

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2024 Candidates

BOARD MEMBER (3 POSITIONS)



Crystal Smith-Morgan, MA, Eds (she/her)

I am honored to be nominated for the AAMFT Board of Directors. AAMFT set out in the early 1940's to support families and couples by providing a systemic lens in understanding the human condition.

In over eighty years AAMFT has expanded its lens to include understanding the impact of multisystemic macrosystems and oppressive structural systems on families while upholding intended legacy. My experience with AAMFT began as a student and in over 17 years allowed me to flourish into a servant leader, advocate, educator, researcher, change agent and social justice facilitator. My experience is aligned with the legacy, mission, scholarship and vision of AAMFT. Organizationally, we are committed to the growth of our members and the public, to maintain this, we need equitable platforms with culturally responsive philosophies and resources. My contribution to AAMFT will be focusing on upholding legacy while steering the organization forward with focusing on:

- **Mentor/Peer Mentor**
 - o Foster connections and resources for students, emerging professionals, members: (underrepresented, states with limited MFT resources, marginalization and oppression).
 - o Mentor matching for established professionals
 - o Mentoring in: research, publication, professional presentations, writing, creating/training culturally responsive treatment modalities, interventions and best practices.
- **Increase visibility of AAMFT governance board**
 - o Understand the purpose and function of the governance board
 - o Organizational overview and operational understanding of AAMFT
 - o Visibility and connection between the governance board and members
- **Training students/Future Leaders**
 - o Provide training and opportunities to learn about leadership/governance roles
 - o Platforms to voice contributions about the future/present of AAMFT

- o Connect students and marginalized members with seasoned members
 - o Teach communities to identify leaders within; promote internal community building/programming/sustainability
- **Increase MFT educational degree programs**
 - o Increase access to graduate degree programs (Masters and PhD.)
 - o Training: evidence-based models
 - o Inclusive global learning/advocacy
 - o Connections to MFTs in underrepresented countries

(I) PRESENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION

- Therapist, Department of Veterans – Readjustment Counseling Services (2016-present)
- Adjunct Professor, Counselor Education & Leadership, Rider University (2022 – present)
- Adjunct Professor, Counselor Education, The College of New Jersey (2023-present)
- Writer, HigherEd Military (2023- present)
- PhD candidate, Counselor Education with specialization in couples and family systems, Kean University

(II) MOST RELEVANT PAST PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS (WITHIN THE LAST 7 YEARS)

- Therapist, Department of Veterans – Readjustment Counseling Services (2016-present)
- Adjunct Professor, Counselor Education & Leadership, Rider University (2022 – present)
- Adjunct Professor, Counselor Education, The College of New Jersey (2023-present)
- Writer, HigherEd Military (2023- present)
- Doctoral candidate, Counselor Education with specialization in couples and family systems, Kean University
- Owner, Life Counseling, Consulting & Mediation, LLC (2022- present)

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

- Licensed MFT, New Jersey (2014-present)
- Student Membership (2007-2010)
- Clinical Member (2010-present)
- Approved Supervisor (2023-present)
- Certificate of Leadership Program Fellow (2022-2023)
- Minority Stipend Recipient (2023)
- Member, Margins to Center Topical Interest Network
- Member, Working with Military Personnel Interest Network

(IV) PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Activities should be directly linked to the position and should demonstrate the skills needed for the position. Please refer to the list of competencies and skills for the position)

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

- CSI, Chapter President (2023-current)
- Mission Daybreak -Suicide Prevention (2022-2024)
- Counselor Advisory Board, Rider University (2024-present)
- Black Men Heal, community advocate/provider (2023-present)
- Black Mental Wellness – Mentor, Presenter “Self-Leadership” (2023-present)
- OSECE – Presenter “Whole University in effective systemic delivery of supported education” (2023)
- Poster Presentation, Impact of Racism on Black American Couples, Kean University (2023)
- AAMFT Certificate of Leadership Project, Inclusive and Systemic Advocacy: A Leadership Style of Social Justice, Diversity & Sustainability (2023)
- Supervise clinicians seeking AAMFT Supervisor Designation – Department of Veterans Affairs (2023-present)
- Student workshops, students interested in pursuing education/careers in MFT.
- Committee member, local scholarship for high students with desires of global impact

Publications:

Smith-Morgan, C. Systemic Advocacy & Supervision: Intersecting Identities of Counselors in the Workplace. Chi Sigma Iota Newsletter (Summer/Fall 2023).

Smith-Morgan, C. Whole University Community in Effective Delivery of Supported Education. HigherEd Military

Smith-Morgan, C. Whole Universities: Integrated Mental Health as a Vital Element of College Experience. HigherEd Military.

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

- Adjunct Professor – Multicultural Counseling course (2023- current)
- Adjunct Professor – Counseling Theories & Techniques with lab course-integration multicultural context, social justice and advocacy
- CSI – president, focus of term -Social Justice, Advocacy, Connection and Servant Leadership
- CSI – organized campus event, Inclusive Leadership and Social Justice for Masters students (2024)
- Photovoice project – Kean University – Use of photo journaling in promoting social justice and advocacy
- Kean University – Social Justice Roundtable (2024)
- Presenter – OSECE, Whole University Community in Effective Delivery of Supported Education
- Monmouth University, completion of Social Justice Academy (2023)
- DEI committee – Department of Veterans Affairs
- Committee member (legacy of my grandmother’s scholarship)- underrepresented high school students pursuing careers with the influence of global impact. (2019-present)
- Black Men Heal, community provider for black men with barriers to mental health care
- Grant recipient, promote education and engagement in social justice and advocacy in education (2024)
- Panelist, Rowan University – Supporting equitable access to students entering mental health (2023)
- Creator and facilitator, Group for military veterans of color with PTSD

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- Creator and facilitator, Group, trauma-informed yoga for military veteran women of color who experienced sexual trauma
- Black Mental Wellness, mentor for undergraduate students of color pursuing careers in mental health and marriage and family therapy. Presenter (2024), "Self-Leadership"
- Course, Understanding unconscious bias (2022)
- Smith-Morgan, C. Serving Student Veterans in Higher Education. HigherEd Military (2023)
- Smith-Morgan, C. Expanding Learning Management Systems as a Resource to Support Student Veteran & Non-Traditional Student Learning. HigherEd Military (2023)
- Smith-Morgan, C. Career Readiness: Recognizing Valuable Workforce Skills in Student Veterans. HigherEd Military. (2023)

(VI) RELEVANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION – Optional (up to five sentences)

You may choose to identify and/or describe parts of your background which may include the following: work setting (e.g., private practice, academia, agency, community health, government), home location (e.g., rural, urban, suburban), region (e.g., US state, international), any other relevant demographic information (e.g., age, ethnicity/race, gender, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual affiliation, ability, immigration status, languages spoken).

My active engagement and identity as a member of AAMFT aligns with my early childhood exposure to advocacy, promoting change, building communities and serving the public. In my early years, I had first hand experiences in observing community leaders take in the language and needs of the public and translate challenges into effective outcomes. I have absorbed, reflected and reinforced that leadership is having a sound, inclusive and open ear to the people you are serving. My experience working in government, academia, private practice, community organizations, private sector, corporate environments, health care, managed care, K-12, military, substance abuse, and working with community members from diverse backgrounds to include various socioeconomic identities, LGBTQIA+, race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, religious affiliation, historical trauma and national origin has allowed robust experiences and turning my ear to the public to support second order change. I will humbly bring my whole self and experiences in my role on AAMFT Board of directors.