



Photos By Helen Montano



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SUMMER 2025 NEWSLETTER

PROFESSIONAL AND ETHICAL CONDUCT DURING HOT-BUTTON POLITICAL TIMES

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TAMFT PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

CARLOS PEREZ, PH.D., LPC, LMFT-S

To all TAMFT members:

If you missed this year's legislative session, you missed a whirlwind. Some of the bills we were closely watching didn't pass, while others—thankfully—did, benefiting our profession and those we serve. As usual, Texas politics delivered no shortage of high-stakes, emotionally charged issues.

So why are hot-button topics so difficult to navigate—especially for professionals? Think about the last time you tried to have a meaningful conversation with someone who held an opposing view on something like abortion, transgender care, or even birth control. These aren't just policy debates—they're deeply personal issues. And talking across such divides is hard.

But if anyone should be equipped to handle these conversations with empathy and skill, it's Marriage and Family Therapists. And yes, I say "should" intentionally.

Harlene Anderson makes a powerful distinction between monologue and dialogue. In a monologue, people speak at each other, not with each other. There's no openness, no curiosity—just a need to assert one's own view, often while ignoring or invalidating the other. This is what we often see when polarizing issues come up: people exchanging monologues. They speak more than they listen. And when they do listen, it's often just to find something to refute.

Sound familiar?

Dialogue, by contrast, is an entirely different practice—and a much more difficult one. As Anderson describes it, dialogue requires us to make space in our minds for another person's beliefs, perspectives, and lived experience. It calls for humility, patience, and intentional openness. It means being willing—even temporarily—to put our own beliefs in second place, not to concede them, but to allow someone else to feel fully heard.

Can you do that? Can you set aside your own deeply held beliefs about abortion, for instance, in order to really hear someone else's?

As therapists, we've been trained in the art of this kind of dialogue. But more than that, we have a responsibility to embody it. Our work is grounded in systemic thinking, empathy, and the ability to hold space for complexity. If we can't practice those values ourselves—especially around difficult, politically charged topics—then what kind of therapists are we?

And here's where it becomes an ethical matter. If we avoid hard conversations, if we model defensiveness, dismissiveness, or emotional reactivity, then we're not just missing an opportunity—we're doing a disservice to our clients. Because part of our role is to help them navigate difficult relationships, conflicting values, and emotionally loaded topics. If we're not practicing that ourselves, how can we expect to guide others through it?

So, this is a call to action. These times—perhaps more than any before—demand thoughtful, grounded professionals who can lean into discomfort, hold multiple truths, and model real dialogue.

The world needs people like us, and our profession is uniquely positioned to lead in this space. Let's rise to that challenge—together.

Cheers,

Carlos Perez, Ph.D., LPC, LMFT-S
President, 2025 TAMFT Board of Directors



LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

LIZEE NUÑEZ LOVE, LMFT-A, DOCTORAL STUDENT, PAST TSAMFT PRESIDENT

Hello TAMFT members,

As systemic therapists, we examine our clients' presenting problems within the many systems in which they reside: families of origin or choice, direct and indirect environments, social and cultural values, and changes over time. Our sociopolitical context is contentious and fraught. When our clients express hopelessness, fear, and numbness, it makes sense. And sometimes, our clients' feelings mirror our own.

We are not alone. In times of division, we must center our professional and ethical values. We need to move beyond second-order change that merely alters the structure of our systems. Instead, we must promote third-order change, shifting our paradigm to acknowledge and dismantle structures of power and oppression. We must engage in action, small and large alike, toward improving the systems impacting us and our clients.

Before my recent move to Virginia to start a PhD MFT program, I was born, raised, and trained as an MFT in Texas. Let me share the stories of my surnames, which reflect Texas's rich cultural history: my family name (Love) came from my thrice-great-grandfather, a mulato man who emigrated from Mexico to Texas, and my married name (Nuñez) represents my spouse's heritage as a first-generation Dominican American. My last names are just a snippet of many different cultures, histories, identities, and stories; they are larger than me, and I carry them with me on every form I fill out. Similarly, I chose our field when I fell in love with systems theory. The identified patient is not "the problem" but instead exists within a family system and context that influences them and by which they are influenced. Training as a doctoral student, I have begun to examine and advocate for change within these larger systems.

Across TAMFT, we share a commitment to connection, professional growth, and thoughtful responses to our current times. We plan to incorporate member input from the recent membership survey to inform future initiatives, including a mentorship program, the 2026 conference, upcoming CEU opportunities, and the *Beyond the Couch* podcast. Even when it is difficult to reach consensus, we prioritize ongoing conversation, honoring context and experience.

Again, we are not alone.

Now, more than ever, it's time to lean on our TAMFT community. Get involved. Listen deeply. Speak up. Although our political atmosphere is rife with tension, we have a unique opportunity to reaffirm our commitment to ethical, inclusive, and compassionate care—for our clients and each other.

Thank you to Emily Saldivar for her help in preparing and revising this edition of the newsletter.

With gratitude,

Lizee Nuñez Love
MS, LMFT-A (NC)



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By joining TAMFT, you show your commitment to advancing marriage and family therapy in Texas

Other member benefits include:

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- Access to Texas-based attorney with free consultations
- 12 free CEUs each year, plus bonus webinars (\$360 VALUE)
- Discounts on conferences, online courses, tuition/services and more
- Networking with like-minded individuals



TAMFT.org/Join-TAMFT

COMMITTEE UPDATES

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members: Anna Thomison, co-Chair; Hannah McKinnies co-Chair; Kristin Warren, Secretary; Raymond Gao, Lizee Nunez Love, Emily Saldivar, Lisa Salazar, Layla Scott, Board Liaison; Ellen Pace, Deanna Barrett, Sofia Georgiadou

JOIN OUR

TEAM



The Membership Committee would like to thank all TAMFT members who took the time to complete the membership survey. We truly appreciate your feedback and are carefully reviewing all responses to guide meaningful improvements.

As a thank you, the committee hosted a virtual Zoom networking event for the first 50 members who completed the survey. It was a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, and build community.

Next on our agenda: developing a mentorship program to support connection and growth within the TAMFT community. Stay tuned for more updates—and thank you for being an essential part of our continued progress!

YOU WOULD BE A GREAT FIT FOR THIS COMMITTEE IF YOU ARE:

- Passionate about your professional identity as a Marriage and Family Therapist and interested in connecting to other MFTs by building a state-wide, inclusive professional community.
- Desirous of expanding TAMFT's membership base within each membership category.
- Proficient with writing and/or developing social media content to engage our membership body in new and creative ways.

LEARN MORE

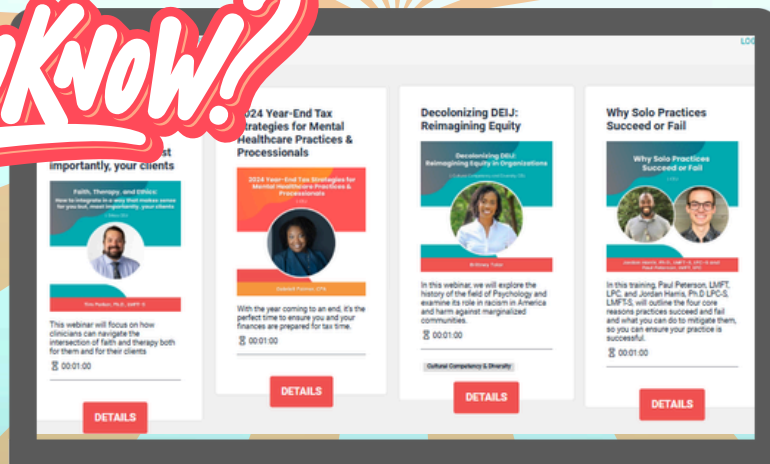


GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members: Layla Scott, Chair, Board Liaison; Carlos Perez, Sofia Georgiadou, Angela Hayes

As the board welcomes in a new generation of leadership, we are looking forward to new visions in the coming year. Our Membership Committee is implementing a new process for our yearly awards, which will create more opportunities for our members to be recognized. Our Education Committee is continuing to produce high-quality webinars for our CE requirements, in addition to extra opportunities for training and education. And our Ethics and Social Justice Committee continues to produce areas where we can advocate for our membership. At this year's board retreat, the board is closely reviewing our bylaws, committee assignments, and other areas of collaboration with other organizations. We continue to have the membership in mind as we look forward to another successful year.

Did You Know?



TAMFT MEMBERS GET CEUs....

FOR FREE!

EDUCATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Members: Alycia DeGraff, co-Chair; Chris McClung co-Chair; Leila Anderson, Secretary; Federico Mendez, Board Liaison; Michael Argumaniz-Hardin, Paul Massingill, Karishma Arya, Taryn Durham

The Education Committee is committed to delivering valuable monthly education to our members for a total of 26 CEUs every two years. Attending training is a great way to continue education, learn from colleagues, and feel connected to the field.

We are working hard to plan webinars for the rest of 2025. June's speaker, Bethany Luna, presented on "Consent and Connection: Empowering Therapists on Supporting Consent Inside Relationships." This 1-hour CEU workshop is designed for couples therapists who want to center consent as an active, ongoing process while affirming the diverse identities, desires, and boundaries within LGBTQIA+ partnerships. Bethany Luna is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist Supervisor and the founder of Phoenix Moon Healing, a queer-affirming group practice rooted in trauma-informed care, empowerment, and relational healing.

To help navigate hot-button political times ethically and professionally, you can revisit our recorded April webinar, "Faith, Therapy, and Ethics - How to integrate in a way that makes sense for you but most importantly your clients," and look out for our July speaker discussing "Playful Supervision: Addressing Countertransference and Tending to the Self of the Therapist in Playful Ways."

ETHICS AND SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE

Members: Paula Boros, co-Chair; Angela Hayes, co-Chair; Layla Scott, Board Liaison; Charles Flynn, Aaron Maleare, Felicia Holloway, Caleb Carroll, Ari Peñalosa, JoAngeli Kasper,

The ESJ committee has been diligently working in the background to develop support programs for members, specifically around ethics and social justice, while also meeting this moment of uncertainty and division. We are collaborating with Carlos Perez to create a series of podcasts for TAMFT's *Beyond the Couch*, touching on the topics of diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice. We want to both discuss why these topics are important to us as individuals and as an organization representing LMFTs in Texas, and help create a dialogue with members who perhaps didn't understand or agree with TAMFT's decision to take a stand on DEIJ. Having conversations, an open dialogue between different points of view, is an important part of TAMFT continuing to operate as a cohesive group. We, as a profession that studies and has expertise in systems, are uniquely qualified to understand and respond to the systemic impact of current events on our membership, both as individuals and clinicians, and the communities we serve. A question we might ask ourselves is, "What is our role, professionally and ethically, in this historical moment?" To help us clarify our thinking on this, I pose this question to TAMFT and our membership, "At some conference in the future when we are looking back at this time in our organization's history, what will we be proud to say we did and that we stood for in the face of pressure to roll back our professional values and ethics?"



CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Members: Hannah McKinnies, Chair, Board Liaison; Brandon Gardenhire, Karen Diliberti, Adam Jones

Exciting News from the TAMFT Conference Committee!

We've been hard at work reviewing your feedback from past conferences, and we're thrilled to share some exciting updates. Thanks to your thoughtful comments, suggestions, and ideas, we've been inspired to shape something truly special for 2026.

After tallying the results of our recent member survey, the top choice for our next conference location is officially... Galveston, Texas!

We're now diving into the planning process and will be working closely with the Membership Committee to review the May survey results and ensure the conference programming aligns with what matters most to you. Our commitment is clear: to create a conference filled with quality workshops, engaging sessions, and impactful trainings that reflect the voices of our TAMFT community.

Stay tuned for more updates—and we can't wait to see you by the coast in 2026!

Warm regards,

The TAMFT Conference Committee

TAMFT & AAMFT – 89TH REGULAR SESSION TEXAS LEGISLATURE FINAL LEGISLATIVE SUMMARY

Members: Tim White, PAC Chairman; Hannah McKinnies; Mercedes Burk; Wen-Mei Chou, Board Liaison to BHEC; Karen Diliberti, Kristi Phillips; Leila Anderson; JoAngeli Kasper; Marion Vickerman; Chase O’Neal (Liaison to the Austin Association)

GENERAL SUMMARY OF LEGISLATIVE CONTEXT

The 89th Texas Legislature gavelled in on January 14, 2025, and adjourned Sine Die 140 days later on June 2 in a session marked not just by ideological intensity but by fierce intra-party rifts, sharp policy divides, and persistent friction between the House and Senate. Amid this charged environment, TAMFT/AAMFT worked diligently to advocate for a strategic legislative agenda focused on professional licensure modernization, reciprocity, workforce development, and securing operational and fiscal support for the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC). While a number of important wins were achieved, including expanded appropriations, pipeline investments, and mental health loan repayment programs, our core bills on licensure reform and portability adoption ultimately did not pass. Moreover, the Governor’s veto of the Cosmetology Compact sends a clear and cautionary message for future portability efforts across all licensed professions.

As mentioned in the May 6th update memo, the legislative session was marred by severe procedural breakdowns, most notably in the House, where the Speaker’s election with Democratic support led to fractures within the Republican caucus and subsequent retaliation against moderate and bipartisan legislation. This dynamic, combined with deep ideological divides between the House and Senate, created an exceptionally volatile environment. Compounding this instability, the Senate maintained control over floor access via the 4/5ths rule and operated with a clear cultural conservative lens, particularly on licensing, gender-related policies, and agency oversight. Against this backdrop and with the exception of a small, but potentially meaningful win with regard to passage of HB 1052, TAMFT’s/AAMFT’s partnership agenda encountered substantial institutional resistance.

BILLS THAT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH, WORKFORCE, AND BHEC OPERATIONS

Despite these obstacles, TAMFT secured or supported the passage of several key measures that enhance the profession’s position across budget, workforce, and regulatory issues:

- **SB 1 (Huffman)**, the General Appropriations Act for FY 2026–27, was sent to the Governor and includes full baseline funding for BHEC. The appropriations bill allocates \$125,000 for the development of a Texas-owned psychology licensing exam, \$418,000 to fill six FTE positions, and \$400,000 for National Practitioner Data Bank subscription costs. Additionally, it includes a \$200,000 rider to develop and release a Spanish-language LMSW licensing exam by September 1, 2027. Importantly, rider language also ensures the Comptroller will be responsible for any money judgments related to lawsuits under Chapter 108 of the Occupations Code. Staff attorneys and General Counsel received a 6% salary increase.
- **SB 646 (West)** expands the Mental Health Professional Loan Repayment Program. It raises repayment caps to \$60,000 for non-doctoral and \$100,000 for doctoral-level professionals. New incentives include a \$10,000 bonus for rural service, \$5,000 for language proficiency, and an extension of eligibility into the fourth and fifth years of service. The Coordinating Board is authorized to use up to \$1 million to market the program. The bill passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.



Why start from scratch?

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The screenshot displays the Jane software interface. On the left, a 'Chart Template Library' panel lists categories: Chiropractic (1440 templates), Behavioral Health (770 templates), Acupuncture (1220 templates), and Aesthetics (770 templates). Below this is a 'Surveys' panel featuring 'PROMIS Screening' with options for 'All Patient Survey' and 'Before appointment'. The main area shows a patient profile for 'Emilie Chan' with a 'New Treatment Plan' button. The 'Chart Entries' section displays a survey for 'April 23, 2025 - PHQ-9' with four Likert scale questions: 'Little interest or pleasure in doing things', 'Feeling down, depressed, or hopeless', 'Trouble falling or staying asleep, or sleeping too much', and 'Feeling tired or having little energy'. On the right, a 'New Chart Template' panel offers options for 'Primary Complaint', 'Signature', and 'Body Chart'.

[Book a demo](#)

- **SB 1401 (West)** establishes the Texas Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program, promoting structured transfer pathways from junior colleges to four-year and post-baccalaureate licensure programs. It applies to psychology, counseling, marriage and family therapy, social work, school psychology, and psychiatric nursing. It passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **SB 2587 (Zaffirini)** codifies the LPC-Associate designation in statute and grants BHEC fingerprint-based background check authority over LPC-As. The bill passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **SB 912 (Blanco)** mandates the use of an online Continuing Education (CE) management system for license renewal. It passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **SB 1188 (Kolkhorst)** regulates the use of artificial intelligence in clinical treatment planning and diagnostic tools. The measure passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.



- **SB 1257 (Hughes)** requires health benefit plans that cover gender transition procedures to also cover reversal treatments and adverse effects. The bill passed and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **HB 229 (Troclair)** limits the recording of gender to “male” or “female” when collecting governmental information on biological sex. It passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **HB 1052 (Bhojani/Blanco)** requires health plans to cover telemedicine, teledentistry, and telehealth appointments where either the originating or distant site is located outside the state. LMFTs licensed in Texas with an in-state office can now provide telehealth services to clients who are temporarily out-of-state (e.g., military families, college students, seasonal workers), and still receive insurance coverage for those sessions, which eliminates previous ambiguity where insurers might deny coverage based solely on geographic location of provider or client. The bill passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **HB 2035 (Oliverson)** mandates that substance use treatment facilities notify a parent or guardian if a minor is denied admission. It passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **HB 2038 (Oliverson)** enhances physician reciprocity under the Texas Medical Board and allows insured individuals to select certain out-of-state license holders under their health policy. It passed both chambers and takes effect September 1, 2025.
- **HB 3284 (Frank)** creates the Texas Commission on Marriage and Family. The bill passed both chambers and became effective on June 20, 2025.
- **HB 3801 (Orr)** establishes a Health Professions Workforce Coordinating Council and abolishes the outdated Statewide Health Coordinating Council. The measure passed and takes effect September 1, 2025.

PRIORITY LEGISLATION THAT DID NOT PASS MODERNIZATION, AND COMPACTS



- RECIPROCITY, LICENSING

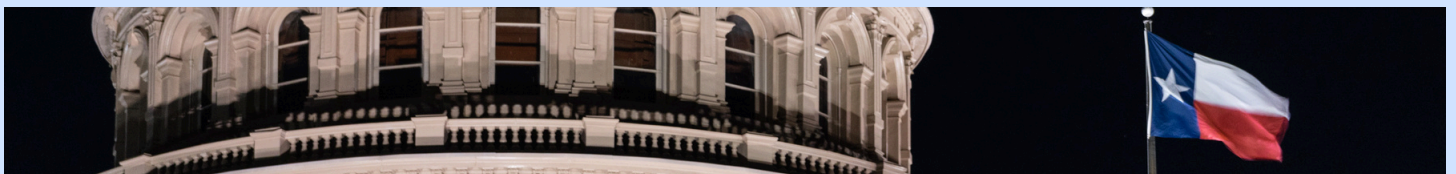
While the session yielded tangible wins in funding and workforce programs, TAMFT's most important licensing and reciprocity legislation failed to advance.

- **HB 4721 (Romero) and SB 51 (Zaffirini)** were the centerpiece of TAMFT's/AAMFT's portability and licensure modernization effort. These bills aimed to harmonize and update licensing standards across LMFTs, LPCs, and social workers and would have empowered BHEC with the discretion to recognize equivalent supervised experience from other states. HB 4721 was referred to the House Human Services on April 3 after a 22-day delay and was never granted a hearing. SB 51 was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on February 3 and also failed to receive a hearing.
- **HB 5421 (Romero)** was a complementary measure that would have clarified BHEC's licensing rulemaking authority. It was referred to House Human Services on April 7 but never received a hearing.
- **HB 1716 (Darby) and SB 469 (Sparks)**, which would have authorized Medicaid reimbursement for Associate-level licensees (including LMFT-As), passed the House by a vote of 109 to 35. However, the bill was referred to the Senate Health and Human Services Committee on May 5 and was never granted a hearing, effectively dying in committee.

COMPACT LEGISLATION – STRATEGIC SETBACK AND GOVERNOR'S VETO

All proposed compact legislation failed this session, including the Counseling Compact, Social Work Licensure Compact, and Cosmetology Licensure Compact — the latter of which was vetoed after passage by both chambers.

- **HB 1537 (Goodwin) and SB 498 (Sparks)** would have entered Texas into the Counseling Compact, allowing Texas LMFTs and LPCs to practice across state lines in other compact states. Despite broad professional support and strong precedent in other states (now totaling 38 members), neither bill received a hearing.



- **HB 3503 (Darby) and SB 1726 (Johnson)**, which would have adopted the Social Work Licensure Compact, also failed to advance. Both were referred to committee but never scheduled for hearing.
- **HB 705 (Wilson/Zaffirini)**, which would have implemented the Cosmetology Licensure Compact, passed both chambers. However, the bill was vetoed by Governor Abbott on June 22, 2025. In his veto statement, Governor Abbott said:

“Licensing compacts risk undermining Texas standards and surrendering oversight to unelected multistate bodies.”

This veto carries significant policy implications. Even though HB 705 dealt with cosmetology, its fate effectively signals the Governor's broad opposition to compact models, casting doubt on the viability of Marriage and Family Therapists and other mental health professionals achieving reciprocity or compacts moving forward under current leadership.



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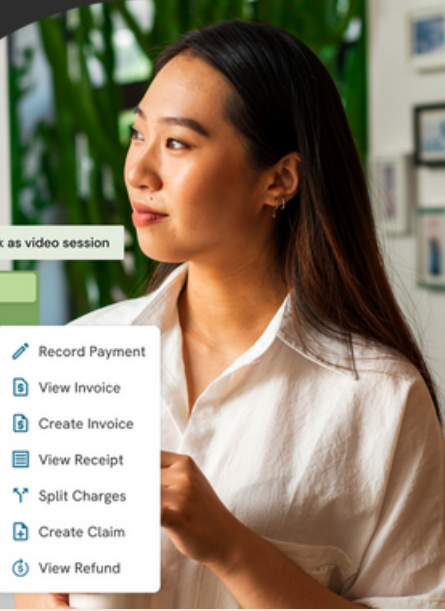
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9:00 am

Tsm Tracy Smith

Couples Therapy

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Ben Esch
Therapist

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11/24/2021	Self

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3:28 PM

CBT Therapy
Thu, Oct 7 - 9:30am to 10:59am

JA Johnny Applewood

Priority comment for Johnny

Amount Charged - \$434.78

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CONCLUSION AND STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS (UPDATED WITH RULEMAKING IMPLICATIONS)

The 89th Regular Session yielded important policy and funding victories for the behavioral health field. TAMFT successfully supported legislation that enhances mental health workforce development, strengthens BHEC's operational and legal framework, and lays a long-term foundation for educational pipeline and repayment programs. These wins include full appropriations for BHEC staffing and exam development, the expansion of mental health loan forgiveness programs, CE compliance modernization, and regulatory protections related to the use of artificial intelligence in clinical care.

Yet, the session also illustrated the enduring resistance to licensure portability in the Texas Legislature. Key legislative priorities, including HB 4721, SB 51, HB 5421 (BHEC licensing modernization and reciprocity), Medicaid reimbursement for Associate-level clinicians (HB 1716/SB 469), and Counseling and Social Work compacts failed to pass or were procedurally blocked. The Governor's veto of the Cosmetology Compact confirms executive hostility to licensing compacts generally, presenting a new strategic obstacle for all future portability efforts, regardless of profession.

Looking ahead, TAMFT should consider pursuing a multi-track strategy that includes legislative planning, regulatory engagement, and stakeholder coalition-building. In particular, the passage of key bills now shifts implementation to state agencies, where upcoming rulemaking will directly shape how these statutory wins are translated into operational realities. Accordingly, TAMFT's focus over the interim will include the following:

- **Support and Monitor Rulemaking at Relevant Agencies**

- BHEC (Behavioral Health Executive Council):
 - Implementation of [SB 2587](#) will require BHEC to initiate rulemaking codifying the new LPC-Associate status and outlining procedures for fingerprint-based background checks.
 - BHEC may also need to adopt rules aligning with CE tracking reforms under SB 912, including deadlines for integration with the online CE platform, licensee onboarding, and third-party reporting.
- Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB):
 - Under [SB 1401](#), THECB is charged with developing rule frameworks for the Mental Health Profession Pipeline Program, including articulation agreements, data reporting, public promotion standards, and automatic transfer protocols.
 - [SB 646](#) grants THECB new authority to administer expanded loan repayment incentives and bonuses, including rules for rural service eligibility, language bonus verification, fund reallocation mechanisms, and new outreach/marketing responsibilities using up to \$1M in program funds.

- Texas Department of Insurance (TDI):
 - Rulemaking may be required under SB 1257 to clarify definitions and standards of coverage for gender transition “adverse effects” and reversal procedures in qualifying insurance policies.
 - TDI may also be called upon to issue regulatory guidance in relation to SB 1188, which restricts the use of artificial intelligence in diagnosis or treatment planning.
- Texas Medical Board (TMB):
 - [HB 2038](#) expands licensure pathways for out-of-state physicians and mandates insurer recognition under certain policies. TMB will likely need to adopt updated criteria and rule procedures governing eligibility, documentation, and equivalency standards.
- Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC):
 - [HB 2035](#) imposes a new statutory requirement on substance use treatment facilities to notify parents or guardians when a minor is denied admission. HHSC will need to develop implementation rules and revise licensing standards for applicable facilities.
- State Board of Examiners of Psychologists (SBEP) and BHEC:
 - Pursuant to budget riders in SB 1, both agencies will be involved in implementing a Texas-specific psychology licensing exam, including its design, rule certification, and likely rulemaking for exam use and validity.



- **Recalibrate Legislative Strategy on Reciprocity and Portability**

- Any future legislation involving licensure portability, including compacts or equivalency standards, must be carefully framed as Texas-led regulatory modernization, rather than surrendering control to multistate bodies.
- Given the Governor’s veto of [HB 705](#), all compact proposals will require extensive early engagement with the executive branch and legal framing that emphasizes opt-in state sovereignty and regulatory guardrails.
- Future reciprocity legislation may be more viable if authored in the Senate, with committee support pre-cleared through Senate Health & Human Services and coordination with the Lt. Governor’s office.

- **Build Cross-Sector Coalitions for 2027**

- TAMFT should invest in coalition building with aligned stakeholders including:
 - Veterans’ advocacy groups (Medicaid reimbursement, mental health access).
 - Rural healthcare networks (loan repayment, licensure reform).
 - Law enforcement and first responder coalitions (counseling access).
 - Higher education institutions (pipeline program implementation).
 - Shared interests across these communities can generate broader support for licensure modernization, funding, and workforce stabilization.

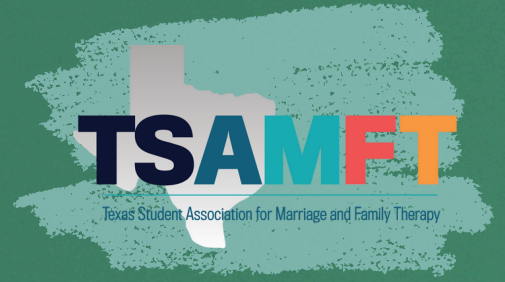
- **Seek Interim Committee Hearings or Charges**

- TAMFT should request an interim charge in both House and Senate Public Health Committees focused on:
 - Evaluating licensing delays, portability barriers, and workforce shortages in mental and behavioral health.
 - Assessing the impact of failed compact legislation and opportunities for a Texas specific portability model.
 - Reviewing rule implementation progress across THECB, BHEC, and HHSC related to newly enacted legislation.

STUDENT CORNER

MEMBERS

JoAngeli Kasper, President; Mia Maples, President-Elect;
Rae Morris, Social Media Representative; Emily Saldivar, Secretary;
Deanna Barrett, University Liaison; Kim Nguyen, Treasurer;
Caleb Carroll, Ethics and Social Justice Chair



The Texas Student Association of Marriage & Family Therapy (TSAMFT) Board is committed to strengthening connections among MFT students across the state. In our ongoing efforts to cultivate a supportive and collaborative student community, we're excited to host our Summer Peer-to-Peer Zoom Meetup on Saturday, July 12, at 10:00 AM CST. This month's theme, "Refill & Reset: Summer Strategies to Prepare for Fall Without Burning Out," centers on intentional rest, goal-setting, and emotional sustainability as we transition into a new academic season.

Whether you're just starting your journey in the field or wrapping up your final semesters, this one-hour virtual gathering is a space to recharge, share experiences, and build rhythms for balance and success. Join us for open discussion, mutual support, and practical takeaways to help you move into fall with confidence and clarity.

[Register here](#) to be part of the conversation. Let's refill our cups this summer—so we can show up fully this fall.

JUST SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN US—WE CAN'T WAIT TO CONNECT WITH YOU!

These are the upcoming meetings for the year:

- Saturday, 7/12/2025 at 10:00 am: July Peer-to-Peer Support Group
- Saturday, 8/9/2025 at 10:00 am: TSAMFT Meeting
- Saturday, 9/13/2025 at 10:00 am: September Peer-to-Peer Support Group
- Saturday, 10/4/2025 at 10:00 am: TSAMFT Meeting
- Saturday, 11/15/2025 at 10:00 am: November Peer-to-Peer Support Group
- Saturday, 12/6/2025 at 10:00 am: TSAMFT Meeting

SCAN HERE



LEARN MORE

TAMFT
Texas Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

National EXAM PREP

TAMFT offers a suite of resources to help students prepare for the national licensure exam, including recordings of our Exam Prep Workshop, a Practice Exam & Answer Explanations, and an MFT Terms Glossary.

||||| LISTEN TODAY! |||||

A TAMFT PODCAST

Beyond the Couch



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MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

ANGELA HAYES, LMFT

Angela is an LMFT with an M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy/Counseling from Capella University and a B.S. in Psychology from the University of Houston. She is currently working to complete the AAMFT supervision training to become a licensed supervisor and is working with her first graduate student intern at her private practice, Life Coach Round Rock. Angela is passionate about solution-focused brief therapy and holds a level 3 certification in solution-focused brief couples therapy. She specializes in working with couples and neuro-spicy folks, being one herself, and loves helping people fall back in love with themselves and their partners.



CHRIS ASHBURN, MFT STUDENT

Chris is currently working in an inpatient hospital setting and loving it! He recently started working on his PhD and is hoping to research the therapeutic application of role-playing games, as it is a passion of his. He would especially love to find how IFS might work hand in hand with it. He has made it a goal to network with other like-minded individuals this year. His ultimate goal in his profession is to eventually teach MFT to new students at a university.

DEANNA BARRETT, MFT STUDENT

Deanna is a passionate and dedicated graduate student at Capella University, completing her M.S. in Marriage and Family Therapy. With a B.S. in Psychology, she brings a solid academic foundation and a genuine commitment to helping individuals and couples navigate life's complexities. Her diverse background includes experience in both the military and the tech industry. Guided by a collaborative and client-centered approach, she views her clients as the experts of their own lives, working alongside them to co-construct solutions that honor their unique values, goals, and lived experiences.



ALAN SIMBERG, PHD, LMFT, LCDC

Alan Simberg, Ph.D., has 50-plus years of professional experience and is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, Licensed Chemical Dependency Counselor, and has a certification in Applied Clinical Nutrition. He has a chapter in four best-selling compilation books titled *Share Your Message with the World* as well as chapters in 3 *Business Life and the Universe* books, and has a self-published book titled, *Back to Living: Action Strategies to Recover from your Addiction*. Alan has contributed magazine articles to *Voyage Houston* and *Modern Warrior*. Alan has done several speaking presentations and trainings.

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