



East Bay CAMFT General Membership Meeting

March 18, 2017 Orinda, CA

PURPOSE: To have an open discussion with East Bay CAMFT Chapter members about ending the organization's affiliation with CAMFT

CAMFT and its Chapters

1. Less than 20% of CAMFT members belong to local chapters. Chapters are "feeder" organizations: They channel members to CAMFT, because if you want to belong to the local community, you also have to pay your dues to CAMFT. We are planning to break this disadvantage to the local community and give members more choice.
2. From CAMFT's point of view, chapters present risks: They take on initiatives that the State CAMFT does not want. (LGBTQ issues, Single Payer, Insurance rates, other social justice issues.) The new Chapter Agreement was about risk control.
3. CAMFT does not listen to Chapters; it has a governance structure that makes chapters politically unimportant. Local chapter organizations delegate their power in good faith; they often confine themselves to the organization of social events and local networking. They have no input in the "political stuff:" lobbying, insurance issues, BBS guidelines, etc.
4. CAMFT has a self-insulating power structure: Staff office is technically overseen by a State Board that meets only four times a year. You can only get onto the State Board through the Nomination Committee. (Or petition, but it only worked for the first SaveCAMFT group.) Executive Director sits in on the NomCom, and former Board members select the members of the NomCom. Real opposition cannot develop, and the elections are often non-contested.
5. CAMFT is not a democracy. It is not built on a participatory membership model. It is a trade organization that is run top-down by lawyers who are not from the profession. A minimum requirement for reform of CAMFT is the replacement of the Executive Director with a therapist who will focus on developing local therapist communities.
6. CAMFT does not provide an open forum for the exchange of governing ideas and initiatives across the State.

Advantages of Separation from CAMFT

1. If the EBC ends its affiliation with CAMFT, you can remain or become a member of the disaffiliated organization (which will have a new name), but you don't have to be a CAMFT member.
2. You don't lose your individual CAMFT membership.
3. We can accept more members from our territory.
4. We can expand our territory: Bay Area, Northern California, or even California-wide.
5. AAMFT is dissolving its local chapters, and we can provide a home for these colleagues.
6. We can lobby more effectively for our interests.
7. We can provide more services to members:
 - a. For instance, more relevant local events,
 - b. Enhanced local therapist finder. Local groups directory, mental health agencies, etc.
 - c. We will improve and enhance the website to make it easier for our members to find resources, jobs, internships, and connect with each other.
8. We could provide insurance discounts as well. (NOTE: non-CAMFT members pay only a little more for the same malpractice insurance through CPH now.)
9. The organization does not need to struggle anymore within CAMFT for more representation, from LGBTQ issues to the SaveCAMFT movement.
10. We can cooperate better with other groups, like AAMFT, LPCCs, LCSWs, local universities.

Disadvantages (what you lose)

1. You will not be part of a local chapter of CAMFT, only part of a local therapist organization that has many CAMFT members in it.
2. The local organization has no more incentive to fight for change in CAMFT, but it could still be a platform for it.
3. We lose the right to use the name "CAMFT" in our bylaws, or events.