

Wow! 2020 was quite the whirlwind with lots of changes for LMFTs especially in how we saw our clients and managed our practices. 2021 is starting out on a similar foot!

Remember, it was just about this time a year ago that we were all together in Houston at our annual conference, freely enjoying the wisdom and connection of our fellow colleagues. And now this year we are having to meet, connect, and learn together virtually!

Given this change, we want to assure you that we still have lots of behind-the-scenes activities going on with our PAC (Political Action Committee), which provides the vital funds necessary to support our licensure as well as our mental health advocacy in the state of Texas.

As you may remember, in late 2015 the Texas Medical Board sued to take away our right to use the medical diagnosis criteria required for our insurance reimbursements. This action threatened very livelihoods of many of us.

In 2017, thanks to the funds we raised for PAC, as well as the hard work of our advocates, and TAMFT's board, we won our case in the Texas Supreme Court to keep our "diagnosis" criteria. This criteria allows LMFTs to participate in mental health student loan assistant programs as well be reimbursed for in-person and now, telehealth services.

In 2019, our TAMFT advocacy funds were focused on creating the Behavioral Health Executive Council (BHEC), securing sufficient appropriations and employees for running the new entity, while preserving an *independent* licensure board to provide dedicated oversight and regulation for the profession of marriage and family therapists.

Legislation was also passed to allow the broadening, training, and hiring opportunities of LMFTs in school districts, aligned changes to the Texas Medicaid program in connection with regulation and payment for telemedicine and telehealth services, including a provider's "choice of platform."

TAMFT recognizes the importance of prioritizing the association's limited resources and channeling those resources into realistic initiatives that materially advance the practice of marriage and family therapy, while growing membership through substantive legislative engagement and enhancing the organization's effectiveness and capacity to affect change in the future.

As you can see, we are constantly supporting, advocating, and actively engaging our legislative committees so that LMFTs are adequately represented at our state level. The PAC fund is what helps to have this happen.

It is TAMFT's hope that, as in years past, our members will again be willing to engage constructively and help shape improvements to the practice of marriage and family therapy in Texas.

Please Consider a Donation to PAC Today. Your support is what keeps your LMFT license strong in Texas.

Thank you for your kind donation.

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