

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2023 Candidates

BOARD MEMBER (2 POSITIONS)



Kelly Roberts, PhD

During my mid-career graduate program in marriage and family therapy, I became completely jazzed about family systems theory and across the past 25 years, that feeling has never changed.

Systemic theoretical frameworks

offer salient approaches to help clients realize the change they desire, to consider and navigate the world of work and leadership, and to realize effective and successful policy and legislative initiatives. I depend upon my systemic lens as much as I depend upon the corrective lenses I've worn since 4th grade. And, if I were elected to the AAMFT Board, I would dive into that body of work, clear-eyed and ready to move our organizational vision forward...in a strengths-based, systemic way.

My life experience as a self-described policy wonk allows me to "see the whole board" when it comes to developing strategies, to engage every salient stakeholder when the timing is right, and to depend upon the collective inertia of those stakeholders to carry a goal to completion. While working with state initiatives such as individual Medicaid contracts, the "Freedom of Choice" law, or research-based rules for autism treatment reimbursement schedules, I have learned first-hand the importance of perspective taking and consensus building. These are the fundamentals that help, over and over, the work at hand to stay on course. And, to honor the collective celebration when another visionary element has been realized. I feel comfortable, anticipatory, grateful, and hopeful about being nominated for a Board member position. I welcome the opportunity to contribute in a wholehearted way, helping lead AAMFT forward as a full participant and visionary influence for mental wellbeing in the U.S.

(I) PRESENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION

I serve as the Director of the Masters in Human Sciences programs at Oklahoma Christian University. Additionally, I'm currently serving as the Director of a newly developed Marriage and Family Therapy Program that just completed its first year. Other roles include serving as a consultant in areas of program evaluation and my field of research.

(II) MOST RECENT PAST PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS (WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS)

- **2016-2021: The Chickasaw Nation** – a variety of advisor and leadership positions including Family Services and Family Initiatives Advisor, Evaluator for the Public Health Department, and Director of Academic Affairs and Operations.
- **2014-2016: University of North Texas** – Assistant Professor of Human Sciences within the Department of Educational Psychology.
- **2012-2014: Integris Great Plains Family Medicine Residency Program** – Behaviorist, Core Faculty Member
- **2004-2012: Oklahoma State University** – Clinical Instructor and Internship Coordinator, Department of Human Development and Family Science; federal grants researcher

(III) AAMFT MEMBERSHIP: PAST AND PRESENT PARTICIPATION IN AAMFT, INCLUDING TOPICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INTEREST NETWORKS

- I have been an active member of AAMFT for 23 years. These years have been full of national conference presentations, service in state and national groups such as the "Family Therapists in Healthcare Settings" TIN (secretary and Family TEAM representative), the Judicial Committee, and serving as an editorial lead for a researchbased guidance document over the topic of "Family Therapists in Medical Settings." Additionally, I served as a MFT speaker/professional for the CDC and Surgeon General-sponsored webinar on "Mental Health Professionals and the COVID-19 Vaccination Effort" as well as the Congressional Briefing for the Mental Health Access Improvement Act (Medicare).

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(IV) PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Activities should be directly linked to the position and should demonstrate the skills needed for the position):

Board: Past and present activities, projects, or publications (limit 3) as evidence of leadership skills, experience integrating information, working towards consensus, and decision-making skills.

- My CV on this open link will provide insights into areas that may not be disclosed within this framework: https://docs.google.com/document/d/1LaptX-KXnG4u7poYkvqif6riM_z1jVA4-/edit?usp=sharing&oid=114959431926983230785&rtfpof=true&sd=true
- I have served in leadership roles, both within the world of work and within professional organizations, over the scope of more than twenty years. Locally, I served our state-level AAMFT organization by serving as Conference Chair, President Elect, President and Past President, and Legislative Chair. Often I serve in training roles for leadership mentorship or education, such as recent speaking engagements at AAMFT in this area. And, I've not only worked through all levels of the Chickasaw Nation Leadership Academy, but have also completed other Leadership training courses such as the President's Leadership Academy at Oklahoma State University, and the Oklahoma Christian University Leadership Academy.
- My demonstrated track record on consensus building can be seen through legislative initiatives I have led from the drafting stages, stakeholder recruitment, and completion of the votes to finish the process into law. I've worked also worked in varying degrees from leadership to consensus builder in drafting and engrossing the Oklahoma State Medicaid contracts for individual mental health service providers and as the Task Force lead to roll out the rules and operationalization of required education for divorcing parents of minor children.

(V) COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY AND EQUITY: Past and present activities demonstrating knowledge of and commitment to social justice and systemic science.

- Perhaps my commitment to diversity and equity can best be supported by one of my recent publications and the diversity statement for our university MFT training clinic.

Here are those references:

- o "Provider, Health Thy System: An Examination of Institutionally Racist Healthcare Regulatory Practices and Structures (2022)." <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10591-021-09630-5>
- o Family Therapy Clinic Diversity Statement: <https://www.oc.edu/family-therapy-clinic/about/diversity-statement>