



AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPY

(AAMFT): YOUR NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

AAMFT's purpose is to promote and advance the common professional interests of Marriage and Family Therapists. We believe that relationships are foundational to the health and well being of individuals, all forms of the family and communities. We believe in a treatment context that encompasses an understanding of people in their broader social and familial contexts. We believe that consumers should have access to mental health care including the services of marriage and family therapists.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN THE PAST FIVE YEARS:

1. Inclusion of MFTs in the Department of Defense health programs.
2. Inclusion of MFTs in the Department of Transportation Substance Abuse Program.
3. Recognition by the National Health Service Corps (NHSC) of MFTs as Behavioral and Mental Health Professionals. The National Health Service Corps (NHSC) defines marriage and family therapy as a "behavioral and mental health professional" for purposes of participating in the NHSC Scholarship and Loan Repayment Programs. These programs are designed to provide health care services to underserved populations. (42 U.S.C. 254d)]
4. Licensure of MFTs in nine states (48 states & DC total).
5. Inclusion of MFTs in countless state health programs, job streams and reimbursement mandates: Medicaid, vendorship, schools, state health plans, private health plans.
6. Developed close collaborative relationship with federal health agencies (SAMHSA, CMHS, CSAT, CSAP, ORHP, HRSA); generating NIAAA MFT and Alcoholism booklet and CSAT Substance Abuse and Family Therapy TIP.
7. Included and maintained MFT status in many federal bills and regulations.
8. Represented MFTs before many federal agencies and national policymaking organizations.
9. Developed core competencies to reflect the education, skills and training of MFTs.

FUTURE PRIORITY GOALS:

1. Inclusion of MFTs as providers for Medicare - bills presently in Congress.
2. Inclusion of MFTs in the schools under the Individuals with Disability Education Act, Elementary and Secondary Education Act (IDEA).
3. Minority Fellowship Program - SAMHSA grants for MFT minority students.
4. Inclusion of MFTs in the Veteran's Health programs.
5. A federal job classification for MFTs.
6. Inclusion of MFTs in the Federal Employees Health Program.
7. Inclusion of MFTs in private health insurance and managed care plans, ERISA plans, and EAPs.