

# Marriage & Family TODAY!

The Official Newsletter Publication of TAMFC



A Division of the Texas Counseling Association

Volume 4, Issue 1, Spring 2011

## Quarterly Newsletter

### *President's Message*

Hello TAMFC Members!



I hope this message finds you defrosted from the cold weather that swept our state in January and February. Even South Texas got frost bitten this time! Hopefully your days inside offered an opportunity to pause and reflect over a hot cup of cocoa.

In reflecting about TAMFC, I feel incredibly excited about all we are accomplishing as an organization. This newsletter is filled with wonderful new developments, such as the Daniel Sweeney workshop in April, the LMFT exam preparation resource list, and the Graduate Student Scholarship. I hope you will take full advantage of these services provided to you by TAMFC.

I also want to strongly encourage each of you to actively participate in advocating for our profession. The Legislature is in full swing, and we must make sure our voices are heard, especially in these difficult financial times. There are several ways to get involved. First, you can respond to the Legislative Alerts that are sent out from the TCA office. These messages help you stay abreast of current

legislative activities and provide information about how to respond in a way that supports the counseling profession. Second, attend one of the upcoming TCA Advocacy Days at the Capitol in Austin (March 22 and April 19). If you would like to attend, let us know and we'll be sure our TAMFC representative meets you there. Showing up to ensure we are heard is essential!

Next, please vote in the TAMFC Officer elections. Some excellent candidates were nominated, and this is your chance to decide who you want to represent you as the leaders of TAMFC! Look for an email from the TCA office around April 1st.

Lastly, I want to extend a personal thank you to each of you for your membership and participation in TAMFC. Your input is vital to the achievement of our goals, and I hope the information and services



## In this issue:

President's Message  
Page 1

LMFT Exam Preparation  
Resource List  
Page 2

Survey Participation  
Requested by MFT  
Licensing Board  
Page 2

Sandtray Therapy with  
Dr. Daniel Sweeney  
Page 3

Advocacy – One Member  
Can Make a Difference  
Page 3

TAMFC Scholarship  
Guidelines  
Page 4

Treasurer's Report  
Page 5

TAMFC FY 2012 Budget  
Page 6

TAMFC offers are valuable to you. I realize there are many organizations to which you can pledge allegiance, and I appreciate your choosing TAMFC. If you have any questions or comments, feel free to direct them to me personally at [jodie\\_elder@hotmail.com](mailto:jodie_elder@hotmail.com) to enable us to continue to meet your needs. I would love to hear from you!

Sincerely,  
Jodie Elder, LPC, LMFT, PhD Candidate  
TAMFC President

### ***LMFT Exam Preparation Resource List***

In our September 2010 member survey, many of you requested support with the LMFT licensure process and examination. As a service to you, our members, the TAMFC Executive Board has compiled a list of resources to help with preparation for the LMFT exam. The list has been posted to our website and can be found using the following link: [www.tamfc.org](http://www.tamfc.org).

Please feel free to refer anyone preparing for the exam to this list. Also, if you have other helpful resources you would like to see listed, let us know by emailing [jodie\\_elder@hotmail.com](mailto:jodie_elder@hotmail.com). We want this list to be a compilation of our collective wisdom, so that TAMFC can effectively support clinicians aspiring to LMFT licensure.

We hope you find this list useful, and we thank you for your membership in TAMFC!



### ***Survey Participation Requested by MFT Licensing Board***

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists recently sent out a request for all MFTs to participate in an online survey. The Texas Legislature requires the collection of a Minimum Data Set of information about licensees in the health professions.



Please complete the survey using the following link to help the MFT Licensing Board satisfy the statutory requirements. Also, please let others know the survey exists and encourage participation.

<https://txprofdata.questionpro.com/>

If this link doesn't work, please see the TSBEMFT home page at <http://www.dshs.state.tx.us/mft/default.t.shtm>

The TSBEMFT reports that data from the survey are collected and stored in a completely separate database from the licensee's licensing files. Licensing staff does not have access to this information. An individual who completes the survey can be assured that these data in no way affect licensing decisions because licensing staff cannot access this data.

If you have questions, you may contact Carol Miller, Executive Director of the Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists and the Texas State Board of Social Worker Examiners.

Email: [carol.miller@dshs.state.tx.us](mailto:carol.miller@dshs.state.tx.us)  
Phone: 512-834-6657 Ext. 2715  
Fax: 512-834-6677

## **TAMFC 2011 Executive Board**

**President  
Jodie Elder**

**President-Elect  
Dr. S. Dean Aslinia**

**Secretary  
Cyndi Matthews**

**Division Director  
Dr. Linda Ball**

**Division Senator  
Dr. Angela Corrigan**

**Treasurer  
Dr. John F. Teer**

**Past-President  
Dr. Amir Abbassi**

**Legislative Liaison  
Janet Lewis**

**Chapter Liaison  
Dr. Sean Stokes**

**Student Liaison  
Blessing Dexter**

### **Officers**

**Public Relations Chair  
Dr. Sarah Monakes**

**Membership Chair  
Stephanie Devlin**

**Emerging Leader  
Nick Patras**

## *Sandtray Therapy with Dr. Daniel Sweeney*

Texas Association of Marriage and Family Counselors (TAMFC) is proud to announce the co-sponsorship of the Texas Wesleyan University, Sandtray Therapy workshop with Dr. Daniel Sweeney.

Daniel Sweeney is the founder and director of the Northwest Center for Play Therapy Studies. He is also a tenured professor of counseling and program director for the counseling program in the Graduate Department of Counseling at George Fox University.



Dr. Sweeney is a former member of the board of directors and past-president of the Association for Play Therapy, a registered play therapist-supervisor, and maintains a small private practice.

Dr. Sweeney has published articles and book chapters on child counseling, play therapy issues, families and parenting. He is also author or co-author of several books, including *Play Therapy Interventions With Children's Problems*, *Counseling Children Through the World of Play*, *Sandtray Therapy: A Practical Manual*, and *The Handbook of Group Play Therapy*. His books have been translated into Chinese, Korean, and Russian.

**Day one (Friday, April 15):**

***Sandtray with Traumatized Clients***

**Day two (Saturday, April 16):**

***Sandtray with Couples and Families***

Online registration is available through:

[https://quikpayasp.com/twves/commerce\\_manager/payer.do?orderType=Counseling%20Training%20Workshop](https://quikpayasp.com/twves/commerce_manager/payer.do?orderType=Counseling%20Training%20Workshop)

Rates are as follows and include lunch and registration cost of 6 CEU's.

Licensed Professionals (LPC, LMFT, LMSW/LCSW)  
**Before April 11** = \$80.00 / day or \$150.00 for both days.  
**After April 11** = \$90.00 / day or \$160.00 for both days.

Student cost = \$40.00 / day or \$75.00 for both days.

All TAMFC (Texas Association of Marriage and Family Counselors) and TXWES alumni receive a 15% discount off a two-day registration.  
**Cost = \$127.50**

To register by phone / credit card, can call Jennifer Connell, administrative assistant, at 817.531.4468.

### ***Advocacy – One Member Can Make a Difference***

***By Nick Patras, TAMFC Emerging Leader***

I recently attended the February 22<sup>nd</sup> Advocacy Day, sponsored by the Texas Counseling Association. We arrived at the Capitol and were briefed by Jan Friese, Executive Director for TCA. There are many items on the agenda for the 82<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislative Session that has serious consequences for professional counselors.

I learned many years ago while doing advocacy work on a national level for a professional insurance organization

# TAMFC NEWS BULLETIN

## LMFT RULE PROPOSAL

The Texas State Board of Examiners of Marriage and Family Therapists (board) is proposing rules related to licensees who serve as parenting coordinators and parenting facilitators. The proposed rules, scheduled to be published in the Friday, February 4, 2011 edition of the Texas Register, can be accessed here:

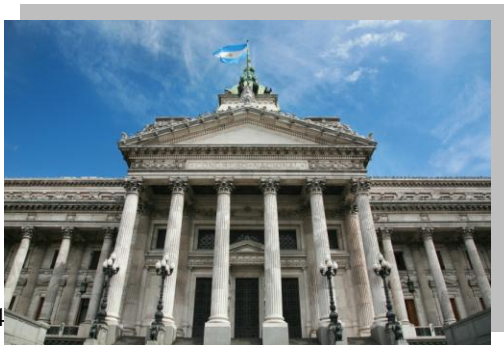
<http://www.sos.state.tx.us/texreg/index.shtml>

In accordance with House Bill 1012, 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, and Family Code, Chapter 153, the new sections establish the practice standards for licensees who desire to serve as parenting facilitators and parenting coordinators.

that legislative members vote, not based on personal conviction, but rather on what their constituents support, thus allowing the member to be reelected. If our Texas Legislative members do not hear from us about the impact of proposed Medicaid cuts that are seven times deeper than 2003, or about the negative impact of cutting finances for school systems that may impact children receiving the counseling support they need, then they could vote to drastically cut funding in areas that will hurt our clients.

The TCA staff did an excellent job of preparing talking points, providing solid supporting documentation about key issues, and identifying key members on the major committees who will write the legislation that could impact our livelihood. With the early morning orientation by Jan and the packet of information in hand, it made us feel confident when we called on the various member's offices. It is easy to introduce yourself to a staff member, state your position, and ask for the member to support the TCA position on the various items.

Very simply, if you don't provide the voice and presence at the State Capitol to let the Legislators know how counseling provides invaluable support to their constituents and citizens of Texas, then your very livelihood could be in jeopardy. The next Advocacy Day at the Capitol is March 22. Your presence can make a difference.



## **TAMFC Scholarship Guidelines** **\$500.00**

### Criteria:

- Masters or Doctoral level student in Counseling or Marriage and Family Therapy Program
- Member of TAMFC for at least 6 months
- Minimum GPA of 3.0

### Process:

Interested members please complete the TAMFC scholarship application found on the TAMFC website at [www.TAMFC.org](http://www.TAMFC.org)

Fax, email, or mail applications and the following items to:

Attention Dr. Dean Aslinia  
Fax: 972-680-9216  
Email: [Aslinia@doctor.com](mailto:Aslinia@doctor.com)  
Mail: 1701 N. Collins Blvd. Ste. 126  
Richardson, TX 75080

1. TAMFC Scholarship Application
2. Resume / CV
3. University Transcript
4. 500 word essay about career goals/plans and how you would utilize the scholarship funds.

**Deadline:**  
**April 15, 2011**



TAMFC Scholarship Committee will select and notify recipient(s) by May 15, 2011.

# TAMFC

Where  
Professional  
Unity &  
Wellness  
Meet

Want to be more  
involved with  
TAMFC?

Contact us and let  
us know how you  
can help

**TAMFC Website**  
[WWW.TAMFC.ORG](http://WWW.TAMFC.ORG)

*Treasurer's Report*  
 By John F. Teer, Ph.D.

**TAMFC**

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**Texas Association of Marriage and Family Counselors**  
 (A Division of the Texas Counseling Association)

**BALANCE SHEET FY 2011**  
 (July 1, 2010 through June 30, 2011)

**February 2011 Treasurer's Report**  
 FY Income and Expenses for January 2011

	<u>January 2011</u>	<u>Total for FY2011</u>
<b>Income</b>		
Dues	\$ 360.00	\$ 2,565.00
Sales	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Miscellaneous	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 360.00</b>	<b>\$ 2,565.00</b>
<b>Expense</b>		
Monthly TCA Administrative Fee	\$ 28.80	\$ 205.20
Conference Expense	\$ 0.00	\$ 1,117.61
Printing	\$ 107.50	\$ 107.50
Board Meeting	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Awards	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Continuing Education	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Professional services	<u>\$ 0.00</u>	<u>\$ 0.00</u>
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>\$ 136.30</b>	<b>\$ 1,403.31</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>\$ 223.70</b>	<b>\$ 1,134.69</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

\*TAMFC Cash Reserve Available in Bank – January 31, 2011 - \$10,705.91

\*Note: Cash Balance does not reflect any outstanding expenses submitted but not yet paid.

Total TAMFC Membership through January 31, 2011 – 292 members.

TCA usually runs about three months behind in reporting actual new and renewed TAMFC members. A list of *New Members*, *Renewed Members* and *Membership Expirations* as of January 31, 2011 has been sent to the TAMFC Membership Chair.



**TAMFC Website**  
[WWW.TAMFC.ORG](http://WWW.TAMFC.ORG)

Where  
Professional  
Unity &  
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**TAMFC 2012 Budget**  
(July 1, 2011 - June 30, 2012)

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I
1									
2						<b>Budget FY 2012</b>			
3					<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
4					<b>Income</b>				
5					510 · Division Income				
6					5100 · Division Dues Income	4,500.00	Increased Due To Membership Due		
7					5103 · Division Sales Income	400.00			
8					5104 · Division Misc. Income	800.00	Therapy Sites (Based on 8+ membe		
9					<b>Total 510 · Division Income</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>			
10					<b>Total Income</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>			
11					<b>Expense</b>				
12					511 · Division Expense				
13					69000 · Monthly Admin Fee	350.00			
14					5110 · Conference Expense	2,000.00	PGD Reception (1500), 3 Board me		
15					5130 · Scholarships / Research Grant	500.00	Graduate Students & Professional		
16					5150 · Printing	250.00	Brochures, booth posters, and mer		
17					5160 · Postage	300.00	New & Renewing Member Packets		
18					5180 · Awards	100.00			
19					5190 · Continuing Education	1,310.00	Workshop Expenses		
20					5200 · Office Supplies	130.00			
21					5210 · Professional Services	750.00	Pens, Advocacy Day, TSBEFMFT Me		
22					5220 · Website	10.00			
23					<b>Total 511 · Division Expense</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>			
24					<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>5,700.00</b>			
25					<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>0.00</b>			
26									
27					<b>Income minus Expenses</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>Balanced Budget</b>		
28									

This newsletter was designed and edited by S. Dean Aslinia, Ph.D., TAMFC President-Elect.

For comments, suggestions and feedback please write to  
Dean\_Aslinia@tamu-commerce.edu

Texas Association of Marriage and Family Counselors  
1204 San Antonio, Ste. 201  
Austin, Texas 78701  
(512) 472-3403

If you are interested in a topic and would like to inform your professional colleagues about what you know or have found out, submit an article for publication\* in **Marriage & Family TODAY!** Submit your articles to: Dean\_Aslinia@tamu-commerce.edu

Scholarly articles are welcomed  
\* Submissions will be reviewed by the Executive Board of TAMFC prior to acceptance of publication

TAMFC Website  
[WWW.TAMFC.ORG](http://WWW.TAMFC.ORG)

