

# The Family TEAM: Your Grassroots Advocacy Network



# AAMFT Advocacy Team



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# What is the Family TEAM?



The Family TEAM is a network of advocates willing to volunteer a bit of time and/or energy towards furthering MFT policy interests. The more advocates, the more effective we can be in achieving advocacy success.

# What is Advocacy?



- Your basic definition: the act of pleading for, supporting, or recommending; active espousal.
- Definition for MFTs: the act of supporting YOUR profession by promoting recognition of MFTs in the community and speaking out for increased resources/fair treatment of MFTs in legislation.



# What Does Advocacy in Action Look Like?

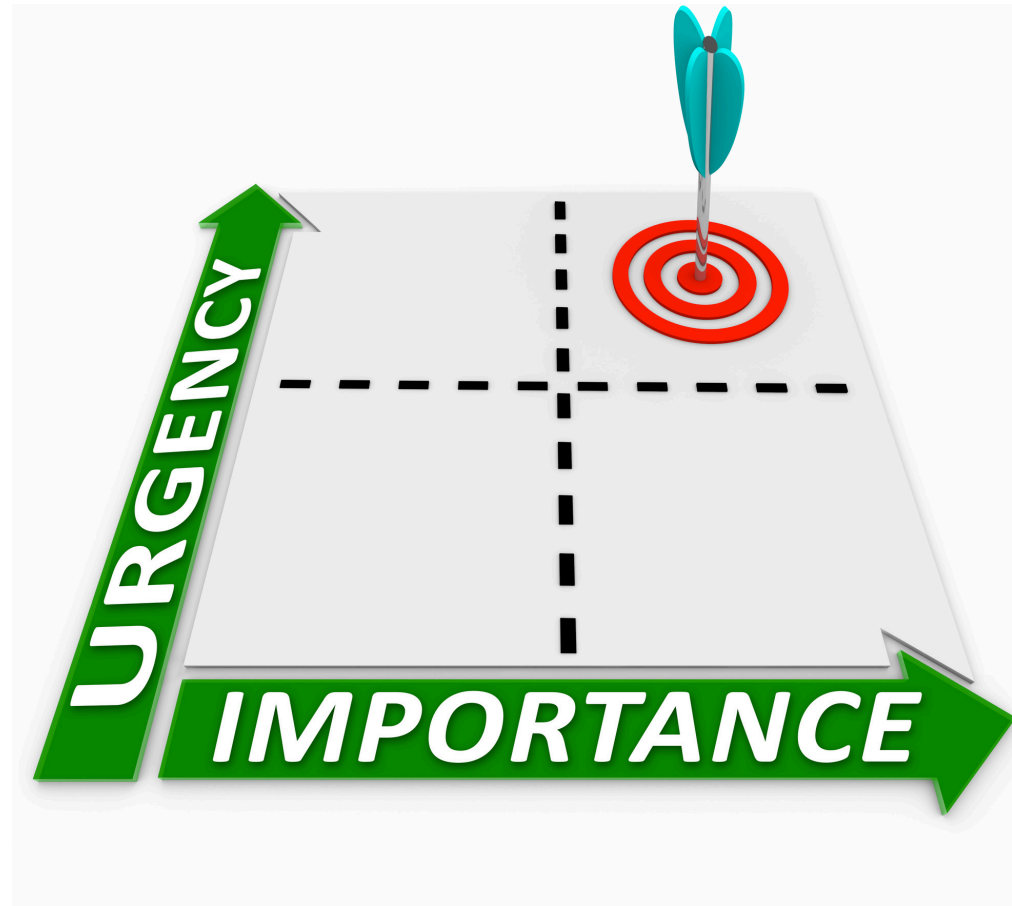


Robin Williams and Whoopi Goldberg testifying before a Senate committee hearing on the Homelessness Prevention and Revitalization Act of 1990.

**When the world is silent,  
even one voice becomes  
powerful.”  
-Malala Yousafzai.**

# Why is Advocacy Important? (Why Should I Care?)

- Without advocacy, change does not occur.
- Legislators make uneducated policy decisions.
- Changes to MFT policy/licensure occur without your input.
- Threats to the profession go unchallenged, diminishing the role and resources MFTs are given.



# TEAM Resources, and Where to Find Them



- Discussion Board: share information, updates, and ideas.
- Networking: connect with likeminded advocates.
- Blog: most recent updates.

- Events Board: see when future webinars and chats are coming up.
- Library: Read from a number of resources on advocacy.
- Videos: Access our advocacy focused training video series.



# Let's Explore the Resources!

- We'll switch over to the Family TEAM website to give you a chance to look at where you can find the resources discussed!



# First Steps in Advocating

Where do we start when advocating for the profession? There are a few things that any advocate can do to understand better how to champion the profession.

- Learn about the major goals on both the Federal level, such as Medicare, and the goals in your state.
- Plan on attending your licensing boards next meeting or reviewing the notes from previous meetings so that you can be aware of recent updates.
- Keep an eye out for action alerts when they become available.
  - Read the latest advocacy updates on the AAMFT blog. Know the issues, and how you can become involved!
  - Network with fellow advocates such as other TEAM members and get to know your TEAM leaders.





# Going Above and Beyond: TEAM Leadership

- Every state needs more leaders.
- Develop the profession in your state. Help lead the advocacy agenda!
- Additional training and chats.



# Going Above and Beyond: Active Participation

- Not sure if you're ready for leadership? Assist your TEAM Leader with special projects or tasks, such as:
  - Attend licensing board meetings and provide notes.
  - Assist in writing updates for TEAM members.
  - Research items related to the advocacy goals.
  - Help create fact sheets and other materials.
  - Respond to requests for information and action alerts.

# Questions?

Email questions to [FamilyTEAM@aamft.org](mailto:FamilyTEAM@aamft.org)

Join the Family TEAM at [aamft.org/familyteam/home](http://aamft.org/familyteam/home)

Please consider donating to AAMFT's advocacy fund, the Practice Protection Fund: [www.aamft.org/ppf](http://www.aamft.org/ppf)

