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Special Report

Marriage and Family Therapy

AUDIT OVERVIEW

While 48 States Have a Distinct License for Marriage and Family Therapy, Most States Regulate the Profession Through Umbrella Boards



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WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & RESEARCH DIVISION

Building 1, Room W-314
State Capitol Complex
Charleston, West Virginia 25305
(304) 347-4890

Aaron Allred
Legislative Auditor

John Sylvia
Director

Brian Armentrout
Research Manager

Michael Castle
Research Analyst

Tina L. Baker
Research Analyst

Michael S. Keeney
Referencer

CONTENTS

Executive Summary..... 7

Objective, Scope and Methodology..... 9

Issue 1: While 48 States Have a Distinct License for Marriage and Family Therapy, Most States
Regulate the Profession Through Umbrella Boards.....11

List Of Tables

Table 1: Number of States Using Each Type of Licensing Structure for MFTs.....11

Table 2: Number of Professions Licensed Through Umbrella Boards.....12

Table 3: Board Structure With Number of Licenses In West Virginia and Neighboring States.....15

Table 4: Education and Continuing Education Requirements in Neighboring States.....17

Table 5: MFT Categories of Licensure and Licensure Fees in West Virginia and Neighboring States.....18

Table 6: Average MFT Licensure Fees Based on a Two-year Licensure Period.....19

Figures

Figure 1: Professions Combined With MFTs Within Umbrella Boards.....14

List Of Appendices

Appendix A: State Board Structure, Licensing Fees, and Educational Requirements23

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Issue One: While 48 States Have a Distinct License for Marriage and Family Therapy, Most States Regulate the Profession Through Umbrella Boards

Forty-eight states regulate the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy with a specific Marriage and Family Therapy license. Thirty-one states license Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) through an umbrella board, 3 states license MFTs through a state agency, 1 state licenses MFTs through a licensing agency, and 13 have stand-alone boards. Two states, West Virginia and Montana, do not have licensure boards for MFTs. However, individuals in West Virginia and Montana who want to practice Marriage and Family Therapy can be licensed as counselors and/or social workers. Four of West Virginia's neighboring states license MFTs through an umbrella board. All 48 states that license MFTs require a master's degree for licensure. Thirty-two of these states require the degree to be from a Commission of Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE) accredited program. There are no COAMFTE accredited programs in West Virginia. Other education requirements for licensure as an MFT are generally similar.

Like many other aspects of MFT licensure, licensure fees for MFTs vary significantly. Initial licensure fees range from a low of \$25 in Nebraska to a high \$775 plus a \$100 application fee in Alaska. The majority of states license MFTs for two year periods. The national average licensure renewal fee is \$194 for a two year license. Most MFTs in West Virginia are licensed as licensed professional counselors through the Board of Examiners in Counseling; the licensure renewal fee is \$150 for a two year license.

According to the neighboring states, creation of an umbrella licensing board for MFTs, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers will result in lower licensing fees for licensees. The average licensure renewal fee for stand alone MFT licensure boards is \$226 for a 2 year license while the national average for umbrella boards is \$172. The average licensure renewal for three-profession boards is \$125.

Forty-eight states regulate the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy with a specific Marriage and Family Therapy license. Thirty-one states license Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) through an umbrella board.

According to the neighboring states, creation of an umbrella licensing board for MFTs, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers will result in lower licensing fees for licensees.

OBJECTIVE, SCOPE & METHODOLOGY

Objective

The objective of this report is to compare how all 50 states license Marriage and Family Therapists and to answer questions posed by the Legislature involving the creation of a single licensure board to license Marriage and Family Therapists, counselors, and social workers.

Scope

The scope of this report is FY 2006 to present.

Methodology

The Legislative Auditor gathered and reviewed information from Marriage and Family Therapists licensure boards in all 50 states as well as national associations. This information included year-end reports, state code citations, information listed on licensure board websites, and take phone calls to individual states.

ISSUE 1

While 48 States Have a Distinct License for Marriage and Family Therapy, Most States Regulate the Profession Through Umbrella Boards.

Issue Summary

Forty-eight states regulate the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy with a specific Marriage and Family Therapy license. Thirty-one states license Marriage and Family Therapists (MFTs) through an umbrella board, 3 states license MFTs through a state agency, 1 state licenses MFTs through a licensing agency, and 13 have stand-alone boards. There appears to be no clear consensus on the structure of these boards or requirements for licensure and licensing fees. However, there are some areas in which states generally agree. Every state requires a Master’s degree for licensure and 41 states require the applicant to pass the MFT national exam approved by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. Neighboring states have reported that the creation of umbrella licensing boards has resulted in lower licensure fees.

Licensing Structure	Number of States Using Licensing Structure
Umbrella Board	31
Stand Alone Board	13
Licensed Through Existing State Agency	4
No Licensure Board for MFTs*	2

**West Virginia and Montana do not have a separate license for MFTs; however, MFTs can be licensed by other licensure boards. In both states, most MFTs are licensed as counselors or social workers.*

Source: PERD review of state licensure board’s websites.

House Bill 4146 Would Have Created a Licensure Board for Marriage and Family Therapists

During the 2008 legislative session House Bill 4146 was introduced. The bill sought to create a separate licensure board for the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy. The bill did not pass. Currently, most Marriage and Family Therapists are licensed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling as counselors or by the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners as social workers. While discussing the bill, the House Committee on Government Organization learned that a number of states have a single umbrella board that regulates the

Most Marriage and Family Therapists are licensed by the West Virginia Board of Examiners in Counseling as counselors or by the West Virginia Board of Social Work Examiners as social workers.

practices of counseling, social work, and Marriage and Family Therapy. The committee requested that PERD conduct a survey of how these three professions are regulated in other states, especially the neighboring states. The survey was to include information on licensing standards and include the following:

1. Board Structure
2. Educational requirements for licensure
3. Categories of licensure
4. Licensing fees

Additionally, the committee wanted PERD to attempt to determine if placing all three professions under a single licensure board would generate a cost-savings to licensees.

Forty-Eight States and the District of Columbia Have a Separate License for Marriage and Family Therapists

48 states have a licensure board regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy.

In 2007, there were a total 51,106 licensed MFTs in the United States. Nationally, these numbers ranged from a high of 28,228 licensed MFTs in California to a low of 7 in Delaware. There were also 103,865 licensed professional counselors and 156,512 licensed social workers within the United States in 2007. As of 2006, there are 18 individuals in the West Virginia Association of Marriage and Family Therapy, 16 of whom are licensed in a related field and are allowed to practice Marriage and Family Therapy either as licensed professional counselors or social workers. Currently, 48 states have a licensure board regulating the practice of Marriage and Family Therapy. The District of Columbia also has a licensure board in existence regulating MFTs. Thirty-one states have umbrella boards that license MFTs with other professions, such as social workers or a type of counseling profession. Table 2 illustrates the number of professions licensed through umbrella boards.

Table 2 Number of Professions Licensed Through Umbrella Boards				
	5 Professional Licenses	4 Professional Licenses	3 Professional Licenses	2 Professional Licenses
Number of States	2	7	13	9
<i>Source: State licensing board websites for various states.</i>				

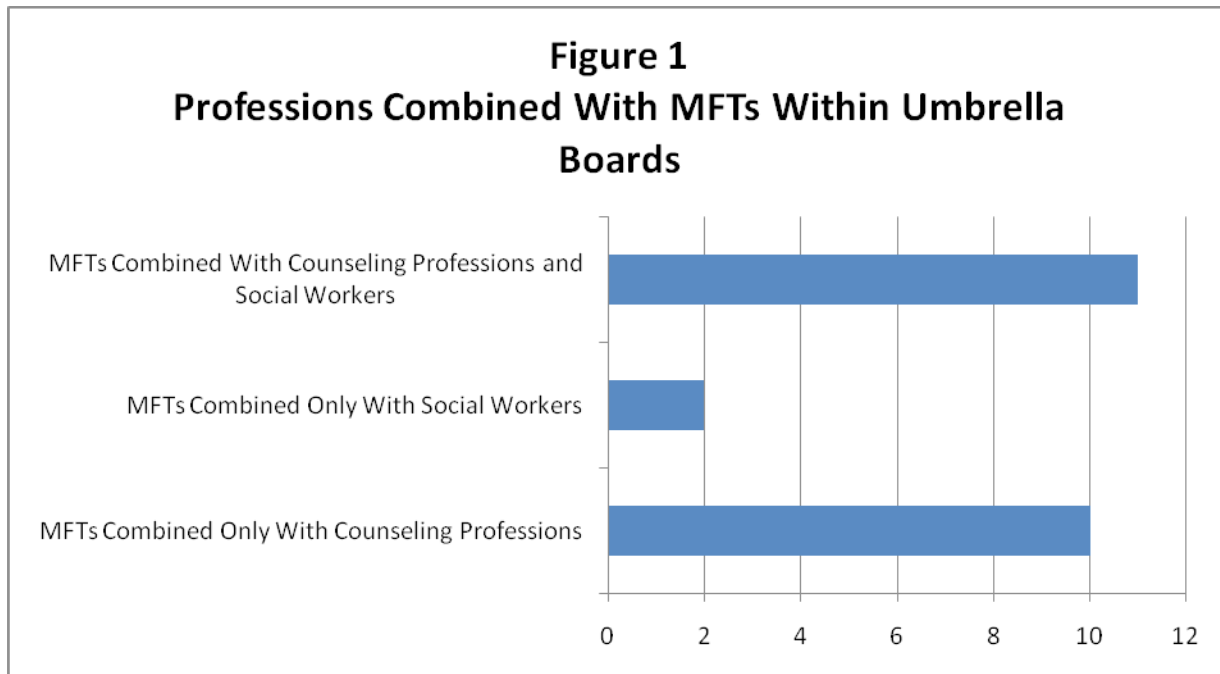
MFTs and Counselors Are Most Often Combined Through Umbrella Boards

The professions licensed by umbrella boards vary, but MFTs are most commonly licensed with counselors. The following professions are licensed along with MFTs in umbrella boards in various combinations:

- Social Workers
- Psychologists
- Psychotherapists
- Educational Psychologists
- Psychiatrists
- Art Therapists
- Various Counseling Professions
 - Counselors
 - Substance Abuse Counselors
 - Mental Health Counselors
 - Rehabilitation Counselors
 - Clinical Counselors
 - Pastoral Counselors

Although all 31 umbrella boards have a combination consisting of MFTs with either counseling professions or social workers, more umbrella boards combine MFTs with counseling professions than social workers.

Figure 1 shows some of the combinations of professions that are combined with MFTs. Ten state umbrella boards combine MFTs with a type of counseling profession, while two state umbrella boards combines MFTs and only social workers. Eleven state umbrella boards license MFTs, social workers, and counselors. Although all 31 umbrella boards have a combination consisting of MFTs with either counseling professions or social workers, more umbrella boards combine MFTs with counseling professions than social workers.



Umbrella Boards Are More Widely Used for MFT Licensure Than Stand-Alone Boards

Thirty-one states license MFTs through an umbrella board, 3 states license MFTs through a state agency, 1 state licenses MFTs through a licensing agency, and 13 have a stand-alone board for MFTs. Two states, West Virginia and Montana, do not have licensure boards for MFTs. However, individuals in West Virginia and Montana who want to practice Marriage and Family Therapy can be licensed as counselors and/or social workers. Four of the five neighboring states license MFTs through an umbrella board. Kentucky has a stand-alone licensing board for MFTs. Appendix A contains a state by state chart detailing the type of licensure board used by each state as well as the board structure of each state's Marriage and Family Therapy licensure board. Table 3 details board structure for neighboring states.

Four of the five neighboring states license MFTs through an umbrella board.

**Table 3
Board Structure With Number of Licensees In West Virginia and Neighboring States**

State	Professions Licensed	Board Structure	Total MFTs	Total Counselors	Total Social Workers	Substance Abuse Counselors
Kentucky	MFT	Stand-alone: 6 MFTs and 1 lay person	440			
Maryland	MFT, Counseling, Drug and Alcohol Abuse Counseling	Umbrella board, 9 members: 5 counselors, 1 MFT, 1 drug and alcohol abuse counselor, and 2 lay persons	231	2,845		2,036
Ohio	MFT, Counseling, Social Work	Umbrella board, 15 members: 4 from each profession and 3 lay persons	190	3,594	5,178	
Pennsylvania	MFT, Counseling, Social Work	Umbrella board, 13 members: 5 social workers, 2 lay persons, 2 MFTs, 2 counselors, 1 more MFT or counselor, and the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs	986	3,396	3,642	
Virginia	MFT, Counseling, Substance Abuse Professionals	Umbrella board, 14 members: 2 laypersons, 8 counselors, 2 MFTs, and 2 substance abuse professionals	805	2,781		1,716
West Virginia*	Licensed Professional Counselor	Stand Alone Board		1,024		

**Most MFTs in West Virginia are licensed by the Board of Examiners in Counseling as Licensed Professional Counselors. Source: National associations and state licensing board websites for various states.*

All States Require a Master’s Degree for MFT Licensure While Other Education Requirements Vary

The American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) has established the Commission of Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education (COAMFTE). The COAMFTE is recognized by the US Department of Education as the accrediting agency for training programs in Marriage and Family Therapy at the master’s, doctoral, and post graduate levels. All 48 states that license MFTs require a master’s degree for licensure.

There are no COAMFTE accredited programs in West Virginia. Four of the five neighboring states have at least two COAMFTE accredited programs, while Maryland has one COAMFTE accredited program.

All 48 states require individuals to pass an exam for licensure as MFTs. Thirty-eight states and the District of Columbia require this exam to be the MFT National Exam approved by the AAMFT. Seven other states create and administer their own exams. Two states do not specify which exam is used. North Dakota has yet to determine which exam it will use.

As part of the training program to become a licensed MFT, practicum time is also required. The amount of hours spent in practicum differs from state to state ranging from 300-900 hours. The consensus among West Virginia’s neighboring states appears to be 300 hours of practicum; only Virginia requires more at 600 hours.

The number of direct client contact hours required for licensure also varies from state to state. Some states require 1,000 hours of direct client contact while Kansas and Utah require 4,000 hours. Among West Virginia’s neighboring states, Kentucky, Maryland, and Ohio require 1,000 hours of direct client hours. Pennsylvania requires 1,800 hours while Virginia requires 2,000. Appendix A contains a state by state comparison of licensure requirements.

Continuing education is also a requirement for renewal of a Marriage and Family Therapy license. Kentucky requires 15 hours of continuing education per year; 3 of these hours must be in ethics. Maryland requires 40 hours of continuing education every 2 years while Ohio and Pennsylvania require 30 hours each year with a minimum of 2 and 3 hours in ethics, respectively. Virginia requires 20 hours of continuing education each year for licensure renewal. Table 4 illustrates the educational requirements for licensure in the neighboring states.

There are no COAMFTE accredited programs in West Virginia.

The consensus among West Virginia’s neighboring states appears to be 300 hours of practicum; only Virginia requires more at 600 hours.

**Table 4
Education and Continuing Education Requirements in Neighboring States**

State	Education	Practicum Hours	Direct Client Hours	Continuing Education	Exam
Kentucky	COAMFTE Master's or equivalent	300	1,000	15 hours per year, 3 must be in ethics	MFT national exam
Maryland	MFT Master's or equivalent from an accredited university	300	1,000	40 units per 2 year renewal period	MFT national exam
Ohio	MFT Master's degree or related Master's with required coursework	300	1,000	30 hours per 2 year period, 3 hours must be in ethics	MFT national exam
Pennsylvania	COAMFTE Master's or equivalent	300	1,800	30 hours per 2 year period, 3 hours must be in ethics	MFT national exam
Virginia	COAMFTE or CACREP Master's or equivalent	600	2,000 hours with 4,000 hours experience	20 hours per year, 2 hours must be in ethics, standards of practice, or laws	Board approved exam

Source: National associations, code citations and state licensing board websites for all neighboring states.

Licensure Fees for MFTs Vary Greatly From State to State

Like many other aspects of MFT licensure, licensure fees for MFTs vary significantly. Initial licensure fees range from a low of \$25 in Nebraska to a high \$775 plus a \$100 application fee in Alaska. The majority of states license MFTs for two-year periods. The national average licensure renewal fee is \$194 for a two-year license.

Among neighboring states, initial licensure fees are \$150 in Kentucky, \$60 in Ohio, and \$45 in Pennsylvania. The initial licensure fee in Maryland is \$225 and licensure renewal is \$200. In Virginia, licensure as a MFT is \$140 and renewal is \$105. Licensees are required to renew their licenses every year in Kentucky and Virginia while renewal is required every two years in Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Ohio. Appendix A contains a state by state comparison of licensure fees and categories

The majority of states license MFTs for two-year periods. The national average licensure renewal fee is \$194 for a 2 year license.

of licensure while Table 5 contains this information for the neighboring states.

State	Categories of Licensure	Initial Licensure Fee	Licensure Renewal Fee
Kentucky	MFT MFT Associate	\$150	\$110 per year
Maryland	MFT	\$225	\$200 for 2 years
Ohio	1) Independent MFT 2) MFT 3) MFT Temporary	1) \$75 2) \$60 3) \$25	1) \$75 2) \$60 3) \$25 For 2 years
Pennsylvania	LMFT	\$45	\$45 for 2 years
Virginia	MFT	\$140	\$105 per year
West Virginia	Licensed Professional Counselor	\$120	\$150 for 2 years

**Most MFTs in West Virginia are licensed as licensed professional counselors by the Board of Examiners in Counseling.*

Source: State licensing board websites and code citations for all neighboring states.

Categories of Licensure Are Generally the Same

Categories of Marriage and Family Therapy licensure are generally similar. The most common categories appear to be Licensed MFT (LFMT), or MFT, and Associate MFT. Kentucky licenses both MFTs and MFT associates. Maryland and Virginia only have MFT as a category of licensure while Ohio has three categories: Independent MFT, MFT, and Temporary MFT. Pennsylvania has LMFT as a category of licensure. In Kentucky, Associate MFTs are required to be monitored by a Marriage and Family Therapy supervisor until they have earned enough hours to meet qualifications as licensed MFTs. As defined by Ohio statute, an Independent MFT may work without supervision. A temporary Marriage and Family Therapy license is generally awarded to individuals who meet all other requirements for licensure as an Independent MFT except that the individual is waiting for the next opportunity to take an examination required by the Board.

The most common categories appear to be Licensed MFT (LFMT), or MFT, and Associate MFT.

The Majority of Neighboring States Umbrella Boards Have Lower Licensing Fees Than the National Umbrella Board Average

PERD staff contacted the executive directors of umbrella boards of neighboring states to discuss issues involving the regulation of multiple professions. Directors in the neighboring states feel that the creation of the umbrella board has been cost-effective. They note that money is saved by having one director on salary instead of several. It also costs less to pay for the operational expenses of one office as opposed to several. Neighboring states say the umbrella board has resulted in lower licensure fees. Lower fees were attributed to the fact that an umbrella board typically has a larger group of licensees while having a smaller number of employees than a stand-alone board. An official from Ohio stated that his state “has enough social workers that they primarily pay for the board.” In addition, fees in Ohio have not risen since the 1980’s.

Nationally, MFT licensure fees are usually lower when licensed by an umbrella board as opposed to a stand alone board. There are some exceptions to this rule; average licensure renewal fees for boards who license five professions and state agencies are higher than the stand alone board average. The average licensure renewal fee for stand alone MFT licensure boards is \$226 for a 2 year license while the national average for umbrella boards is \$172. The average licensure renewal for three profession boards is \$125. Table 6 illustrates the average licensure fees for MFT’s based upon the number of professions licensed by the board.

Directors in the neighboring states feel that the creation of the umbrella board has been cost-effective.

Neighboring states say the umbrella board has resulted in lower licensure fees.

Number of Professions Licensed	Average Initial Licensure Fee	Average Licensure Renewal Fee
Stand Alone	\$246	\$226
State Licensing Agency or State Agency	\$238	\$266
5 Professions	\$290	\$245
4 Professions	\$202	\$176
3 Professions	\$153	\$125
2 Professions	\$241	\$221
National Umbrella Average	\$199	\$172
West Virginia Counselor License	\$120	\$150

**The majority of states license MFTs every two years. To make data comparable for determining an average fee, the fees for states that license MFTs annually were doubled.*

Source: PERD review and calculations of state licensing website data.

PERD staff was also informed that the regulation of multiple professions may create new administrative or regulatory challenges. One state expressed that occasionally the numerous groups want to take the board in differing directions and although rare, infighting does occur. Maryland noted that some groups are more prone to complaints than others. The Maryland umbrella board receives approximately 40 complaints per year and over half come from a single profession. Investigation and review of this profession can become time-consuming for the board and may not be cost-effective as members of the board who are not members of the profession are required to attend meetings.

North Dakota Has Considered But Has Yet to Create an Umbrella Board to License MFTs, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers

North Dakota conducted a study on the feasibility and desirability of establishing an umbrella board for MFTs, counselors, and social workers in 2005. The Budget Committee on Health Care received testimony from members of the professions who opposed consolidation. It was noted that a consolidated board could result in one profession subsidizing the cost of another profession and that representatives of the existing boards are only familiar with their own laws, rules, and regulations. The committee made no recommendation relating to the desirability or feasibility of creating the board. The North Dakota Legislature later created a stand-alone board to license MFTs in 2006. Before the creation of the stand-alone board, MFTs were licensed along with counselors as professional counselors.

Conclusion

While there is no clear consensus on licensure requirements and board structure of umbrella boards there is a majority opinion on some issues. Thirty-one states that license MFTs do so through an umbrella board while another 4 states use an existing state agency to license MFTs. All 48 states who license MFTs require a Master's degree for licensure. Two-thirds (32) of all states require the Master's degree to be from a COAMFTE accredited program. Thirty-eight states require individuals to pass the MFT national exam approved by the AAMFT. Seventeen states, including four neighboring states, require 300 hours of practicum. Four neighboring states require 1,000 hours of direct client contact for

PERD staff was also informed that the regulation of multiple professions may create new administrative or regulatory challenges.

A consolidated board could result in one profession subsidizing the cost of another profession.

licensure. The national average initial licensure fee for MFTs licensed through umbrella boards is \$199 and the average for licensure renewal is \$172. According to the neighboring states, creation of an umbrella licensing board for MFTs, Professional Counselors, and Social Workers will result in lower licensing fees for licensees; based upon national averages, this appears to be a correct assessment.

Appendix A: State Board Structure, Licensing Fees, & Educational Requirements

State Board Structure, Licensing Fees, and Educational Requirements											
State	Board Type	Board Structure	Categories of licensure	Initial Licensing Fees	License Renewal Fees	Education**	Direct Client Hours**	Direct Hours that Must be MFT**	Exam**	Practicum **	Continuing Education Requirements
Alabama	Stand alone	5 members: one lay person, three practicing marriage and family therapists, and one marriage and family therapy educator.	1) Licensed MFT 2) Associate MFT 3) MFT intern	1) \$150 license application fee + \$200 licensure fee 2) \$150 license application fee + \$25 transfer fee 3) \$150 application fee All also require an addition \$25 information packet fee.	\$200 for a 2 year period	COAMFTE Master's Degree or equivalent	1000	250	MFT National Exam	500 hours	40 hours in a 24 month period, 10 must be MFT workshops and 3 must be ethics.
Alaska	Stand alone	5 members: three marriage and family therapists and two lay persons	1)MFT 2)MFT Associate	1) \$100 license application fee + \$775 licensure fee 2) \$100 application fee + \$415 licensure fee	\$775 for a 2 year period	Graduate degree in MFT or allied field	1,500	1,500	Oral or written exam administered by the board	One Year	45 hours in 2 years, 2 must be ethics
Arizona	Umbrella	8 members, consisting of 4 professionals and 4 lay persons. Each of the four groups of professionals has a separate credentialing committee. One member of each committee serves on the board.	MFT MFT Associate	\$250	\$350 for a 2 year period	COAMFTE Master's or equivalent	1,600	1,000	MFT National Exam	300 hours	40 hours in a 24 month period
Arkansas	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 6 counselors (3 practicing, 3 educators); 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 member of the general public; 1 representing the elderly.	1) Licensed MFT 2) Associate MFT	1) \$300 + \$225 application fee 2) \$250 + \$225 application fee	1) \$300 2) \$250	COAMFTE Master's or equivalent	3 years with 1,000 hour of client contact per year	N/A	MFT National Exam	500 hours	24 hours, 2 must be ethics
California	Umbrella	11 members, consisting of 2 social workers, 1 educational psychologist, 2 marriage and family therapists, and 6 lay persons.	1) MFT 2) MFT intern	1) \$130 2) \$75	1) \$140 2) \$75 Both for 2 years	Master's degree in MFT or equivalent	1,700	500	California exam	500 hours	36 hours in 2 years, 6 must be ethics
Colorado	Stand alone	7 members, consisting of 3 marriage and family counselors and 4 lay persons	MFT	\$160	\$184	COAMFTE Master's or equivalent	1,500	N/A	MFT National Exam	300 hours	No continuing education hours are required for license renewal.
Connecticut	Licensed Under State Agency	All licensing, disciplinary action, etc. are handled through the Department of Public Health's Health Care	MFT	\$250	\$250	COAMFTE Master's or equivalent	1,000	N/A	MFT National Exam	500 hours completed in 1-2 years	15 hours in one year

Delaware	Umbrella	Practitioner Licensing and Investigations Section. No separate board exists. 13 members, consisting of 3 mental health counselors; 3 chemical dependency professionals; 3 marriage and family therapists; and 4 lay persons.	1) MFT 2) Associate MFT	1) \$171 2) \$171		\$171 every 2 years	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	1,600	500	MFT National Exam	Not specified	40 hours in two years
Florida	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 2 clinical social workers; 2 marriage and family therapists; 2 mental health counselors; and 3 lay persons.	1) MFT 2) MFT Intern	1) \$205 2) \$200		\$150 for 2 years	MFT Master's degree	Not required	Not required	MFT National Exam	Not specified	30 hours in two years; 2 must be prevention of medical errors; 3 must be ethics
Georgia	Umbrella	10 members, consisting of 3 counselors; 3 social workers; 3 marriage and family therapists; and 1 consumer. The three members of each profession form a separate standard committee.	MFT Associate MFT	\$100 application fee + \$295 examination fee		\$100 for 2 years	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	2,000	2,000	MFT National Exam	1 year, 500 hours	35 hours in 2 years; 5 must be ethics
Hawaii	Licensed under State Agency	3 members, all of whom are marriage and family therapists, report to the director of The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs. Licensed	MFT	\$50 license application fee + \$250 licensure fee		\$207 for 3 years	MFT Master's degree	1,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	1 year, 300 hours	No continuing education hours are required for license renewal.
Idaho	Umbrella	6 members, consisting of 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 person eligible for licensure as both a marriage and family therapist and a professional counselor; 2 counselors; 1 counseling educator; and 1 lay person.	MFT	\$100		\$100	COAMTFE CACREP Master's or equivalent	2,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	1 year, 300 hours, 150 MFT hours	20 hours in one year
Illinois	Stand alone	7 members, consisting of 5 marriage and family therapists or marriage and family therapy educators and two lay persons.	Licensed MFT Associate MFT	\$100		\$120 for 2 years	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	1,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	300 hours	30 hours in 2 years
Indiana	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 2 marriage and family therapists; 1 social worker; 1 social services director of a hospital; 2 mental health counselors; 2 lay persons; and 1 physician.	1) MFT 2) Temporary MFT	1) \$50 2) \$75		\$50 for 2 years	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	1,000	500	MFT National Exam	500 hours	20 hours per year
Iowa	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 2	MFT	\$120		\$120 for 2	COAMTFE	1,000	1,000	MFT	300 hours	40 hours in

		marriage and family therapists; 1 marriage and family therapy educator; 2 mental health counselors; 1 mental health counseling educator; and 3 lay persons.															
Kansas		11 members, consisting of 2 psychologists; 2 social workers; 1 counselor; 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 Master's level psychologist; and 4 lay persons.															
	Umbrella																
Kentucky		7 members, consisting of 6 marriage and family therapists and one lay person.															
	Stand alone																
Louisiana		10 members, consisting of 3 counselors; 3 educators; 3 marriage and family therapists; and 1 lay person.															
	Umbrella																
Maine		9 members, consisting of 2 counselors; 2 clinical counselors; 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 pastoral counselor; 1 counseling educator; and 2 lay persons.															
	Umbrella																
Maryland		9 members, consisting of five counselors (one educator; one in the private sector; one in the public sector; two counselors at large); one marriage and family therapist; one drug and alcohol counselor; and two lay persons.															
	Umbrella																
Massachusetts		11 members, consisting of 2 rehabilitation counselors; 2 marriage and family counselors; 2 mental health counselors; 2 educational psychologists; and 3 lay persons.															
	Umbrella																

State	Stand alone	Members	MFT	\$85	\$110	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	1,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	300 hours	None
Michigan	Stand alone	9 members, consisting of 6 marriage and family therapists and 3 lay persons.	1) Licensed MFT 2) Licensed Associate MFT	1) \$110 application + \$125 licensure 2) \$150	1) \$125 2) \$75 For a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	1,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	300 hours	30 hours in 2 years.
Minnesota	Stand alone	7 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists; 1 marriage and family educator; and 2 lay persons.	Licensed MFT	\$100 application + \$200 licensure	\$200 For a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's degree	1,000	500	MFT National Exam	500 hours	35 hours in 2 years, 4 must be ethics
Mississippi	Stand alone	10 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists and 6 social workers	MFT	\$100	\$225 for a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	1,500	1,500	MFT National Exam	500 hours	40 hours in 2 years.
Missouri	Licensed Under State Licensing Agency	Advisory committee with 6 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists and 2 lay persons	MFT	\$100	\$225 for a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	1,500	1,500	MFT National Exam	500 hours	40 hours in 2 years.
Montana	None	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Nebraska	Umbrella	10 members, consisting of 2 mental health practitioners; 2 marriage and family therapists; 2 social workers; 2 professional counselors; and 2 lay persons.	Certified MFT (requires licensure as a Mental Health Counselor)	\$52	\$25 for a 2 year certification	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	1,500	1,500	MFT National Exam	300 hours	32 hours in 2 years.
Nevada	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists; 3 clinical counselors; and 2 lay persons.	LMFT	\$75 application + \$50 licensure	\$150 for a 2 year license	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1,500	1,500	MFT National Exam	Not specified	40 hours in 2 years.
New Hampshire	Umbrella	8 members, consisting of 1 psychologist; 1 pastoral psychotherapist; 1 social worker; 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 mental health counselor; and 3 lay persons.	MFT	\$150 license application fee + \$135 licensure fee for a 2 year license	\$270 for a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	1,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	Not specified	40 hours in 2 years, 6 must be ethics.
New Jersey	Stand alone	12 members, consisting of 6 marriage and family therapists; 1 counselor; 1 drug and alcohol counselor; 3 lay persons; and 1 state executive department member.	MFT	\$75 + \$250 licensure fee for a 2 year license	\$250 for a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	N/A	Full time practice for 5 years, at least 20 hours of client contact per week	MFT National Exam	3 credit hour practicum	40 hours in 2 years, 5 hours must be ethics.
New Mexico	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 1 professional and 1 clinical mental health counselor; 1 art therapist; 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 alcohol and drug abuse counselor; and 4 lay	LMFT	\$220 + \$75 application fee	\$220 for a 2 year license	MFT degree from a regionally accredited university	N/A	1,000	MFT National Exam	300 hours	40 hours in 2 years, 6 must be ethics.

New York	Umbrella	persons. 16 members, consisting of 3 members from each profession: MFT, mental health counseling, and art therapist and psychotherapy; 3 lay persons; and 1 psychiatrist.	1) MFT 2) Limited MFT	1) \$345 2) \$70	\$345	Accredited MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1,500	N/A	Board Approved Exam	300 hours	No continuing education requirements for license renewal.
North Carolina	Stand alone	7 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists and 3 lay persons.	MFT	\$125	\$100	MFT Master's or equivalent	1,500	1500	MFT National Exam	500 hours	12 hours in one year.
*North Dakota	Stand alone	5 members, consisting of at least three marriage and family therapists and at least one lay person.	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	To be determined	No continuing education requirements for license renewal have been established at this time.
Ohio	Umbrella	15 members, consisting of four social workers; 4 marriage and family therapists; 4 counselors; and 3 lay persons.	1) Independent MFT 2) MFT 3) MFT temporary	1) \$75 2) \$60 3) \$20	1) \$75 2) \$60 3) \$25 For a 2 year license	MFT master's degree or related Master's with required coursework	1,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	300 hours	30 hours in 2 years, 3 of which must be ethics
Oklahoma	Licensed Under State Agency	7 members, consisting of 5 marriage and family therapists and two lay persons.	LMFT	\$100 license fee + \$200 application fee	\$100	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1,000	N/A	MFT National Exam, oral or written exam on psychopathology and law and regulations	300 hours	20 hours in one year, 3 must be ethics.
Oregon	Umbrella	7 members, consisting of 3 counselors; 2 marriage and family therapists; 1 counseling educator, and 1 lay person.	1) LMFT 2) MFT Intern	\$100 license fee + \$125 application fee	1) \$125 2) \$80	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	2,000	1,000	MFT National Exam	Not specified	40 hours in 2 years.
Pennsylvania	Umbrella	13 members, consisting of 2 lay persons; 5 social workers; 2 marriage and family therapists; 2 counselors; 1 more of either marriage and family therapist or counselor; and the Commissioner of Professional and Occupational Affairs	LMFT	\$45 for a 2 year license	\$45 for a 2 year license	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	1,800	N/a	MFT National Exam	300 hours	30 hours in 2 years, 3 of which must be ethics
Rhode Island	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 3 mental health counselors; 3 marriage and family therapists;	MFT	\$460 for a 2 year license	\$330 for a 2 year license	COAMTFE Master's or equivalent	2,000	N/A	Board approved exam	12 semester hours of practicum	40 hours in 2 years.

	and 3 lay persons.										and internship	
South Carolina	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 6 professionals, three of which must be counselors (of which 1 must be an addiction counselor) and 3 marriage and family therapists; 1 educator; and 2 lay persons.	Licensed MFT	\$150	\$150 For a 2 year license	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1,500	N/A	Board approved exam	300 hours	40 hours in 2 years.	
South Dakota	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 3 lay persons and 6 counseling or marriage and family therapy professionals.	LMFT	\$100 application + \$75 licensure	\$75 For a 2 year license	COAMITFE or CACREP Master's or equivalent	1,700	N/A	MFT National Exam	1 year	40 hours in 2 years.	
Tennessee	Umbrella	5 members, consisting of 4 professionals and 1 lay person.	1) Certified MFT 2) Licensed MFT	1) \$210 2) \$210 or \$60 if upgrading from certified	\$190	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1,000	N/A	MFT National Exam, oral exam	300 hours	10 hours in one year.	
Texas	Stand alone	9 members, consisting of 4 lay persons and 5 professionals (of which one must be an educator in the marriage and family field).	LMFT Associate MFT	\$40 license application + \$90 licensure fee	\$130 for a 2 year license	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1,500	750	MFT National Exam	45 hours Master's Degree	30 hours in 2 years, 6 must be ethics.	
Utah	Stand alone	5 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists and 1 lay person.	1) Certified MFT 2) MFT Intern	1) \$120 2) \$85	1) \$93 2) N/A Both for a 2 year license	COAMITFE Master's or equivalent	4,000 hours must include 1,000 hours of mental health therapy	500	MFT National Exam	500 hours	40 hours in 2 years.	
Vermont	Umbrella	6 members, consisting of 2 clinical mental health counselors; 1 marriage and family therapist; 1 psychotherapist; and 2 lay persons.	MFT	\$125	\$150 for a 2 year license	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	2 years experience under the supervision of a licensed MFT	N/A	MFT National Exam	Not specified	20 hours in 2 years.	
Virginia	Umbrella	14 members, consisting of 2 laypersons and 12 professionals, of which 8 must be counselors, two marriage and family therapists and two substance abuse professionals. Two of these must be full-time educational faculty members and two must be in full-time private practice.	MFT	\$140	\$105	COAMITFE or CACREP Master's or equivalent	2,000 with 4,000 hours experience	1000	Board Approved Exam	600 hours	20 hours per annual renewal, two of which must be ethics, standards of practice, or laws.	
Washington	Umbrella	9 members, consisting of 2	LMFT	\$50 application + \$25 licensure	\$83/year	COAMITFE	3000,	500		1 year, 9	36 hours in	

	committee	mental health counselors; 2 marriage and family therapists; 1 independent social worker; 1 advanced social worker; and 3 lay persons.					Master's or equivalent	1,000 must be direct contact with clients		credit hours	2 years, 6 must be ethics or law.
Washington, D.C	Stand alone	5 members, consisting of 4 marriage and family therapists and 1 lay person.	MFT	\$262	\$177 for a 2 year license	COAMFTE Master's degree or equivalent	1,500	1,500	MFT national exam	Not specified	30 hours in two years, 6 must be ethics, 15 must be in person with a supervisor
West Virginia	NONE	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
Wisconsin	Umbrella	6 members, consisting of 1 professional member from each of the four disciplines of MFT, Social Work, Counseling, and 3 lay persons.	MFT	\$125	\$75 for a 2 year license	MFT Master's degree or equivalent	1000 with 3,000 hours experience	N/A	Board Approved Exam	Not specified	30 hours in 2 years
Wyoming	Umbrella	6 members, consisting of 1 professional from each of the four disciplines of MFT, Social Work, Counseling, and Substance Abuse Counselors; and two lay persons.	1) LMFT 2) CMFT	1) \$200 license application + \$100 licensure 2) \$150 license application + \$75 certification	1) \$100 2) \$75 Both for a 2 year license	MFT Master's degree from an accredited program	3,000	N/A	Not specified	Not specified	45 hours in 2 years

* Current as of October 2007. Source for information is the Association of Marriage and Family Therapy Regulatory Boards.
 **North Dakota passed legislation in 2005 to license marriage and family therapists. The board is not yet operational and information other than board structure is not presently available.
 All other information gathered from state licensure boards websites and code citations.



WEST VIRGINIA LEGISLATIVE AUDITOR

PERFORMANCE EVALUATION & RESEARCH DIVISION

Building 1, Room W-314, State Capitol Complex, Charleston, West Virginia 25305

telephone: 1-304-347-4890 | www.legis.state.wv.us/Joint/PERD/perd.cfm | fax: 1-304-347-4939