

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN FAMILY THERAPY NETWORK NEWSLETTER

## WHAT'S IN THE NEWSLETTER:

- From The Board - 1**
- FamilyTEAM Update - 3**
- Updates on the  
Membership Meeting - 3**

**DON'T MISS IT!**

THE RMFTN ANNUAL MEETING IS HERE!!  
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 2 AT 9:30 AM  
\*\*\*DETAILS ON PAGE 3\*\*\*

## FROM THE BOARD

**By Linnea Tobias, MS, MBA, LMFT  
Treasurer, RMFTN**



This year marks my 30th Anniversary of being a member of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT). Wow, it has gone by quickly! I have seen a lot of change in the growth of this organization, and our theoretical underpinnings remain strong. This is due, in no small part, to the vibrant leadership both at the national level and here in Colorado also.

I was elected treasurer to the Colorado Association for Marriage and Family Therapy in 2017, and as a result inherited a couple of boxes of records relating not only to the financial management in the past but also past board activities, meetings, advocacy, etc. In going through the boxes to see if anything needed to be retained, I was able to review the past activities of previous Boards, all documented diligently. I feel grateful for all of the past board's work in keeping the Colorado Association a very active and an important organization to the interests of Colorado MFT's.

---Continued on page 2

## From The Board (continued from page 1)


With the strategic direction of the AAMFT, we now are reorganized as the Rocky Mountain Family Therapy Network. Now anyone with interest in our network can join us. I was a strong advocate for this name and presence due to my previous work and life experience in Wyoming, and my interest in combining the Colorado and Wyoming organizations.

So come join us! Browse our various social media and our web site. We continue to take shape as a new organization and would appreciate creating it with your input! Why join and become active? Here are some "Reasons to join a professional association" from an e-mail I found from 2003 from James Thomas, President Elect, President, and Past President of the Colorado Association for Marriage and Family Therapy:

- 1) To support the integrity and growth of the profession;
- 2) to stay up to date on the latest information regarding the latest research and best practices;
- 3) to have a voice in the development and future of the profession;
- 4) to help promote the profession to the public;
- 5) to obtain relevant information on ethical standards;
- 6) to network with other like-minded professionals;
- 7) to increase the diversity and talent pool of the profession;
- 8) to develop the individual's professional skills and knowledge base; and
- 9) because it is the right thing to do.

Professions cannot maintain integrity and continue to grow and serve in a society without active, committed professionals. In addition, the Rocky Mountain Family Therapy Network will be working in tandem with Family TEAM, the advocacy arm of the AAMFT dedicated to furthering the interests of Marriage and Family Therapists. An example of their focus was provided in the Family Therapy Magazine May/June 2018 edition. This article described ongoing efforts for the inclusion of MFT's in Medicare as accepted providers. More information on Family TEAM can be found on the AAMFT web site. Thank you for your interest, we look forward to seeing you soon!

-Linnea Tobias, M.S., MBA, LMFT, Treasurer, RMFTN



You have inherited a lifetime of tribulation. Everybody has inherited it. Take it over, make the most of it and when you have decided you know the right way, do the best you can with it.

-MURRAY BOWEN

# SUNSET REVIEW UPDATES

## By our Colorado FamilyTEAM Co-Chairs

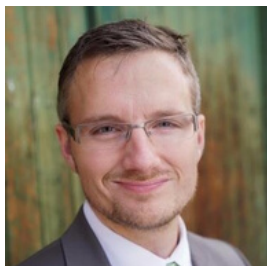
Every ten years, the Colorado Mental Health Practice Act is reviewed by the Colorado legislature to assess whether it continues to meet the needs of the consumer. The Department of Regulatory Agencies (DORA) Executive Director staff review the statute to determine what changes to recommend to the Governor and the Legislature. It should be noted that the Sunset Review only effects the statute and does not impact rules and regulations authored by DORA Mental Health Staff or Boards. The Family Team is aided by Jeffrey Thormodsgaard of Michael Best Strategies and working with our collaborative partners, Colorado Counseling Association and Colorado Addictions Counseling Professionals to assure our interests are well represented during the legislative session. Jeffrey will be available to speak at the Annual meeting about the Sunset Review process, advocacy strategies for MFTs during the process and the overall objectives of the Sunset.

There are a variety of topics that are being discussed among the mental health professionals, licensing boards and DORA. We have included a summary of six topics of interest. ---Continued on page 4

## THE FIRST ANNUAL RMFTN MEMBERSHIP MEETING

SATURDAY, NOV 2, 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM

REGIS UNIVERSITY: 500 E 84TH AVE, UNIT B-12,  
THORNTON, COLORADO



### Jeffrey G. Thormodsgaard

Mr. Thormodsgaard is an experienced senior consultant and lobbyist who is currently retained by AAMFT's Family TEAM to lobby for MFT interests in the Colorado Sunset Review of the mental health statutes.

### Jeremy Shufflebarger, JD

Specializing in mental health law, Mr. Shufflebarger has represented MFTs in a wide range of legal matters, including defending against board complaints and grievances and responding to subpoenas and court orders to testify or produce records.



## **Sunset Review Updates (continued from page 3)**

**Unified Board:** DORA is considering a unified Board rather than 6 separate boards representing the mental health licenses. MFT representatives have been collaborating with DORA throughout the year to discuss what this might entail. The structure of this interdisciplinary board would be similar to that of other state unified boards, such as those of the medical community. Support for this change includes increased efficiency for initial licensure and portability. Those hesitant to support this change remain concerned about equal representation for each field on an integrated board. We continue to discuss the possibility of this structural change and remain dedicated to helping the boards function more efficiently while maintaining our identity and representation.

**Elimination of Jurisprudence Exam:** DORA is also considering recommending the elimination of the jurisprudence exam for all mental health professionals. We are meeting with our counterparts to argue against this move, considering that the exam is paramount in assuring that individuals governed by the statute are familiar with its requirements. We believe this to be a consumer protection issue and a minimum requirement for practice in Colorado.

**Registered Psychotherapists:** The need for a separate category for “registered psychotherapists” is a perennial Sunset Review topic. It is a touchstone for several groups of practitioners who view the availability of this minimalist approach to fulfilling requirements to practice from a variety of perspectives.

**Standardized rules:** All 6 professional categories in the Act should have similar comparable rules for:

- Supervisor qualifications
- Rules governing licensure, testing and documentation for licensure
- Rules governing standards for supervision in person and on-line
- Rules governing technicians and others who qualify by lesser standards of education and experience.

**Miscellaneous:** Rules governing records retention and notification, felonies, choice of peer rehabilitation service, etc

**Portability:** AAMFT has adopted a position in favor of licensed individuals in one State being authorized to port their license to other States provisional on good standing in their original licensure state. DORA staff is resistant to this position maintaining that AAMFT should adopt a National License Standard.

We will continue to keep you informed as the Sunset process continues. If you would like to be involved in the Sunset Review, please join the Family TEAM and contact one of us today. Help us plan and advocate for our profession!

-Barbara Allen Ford and Krista Speicher  
Your Colorado FamilyTEAM Co-Chairs