49th Street