

May 1, 2017

Board of the East Bay Therapist Association / CAMFT — East Bay Chapter:

Thank you for meeting with our board members recently. We very much appreciate the collegial sharing of information, as both our professional organizations undergo some form of restructure.

Our board members are interested in the possibility of a new organization that may be a better fit for the needs of our members. As we understand, the East Bay Therapist Association / CAMFT — East Bay Chapter (East Bay CAMFT) is strongly considering ending its affiliation with the California Association of Marriage and Family Therapists (CAMFT) in order to create a new organization that is transparent, democratic, ethical, responsive to the needs of its members and the larger community, and rooted in the larger concepts of social justice as it intersects with our expertise as Marriage & Family Therapists (MFT) is of interest to us.

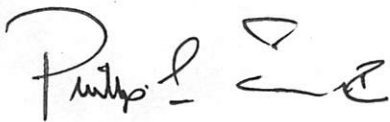
I offer the following for your information so that you may understand what we are considering in regard to our professional organization. We, as the Bay Area District of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy — California Division (AAMFT-CA: Bay Area) are facing dissolution should the restructure proposed by the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT) pass with a vote of the general membership this coming summer. This is memorialized in an e-blast message from our State Division (AAMFT-CA) president dated 12/05/2016. In this message¹ to the California membership, our president explains that the State board examined the reasons a restructure is needed as proposed by our national organization. She explains that should the restructure pass, our national association will consist of several “interest networks” in place of State and Province Divisions and their local Districts. Our members are invited to form topical interest networks that would be of broad interest (such as but not limited to an EFT network, a military families network, or a LGBTQ+ network), as well as geographic interest networks for those members who still value the local connection in their communities. After considering whether current California leadership should form a geographic interest network, or go out and form our own separate entity that may or may not have some affiliation with AAMFT, or invite the California members to choose for themselves what would be best, it was decided that California members are strong advocates for themselves and are in the best position to decide what to do/where to go next. AAMFT’s advocacy efforts will continue, under the Family Team interest network.

¹ The information here borrowed heavily from the 12/05/2016 AAMFT-CA president’s message.

because a profession is more than a license

Our district (AAMFT-CA: Bay Area) board intends to favorably share with our membership your efforts to create a new organization independent of CAMFT that is transparent, democratic, ethical, responsive to the needs of its members and the larger community, and rooted in the larger concepts of social justice as it intersects with our expertise as Marriage & Family Therapists (MFT). We believe, much like our State board, that our local members are strong advocates for themselves and can best decide what to do/where to go next. We believe that knowing about your efforts will be encouraging and energizing for our members.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Phillip F. Evans, II". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "P" and a stylized "E".

Phillip F. Evans, II, M.S.
Licensed Marriage & Family Therapist (MFC41687)
as president and on behalf of the Bay Area District
of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy — California Division