



The Iowa Marital & Family Therapist

A Bulletin of the Iowa Association for Marriage and Family Therapy

President Report

by Jim Anastasi

If versatility is strength, then the IAMFT is quite strong. The evening before our 2008 state conference we learned that Dr. Ken Hardy, our featured speaker for Saturday, was unable to arrive in Newton until midday of the conference. Thanks to Mary Sue Green and the adjustments made by Chris Secrist, our conference organizer, we were able to provide conference attendees with an excellent conference and useful information.

We need to continue being versatile and demonstrate our strength through our collaboration with other mental health and medical professionals to achieve parity. Parity will allow the citizens of Iowa to choose from a variety of mental health practitioners, including marriage and family therapists. We will continue to solicit the recognition of marriage and family therapy by companies with private insurance.

The strength and growth of our organization is based upon our ability to recruit new and competent licensed marriage and family therapists. Although the closure of the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Iowa State University is a highly unfortunate situation, through our versatility and strength I know we will be able to develop new programs and incentives for future LMFT's in the state of Iowa.

It is also imperative that members of IAMFT be aware of the changes in licensure requirements. Collaboration between IAMFT and the Iowa Board of Behavioral Science will continue to ensure the protection of the public through competent and ethical therapists.

Your ongoing support, suggestions, recommendations, and creative insights are not only welcomed, but essential for the strength of our association. We have the ability to utilize our collective resources in times of need. Those willing to share their resources are the 2008 IAMFT awards recipients. Congratulations to the following Iowa State University students currently involved with the Marriage and Family Therapy program who received the Perseverance Award:

Amber Bergman	Mary Sue Green	Matt Hiveley	Jennifer Perrin
Mary Reynolds	Kelsey Ryder	Jeremy Stumbo	Sonja Stutzman
Ashley Rink	Katie Whipple	Katie Loutsch	Wendy Liu
Kevin Zimmerman			

Congratulations also to Mid-Iowa Family Therapy Clinic and Chris Secrist for the Outstanding Organization Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy Award; Crystal Hemesath, who received the Outstanding Individual Contribution to Marriage and Family Therapy Award; and Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn as the recipient of the Lifetime Contribution to the Iowa Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Award.



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Inside this issue:

Letter from the President	1
Note from Comm. Chair	2
Upcoming Dates	
Job Connections	
Ethics Corner	3
Student Spotlight	
Student Spotlight	4
IAMFT Legislative Update	
Board of Directors	5

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Display advertising must be submitted camera-ready (unless exclusively text. In that case it must be typed and double-spaced exactly as it is to be shown). Submissions should be sent to: IAMFTCommunications@yahoo.com. There is no charge for advertising, and all advertising is limited to a maximum of one-quarter page in size. Only one advertisement per submitter per issue is permitted. The communications chair reserves the right to reject, abridge, or modify any advertising or other submitted materials as deemed appropriate. Opinions expressed by the editorial staff of the Iowa Marital & Family Therapist in the form of articles published, advertisements, and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views of AAMFT, IAMFT, officers and board of director members, or IAMFT membership.

UPCOMING DATES

IAMFT Board of Directors Meeting
August 15, 2008
Home of Jim and Kathy Anastasi
5506 Lakeview Drive, Clear Lake, IA
(641-357-5583)
10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.



Note from Communication Chair

by Michael P McClain, PH D., LMFT

I am pleased to present the June, 2008 edition of the IAMFT online newsletter. In this issue you will get to know two of our promising graduate students and get an important update from our lobbyist. We have also added a message board to our association's homepage (www.IAMFT.com). Members will now have immediate updates from our lobbyist, president, board of directors, employers seeking marriage and family therapists, and other information that will benefit our members and our organization. I hope you will visit our homepage often to keep abreast of the latest news and developments affecting your professional life. As our president points out in this edition of the newsletter, our versatility and resources will see us through our present difficulties. Please stay informed and involved, we cannot do it without you!

Job Connections

PRACTICE OPPORTUNITY: Established private clinic in transition due to retirements seeking experienced/seasoned mental health service provider(s) interested in joining and developing their practice with partnership possibilities. Masters a minimum - doctoral preferred - Iowa licensure required - dedication and determination a must. If you are interested in an opportunity such as this, please contact Kristen at (319) 277-4383 or send your letter of interest with resume to Cedar Falls Counseling Associates, ATTN: Kristen, 324 W. 3rd St., Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613, or to cfcasearch@cfu.net.

Ethics Corner

Ethics Committee Report

The IAMFT Ethics Committee wishes to thank those who participated in the ethics workshop at the IAMFT conference in Newton on April 12. We had a lively discussion and lots of fun with the reader's theatre. The topics were record storage and retention, professional wills and rural dual relationships.

The evaluations indicated that you would like more discussion and information on what goes into a client's file...what is a protected health information (PHI) record and why it is more private, what is released and under what conditions, and many more questions.

We welcome more ideas for the next ethics workshop. Please email Peg at peg@lisco.com with your suggestions.

UPCOMING DATES

Ethics Committee

Our next meeting is open to anyone who would like to attend. It will be at Keith Schrag's office in Ames on June 20, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.. Directions: From Highway 30 take the University Drive exit north to South 4th Street and turn left. Pass HyVee and turn into the parking lot before the traffic light. This is the Walnut Center, a flat roofed brown building. If you get lost, call Keith at 515-232-3482.

We welcome our newest committee member, Carol Wozniak-Rebhuhn!

Send me your questions or come to the meeting. We have great discussions and would love to brainstorm any ethical question you may have.

Peg O'Rourke, Ph.D., Chair



Student Spotlight Katie Whipple



My name is Katie Whipple. I am originally from Mason City, Iowa and currently live in Bondurant, Iowa. I am in the Marriage and Family Therapy masters program at Iowa State University. I am scheduled to graduate in August, 2009. I am the youngest of two children. My older brother, Eric, is in the National Guard. My mom owns a small rib restaurant in Mason City called Bill's BBQ. My dad works in Mason City, at Armour. After completing the masters program, I hope to get a job in the Des Moines area and work towards getting licensed. For now, I am working at a movie theatre in Johnston where I run projection and sell tickets. Outside of school I enjoy reading new textbooks, going to movies, and spending time outdoors with my dogs.



Student Spotlight - Katie Loutsch



My name is Katie Loutsch and I just completed my second semester of graduate school in the Marriage and Family Therapy program at Iowa State University. I received my undergraduate degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Family Services. I have always been interested in working with families. One of my undergraduate professors thought I would be a good therapist, so I looked into it and decided that was the career path I wanted to take. My favorite part about the program is working with clients and seeing them progress throughout therapy.

My future goals include finishing my masters and someday opening my own practice. I would like to work with couples in both premarital therapy and marriage therapy. I did an undergraduate internship at Pathways Behavioral Services in Waterloo, Iowa which piqued my interest in substance abuse. My research interests include adolescents and family functioning, children of divorce, and the link between substance use and mental health and the impact on families.

I grew up in LeMars, Iowa with a pretty big family. I am the second oldest of six children which has made my life very interesting. My family is a very important part of my life and they had a huge impact on the person that I am today. When I am not participating in school activities I love to read, watch movies, dance, and spend time with family and friends.

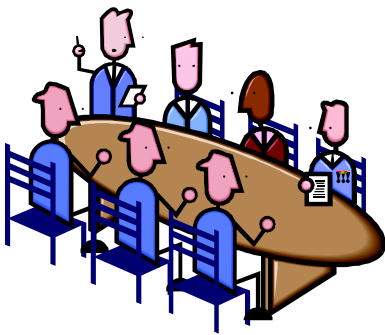
IAMFT Legislative Update - PREPARED BY: Emily Piper, IAMFT Legislative Consultant

On May 13, Governor Culver signed into law the funding bill for health and human services. For LMFTs, this is good news since the appropriations bill also contained language that makes LMFTs eligible for reimbursement under the medical assistance program. This was one of our major successes during the legislative session and will provide a more level playing field for LMFTs under the state's medical assistance program.

The specific language directs the Department of Human Services, who oversees the medical assistance program, to develop rules to allow for LMFTs inclusion in the program. State law outlines the rulemaking process which takes, at a minimum, three months, unless the rules are adopted under emergency provisions. State rulemaking requires notice and public comment to follow specific timetables. The rule must be noticed and after thirty days, the public comment period may begin. This generally lasts for thirty days as well. Once the public comment period closes, the rule must be finally adopted and then go before the legislative Administrative Rules Review Committee. The legislation is effective July 1, 2008. If the traditional rules process is used by the department, it is likely to be December before the rule becomes effective.

Once the rules are adopted as final, LMFTs interested in receiving reimbursement under the state's medical assistance program must apply to be an eligible provider. The link below will take you to the website for Iowa Medicaid Enterprises and provide you with the appropriate information to start the registration process.

<http://www.ime.state.ia.us/Providers/Enrollment.html>



Find out how IAMFT is working for you.
<http://www.iamft.com>

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