

CONTACT & GENERAL INFORMATION

Name Curt Widhalm Relevant degree(s) MA, MS

Home Address

Bus. Address

Phone: (Day) (Evening)

Email Address
(All Board and Committee Members shall be e-mail accessible.)

Occupation LMFT Private Practice

Number of years as a CAMFT Member 11

EDUCATION & LICENSE INFORMATION

List all licenses which you hold and the date each license was issued. (Note: You are considered to be licensed if you hold an active, inactive, delinquent or retired license.)

License: Marriage & Family Therapist Date Issued: 06/22/2009

License: Date Issued:

License: Date Issued:

From what school did you graduate that qualified you for each license?

Pepperdine University

DISCLOSURE OF ADVERSE ACTION

Are you a party to any litigation, or are you or have you been involved in any other legal proceeding that may adversely affect the Association or the profession, should you be elected to serve on the Board?

Yes No

If yes, please explain on a separate page.

Has any licensing board, regulatory body, or ethics/peer review committee of a professional association ever taken any disciplinary action against you or a license/registration/certification held by you?

Yes No

If yes and action was taken by a licensing board or regulatory body or an ethics/peer review committee of a professional association OTHER THAN CAMFT, please attach a detailed explanation.

If yes and the matter involves an action taken by the CAMFT Ethics Committee, please indicate below and provide your consent, below, acknowledging that your application will be forwarded to the CAMFT Ethics Committee to provide a recommendation regarding your application. In providing its recommendation, the Ethics Committee would not divulge information regarding the nature of your case.

I consent to my application being forwarded to the CAMFT Ethics Committee to provide a recommendation.

BOARD POSITION

Choose the position for which you wish to run. Click on each title to view a detailed job description.

- President-Elect
- Chief Financial Officer
- Clinical Board Director-At-Large (Elected by Clinical Membership)

BACKGROUND & EXPERIENCE

Describe your past and current activities within CAMFT or CAMFT Chapter.

CAMFT Bylaws Committee Chairperson: 2017-present
CAMFT Executive Director Search Committee: 2017-present
CAMFT Chapter Issues Task Force: 2017-present
CAMFT Finance Committee: 2017
CAMFT Grassroots Advocacy Team: 2016-present
CAMFT Board of Directors Member at Large: 2016-present
CAMFT Certified Supervisor: 2015-present
San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT Past President: 2016
San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT President: 2014-2015
San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT President Elect: 2013
CAMFT Political Action Committee: 2012-2013
San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT Supervisor Special Interest Group Leader: 2012-present
San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT CFO: 2010-2012
San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT Communications Chair: 2009

2018-2019 CAMFT Board Candidate Application

Describe any community activities you are involved in or have been involved in, including the offices held.

MFT Consortium of Greater Los Angeles: 2014-present
USA Track & Field: 2011-present; Certified Level 2 Coach
Autism Society of Los Angeles: 2011-2012
USA Marathon Training: 2010-2015; Coach
4-H: 1991-2001; various local offices held, County Ambassador 1997-2000, National 4-H Congress Design Team Member 1999, Youth Representative to State Leader's Council, 2000-2001

List the special interest(s) in your clinical practice or internship.

Adolescents, Eating Disorders, Non-Suicidal Self-Injury, Supervision

Describe your education, training and/or experience which has qualified you for MFT licensure:

Education: BS Psychology, Montana State University; MA Clinical Psychology with emphasis in Marriage & Family Therapy, Pepperdine University; MS Criminal Justice with emphasis in Behavior Analysis, Saint Joseph's University

Prelicensed Experience:

Bay Area Addiction Research & Treatment: MFT trainee and intern, individual psychotherapy services

Focus on All Child Therapies: MFT intern, individual and group psychotherapy services in school, community, and clinical settings

Licensed Experience:

Focus on All Child Therapies: MFT, individual and group psychotherapy in community and clinical settings

Private Practice: individual, couple, and family psychotherapy

Outreach Concern: Clinical supervision of trainees and MFT interns

Counseling Partners of Los Angeles: Clinical supervision of trainees and MFT Interns

Pepperdine University: Adjunct Faculty-practicum

What are the reasons you would like to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of CAMFT?

I would like to serve as a member of the Board of Directors of CAMFT because of the investment that our organization needs from its members. I anticipate having multiple decades left working in this field before I retire, and I recognize that a strong CAMFT is necessary for a successful career as a marriage and family therapist. My involvement over the past few years at the chapter and state levels of CAMFT and working within the greater Los Angeles community of MFTs has provided me with a strong idea of the historical and transitional objectives of CAMFT and the ever-changing needs of our members and our license. Serving as the President of the San Fernando Valley chapter has shown me that the influences on our ability to practice extend beyond our local communities, and it takes an understanding of how the political and organizational landscape influences our abilities to move forward as a profession. Additionally, my experience on the CAMFT Board has taught me more about how CAMFT's role extends into many important areas of our lives, things that are not always easily observed by members in their day-to-day lives. I appreciate being a part of this behind-the-scenes work, even if it is something that the results might not show for several years down the road.

With a change in our leadership at the Executive Director level, I feel that our organization is in a transitional state and needs a continued leadership that is able to balance the commands and demands of our membership. For our organization to go through such a large internal change, I believe that consistent member leadership is necessary for CAMFT to continue our already high level of service while growing further opportunities as we move forward. I want to bring my awareness of both the internal and external challenges and my experience to be able to affect change for all of CAMFT's members and the field of marriage and family therapy.

What strengths do you have in your background and/or experience that are relevant to your candidacy?

I served on the San Fernando Valley Chapter of CAMFT Board from 2010-2016, and I served as the President from 2014-15. During that time, I worked to stabilize and grow our chapter financially, worked to increase the participation of members and add value to their participation, advocated for policy, legislation, and CAMFT/chapter relationships, and worked to grow our visibility as therapists in the San Fernando Valley community.

My involvement at the local level started as a trainee, and I have remained committed to the organization ever since. This involvement has allowed me to grow along with CAMFT and helps me to be more aware of the longer-term issues and agenda items that CAMFT has been addressing. I started to connect our chapter to other therapist leadership organizations on a local level. In the past two years, we have renewed relationships with two neighboring CAMFT chapters and started relationships with the MFT Consortium of Greater Los Angeles. Through these experiences, I have developed a background that involves working both internally and externally to establish common goals, negotiate with other professionals with different viewpoints, and advocate for our chapter and our license. These positions and efforts have also required me to utilize strong communication skills, sensitivity to diversity issues, and having strong time management skills.

The biggest strength that I can bring to CAMFT is that I care about our profession and our organization. I participated in several BBS stakeholder meetings in regards to the 2017 California Assembly Bill 93, not as a member of CAMFT, but as a concerned license holder. I regularly participate as a Subject Matter Expert for the Board of Behavioral Sciences, and continue my involvement in several therapist organizations to stay in tune with both what license holders are facing and the direction of the profession.

Long before joining CAMFT, I was involved in the 4-H program in Montana from the time that I was eight-years-old. I have been serving as a board member in local club meetings from the time I was ten, eventually moving up to serve as the Youth Representative to the State 4-H Leaders Council in 2000-2001 and served as a Youth Planning Member to the National 4-H Conference in 1999. I have grown up working in board atmospheres, lobbying, being in a leadership position in a member-benefit organization, and I understand the roles and rules of board meetings from this experience. This is an invaluable experience that allows for me to more readily step into a role without having to learn on the job.

What aspect of being a Board member will help you meet your personal goals?

This profession is my livelihood and I value the work that CAMFT has put in place before I entered the field. I also value the principle of "giving back to the field" and wish to do my part in providing leadership for our members. I am fortunate enough to be able to give my time and energy to the organization at this point in my life, and I wish to give that service to CAMFT. As a CAMFT-Certified Supervisor, I feel the responsibility to model the dedication to our profession that will make us all successful. Most importantly, I want to make sure that CAMFT maintains its strong leadership position to continue to advocate for its members.

What CAMFT programs/activities interest you and why?

I am interested in the Certified Supervisor Program due to my passion for supervision and my recent completion of the program myself. I find that outreach to our prelicensed community and the development of strong clinical and professional members is the future of our profession.

I am also interested in the creation and advocacy of legislation that affects our field. I have previously worked with legislation during my youth as a 4-H member in Montana, and I continue to be passionate about working with proposed legislation as a clinician and a representative of our field. I have served on the Grassroots Advocacy Team since 2016, which has included lobbying in Sacramento, Washington D.C., and in my local representatives offices. Previously, I have served as a CAMFT member speaking to lobbyists and bill writers about how the attempts to establish a BCBA license would affect LMFTs.

What new programs/activities would you like to see CAMFT embark upon? What do you think would make CAMFT more effective?

CAMFT has always been very strong at lobbying, and I wish to see the continued pursuit of Medicare reimbursements for LMFTs across the country.

I think that CAMFT faces a time in our organizations history where it is important to engage our members in a more positive way. I think that CAMFT could be more effective in reaching out to members through more engaging media that highlights our members and staff as people. Large organizations can sometimes become stale, so it is my hope that CAMFT will continue to look at ways to engage and retain our members for the best overall value of member dues.

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What aspects of the office you seek are most and least attractive to you?

In my time on the board, the most attractive aspect of the office has been connecting with member's and bringing their voices forward to guide and steer our association moving forward. I have been able to connect with people from all over the state to bring new and exciting concerns to the attention of our leadership.

I have found that the least attractive aspect of the office has been related to the traveling. I do enjoy traveling and working with the various board members, committees, and members from around the state, but there is never quite a replacement for the familiarity of my own bed.

What is your five-year vision for CAMFT?

CAMFT has established many long term goals that I hope to see realized during the next five years. Specifically, this includes the continued support of MFTs receiving Medicare funding. Additionally, as a Single Payer Healthcare system looms in Sacramento, CAMFT will face decisions about what our support will be as we determine what is best for our members.

While it is hard to predict what the next five years will bring in regards to policy, what CAMFT will need to address before it becomes a larger crisis is the structural challenges that are faced by our precicensed community. The requirements for graduation have expanded even since I received my degree, the cost of living has increased, and many of our precicensed members are faced with having to take unpaid positions and are working below minimum wage in order to enter our field, only to find difficulties securing paid work once they are licensed. This can be a crisis in our membership and continue to make it cost-prohibitive for licensees and preclicensees to remain a part of our organization. I believe that CAMFT should make a bigger push to help assist our precicensed community to be able to become licensed and be able to provide therapeutic services without having to mortgage their individual financial health. CAMFT's role in this should include connecting preclicensees to agencies and helping to clarify what the term education means for both agencies and preclicensees for unpaid positions.

Lastly, through my work as a Subject Matter Expert for the BBS, I have become intimately familiar with the various laws affecting our profession. The greatest part of our education and license is our ability to work through relationships, but our Business and Professions Code no longer reflects the advances that our license has made over the last 50+ years. I would like to see CAMFT champion an update to the laws that govern our Scope of Practice, while retaining the very nature and intent of our license.

What is your one-year vision for CAMFT?

With a new Executive Director starting in the near future, it's important for CAMFT to establish the tone and direction of how we will continue to serve our members. One of the best ways that we can establish this is to re-evaluate our Strategic Plan to be stronger and with more measurable goals that reflect the direction and benchmarks that we will want to achieve not only this year, but also moving forward. I see the next year as an opportunity to expand the passion with which CAMFT serves its members.