

August 2020

# GAMFT NEWS

The Official Newsletter of the Georgia Association for Marriage and Family Therapy



## Leading Through Serving: A GAMFT Member's Journey

*Courtney Geter, Metro Atlanta Chapter Chair*

During my “I’m having a hard time accepting my new normal” way of life, I recently started listening to audiobooks while on my daily walk. For those who know me and don’t know me, learning is a core value of mine. Walking is a way I take care of my mind, body, and soul especially during this time of collective trauma. Therefore, audiobooks while walking is a huge win-win for me.

Part of my learning and growth has been finding new ways of being in the present, which has led to reflections on my past and current way of being. This started out with “how can I be present for myself during this collective trauma and the panic I began to experience

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as a result” to “what type of human being do I really want to be?” I found myself exploring books on personal development as well as books on leadership.

One book I recently read (aka listened to) was Dare to Serve: How to Drive Superior Results while Serving Others by former Popeye’s CEO, Cheryl Bachelder. Cheryl talks about being a servant leader, her journey to being this type of leader, and how this worked for her and the Popeye’s Corporation. Servant leadership might be a new term; a servant leader is one who leads by serving others. The concept has been practiced by many throughout history. The term was originally coined by Robert Greenleaf. He stated, “A servant-leader focuses primarily on the growth and well-being of people and the communities to which they belong...The servant-leader shares power, puts the needs of others first, and helps people develop and perform as highly as possible,” ([greenleaf.org](http://greenleaf.org)).

I began to not only reflect on my own skills and viewpoints of leadership but also about my experiences as a GAMFT member and leader. I learned about GAMFT straight out of graduate school. Unlike many, I attended graduate school out of state where licensing laws and employment expectations were different than in Georgia. I found it very hard to find employment and ways to network until I found the GAMFT website. At the time, Michael Chafin was the Executive Director. With his support and guidance, I was provided with resources to help find employment and connected with my local chapter to network with other MFTs. At that time, I was not even a member of AAMFT or GAMFT. Yet, the leadership was serving me how I needed to be served. For several years, I wanted to be a part of GAMFT. I wanted to attend events. I would make GAMFT functions a *priority* for my professional growth. I felt *served*.

Then, I felt abandoned. One day, I realized I no longer received communication about my local events. I had trouble getting in touch with the local chapter leader. The website was never updated. It became difficult finding approved CE events



Courtney Geter

other than the annual conferences. I also began to feel isolated. MFTs are the smallest mental health profession in Georgia. I am lucky to be a member of the metro area where there are many others. Yet, without GAMFT events, I hardly saw another MFT at times.

At some point, I just let GAMFT go. There were no hard feelings. Like many relationships, it just ended. Until, several years later and many changes in GAMFT leadership, I was approached to become a leader in the Metro Chapter. The chapter where I once got my start in connecting with others, finding ways to learn (*remember that core value??*), and my start at my professional home. The chapter was needing new leadership to replace those who were currently serving the chapter and members. My conscious choice at the time was I wanted to give back to the community who had helped me several years before, I had the time to give, and how hard could it be, right? At this time, AAMFT already transitioned into their restructuring; what I didn’t know is the impact that would have on GAMFT and the learning curve I would experience during this time.

As I continued to listen to Daring to Serve, I reflected on my role as a leader in GAMFT. One struggle the Popeye’s leadership worked through was “who to serve first?” Their struggle was around the customers, the franchise owners, stockholders, etc. I began to think about GAMFT. Who would we serve first? The members are the organization. Our members are the leadership. Our members are the

## ...Continued

members. Our members are the volunteers. Many of our events are attended by our members. Our members are board members. Without members, GAMFT would not exist. How do we choose who to serve first when we want to serve everyone?

I don't have an answer for you in this newsletter. As part of our process to better serve the members, GAMFT has created the Task Group on Chapter Engagement. The purpose of this task group is to further explore the needs of the members and the chapters in order to create change that meets the needs of our membership specific to each area where they reside and work. We do not want to assume that the needs of the metro area chapters will meet the needs of the rural chapters. My personal goal is to reach every chapter to find out how GAMFT can serve them better. My promise is to continue to communicate this with all of our members.

At present, this task group consists of myself and Andrew Benesh, chair of the Middle Georgia Chapter. If you are interested in sharing your thoughts, we want to connect with you. You can send an email to [metrogamft@gmail.com](mailto:metrogamft@gmail.com).

*"The best test, and difficult to administer, is: Do those served grow as persons? Do they, while being served, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? And, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?"*

-Robert Greenleaf

<https://www.greenleaf.org/what-is-servant-leadership/>

Courtney Geter, LMFT, CST  
Chair, Metro Atlanta Chapter of GAMFT

## The Georgia Family Therapy Funds

The Georgia Family Therapy Funds goal is to help 100 Black families in Georgia receive quality mental health counseling services.

Caring for your mental health is imperative to a happy, healthy life. Being able to process trauma, worries, fears and emotions in a safe, non judgmental environment, has the power to heal and transform lives. Access to quality counseling services is often a barrier for those who need it most.

The current fight for racial equality and civil rights amplifies how necessary it is for Black and Brown people to care for their mental health and participate in therapy.

We have created the below fund for these families. It would be amazing if you could share this initiative with your audience, friends and neighbors.

[Click here to donate.](#)

Sincerely,

LeNaya Smith Crawford  
LMFT, RYT, RPT



To learn more about the Georgia Family Therapy Funds, watch [this video!](#)

## Member Spotlight

GAMFT is excited to launch a quarterly Member Spotlight. Each quarter we will feature a member within our community who is contributing to the field of Marriage and Family Therapy in Georgia through leadership, advocacy, or service work.

This quarter's newsletter is proud to feature LeNaya Smith Crawford, LMFT, RYT, RPT, founder of the Georgia Family Therapy Funds.

LeNaya, The Holistic MFT is a Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist and is



**LeNaya Smith Crawford, LMFT, RYT, RPT**

passionate about helping people foster a deeper mind body and soul connection on their path to healing. As a licensed therapist, yoga studio owner/instructor and meditation guide, she understands the benefit in blending holistic practices

with psychotherapy and is excited to be able to share more of this work in the near future. She is the owner of Kaleidoscope Family Therapy, a group practice in Atlanta. Kaleidoscope Family Therapy's mission is to help people become happy and healthy. We work with children, teens, adults, couples and families on an array

**WANT TO NOMINATE SOMEONE FOR OUR NEXT MEMBER SPOTLIGHT?**

Click [here](#) to fill out a brief form!

# therapy

FOR BLACK FAMILIES

@therapyforblackfamilies

## HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?

**MAKE A GENEROUS CONTRIBUTION TO THE INITIATIVE**

**IF YOU ARE A FAMILY IN NEED, APPLY**

**REFER A BLACK THERAPIST TO OUR DIRECTORY**

**LIKE, FOLLOW, SHARE @THERAPYFORBLACKFAMILIES**

#GaFamilyTherapyFund seeks to help 100 Black families (including children, teens, adults and couples ) receive 4-6 counseling sessions during this critical time of intense racial trauma, for free.

of concerns ranging from anxiety and depression to relationship issues and confidence. Wherever you are on your path to healing we are here to walk along the journey with you. To learn more about LeNaya or her practice you can follow her on social media at [@lenayascrawford](#), [@kaleidoscopeft](#), or email [info@kaleidoscopefamilytherapy.com](mailto:info@kaleidoscopefamilytherapy.com).

# ATTENTION!

## UPCOMING GAMFT EVENTS

FRIDAY, AUGUST 14, 12PM-1PM

### Coffee with your Student Representative

GAMFT Student Representative Shirley Shani Ben-Zvi and Social Media Chair Stephanie Jordan will be discussing exam resources, sharing study tips, and creating space for conversation about this big step towards MFT licensure.

[Click here](#) to register for this free event!

Meeting ID: 945 4448 9020

Password: GAMFT



FRIDAY, AUGUST 28, 12PM-1PM

### Legislative Town Hall Meeting

The GAMFT Legislative Committee invites special guest Representative Deborah Silcox, a key legislator aiding in the overhaul of mental health delivery services in Georgia.

[Click here](#) to register for this free event!

Meeting ID: 921 2276 9476

Password: GAMFT

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16, 9AM-4:30PM

### Armour Family Therapy Lecture Series

*The Time is Now: Social Justice, Clinical Practice, & Advocacy.*

Featuring Dr. DeAnna Harris-McKoy, PhD, LMFT-S

Hosted by Mercer University School of Medicine's Master of Family Therapy Program in association with GAMFT.

[Click here](#) to register!



# Legislative Committee Update

The Legislative Committee, comprised of Michael Chafin, Michele Smith, David Blanchard, and Dan Upshaw, would like to invite you to attend the statewide **GAMFT Town Hall Meeting** on Friday **August 28, 2020 from 12 noon to 1 pm.**

The guest speaker for our August Town Hall will be **Representative Deborah Silcox** from Sandy Springs. Because of MFT's who are constituents that live in her district and have cultivated a relationship with her, for the last two years, she has been very supportive of our legislative initiatives and has agreed to support our efforts to pass legislation allowing MFT's to sign 1013's and 2013's. For those of you who have been involved in Legislative initiatives in the past, you know how important grass roots involvement can be in advancing the profession of marriage and family. All MFT's have professional and ethical obligations to be involved in advocating for our profession and advancing the mental health of our communities. Attending this meeting is one way to be involved.

The Legislative Committee has been working with Representative Silcox, many other legislators, and with the Behavioral Health Innovation and Reform Commission, tasked with overhauling the delivery of mental health delivery services in Georgia.

Continuing to develop these personal relationships is a priority. The August Town Hall gives GAMFT members an opportunity to get to know a key legislator, hear from her about legislative issues that are important to her, learn about the legislative process, and hear about the progress that the Legislative Committee is making with the General Assembly.

In the meantime, please know that this is an election year with all Georgia General Assembly members running for office. There is no better time for each of you to get to know your Senator

## Legislative Town Hall

Friday, August 28th

12pm-1pm EST

GAMFT Members will receive 1 Free CE!



Representative  
Deborah Silcox

*No need to register! Just show up August 28th via Zoom!*

[Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 921 2276 9476

Password: GAMFT

and your House member, assist them with their campaigns, and develop a relationship with them. If you do not know your representatives, go to <https://justfacts.votesmart.org/>, put in your home address, to discover who your Representatives are.

The Legislative Committee looks forward to seeing you on August 28th!



Michael Chafin



Michele Smith



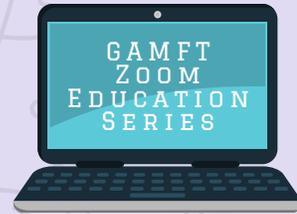
Dan Upshaw



David Blanchard



*presents the*



**FRIDAY**  
**OCTOBER 16**  
**9:00AM-4:30PM**

## 17th Annual Armour Family Therapy

# LECTURE SERIES

*Featuring:*

**DEANNA HARRIS-MCKOY**  
**PHD, LMFT-S**



The Armour Family Therapy Lecture Series welcomes Dr. DeAnna Harris-McKoy as she presents: [The Time is Now: Social Justice, Clinical Practice, & Advocacy.](#)

The concepts of critical consciousness, social justice, and oppression may seem overwhelming. During these trying times, MFTs/CFTs may find themselves wanting to do something, yet not knowing where to start. MFTs/CFTs can tap into the philosophical assumptions that birthed the field of family therapy as a foundation to their social justice work. Just as early pioneers of the field urged other mental health professionals to look at the family to contextualize individual pathology, current MFTs/CFTs doing social justice work urge MFTs/CFTs to look at systemic and systematic oppression in the macrosystem to contextualize individual and relational pathology.

This workshop will guide participants on a journey from oppression and social justice as abstract concepts to practical clinical applications. MFTs/CFTs will be able to identify ways that they can make 1st and 2nd order changes in themselves and in their clinical practice to provide care to clients of varying levels of power and privilege and further the profession of marriage and family therapy.

### *Registration:*

- \$120** GAMFT Member
- \$150** Non-GAMFT Member
- \$75** Students

**EARN 6 CEs!**

*Click [here](#) to  
register or go to  
[GAMFT.org!](#)*

## WE COULD USE SOMEONE LIKE YOU!

Interested in becoming more  
involved with GAMFT?

We currently have two open positions:  
*Personnel Chair & Elections Committee  
member. For more  
information about these  
positions, contact GAMFT  
President Andrea Meyer  
Stinson at  
meyer\_as@mercer.edu.*



## Armour Lecture Presenter Announcement

Mercer University School of Medicine's Marriage and Family Therapy Department in association with GAMFT is excited to announce this year's Armour Lecture Series Presenter: **Dr. DeAnna Harris-McKoy, PhD, LMFT-S**. Dr. Harris-McKoy's presentation, titled **The Time is Now: Social Justice, Clinical Practice, & Advocacy**, will take place on Zoom on **Friday, October 16th from 9am-4:30pm**.

DeAnna Harris-McKoy is a licensed marriage and family therapist, AAMFT approved supervisor, professor, researcher, and social justice advocate. She has over 10 years of clinical experience with diverse populations and disorders in a variety of clinical settings. She is currently an Associate Professor and Specialization in Marriage and Family Therapy Program Director at Northern Illinois University. She received two Bachelor of

Science degrees from University of Maryland College Park in Family Studies and Psychology, a Masters of Family Therapy from Drexel University, and a doctorate in Marriage and Family Therapy from The Florida State University.

She has presented research at various local, national, and international conferences concerning Black mental health, adolescents, and social justice within the field of marriage and family therapy. Her research has begun to show value to the field and has been cited 155 times. She is extremely active in her professional associations as the co-chair for the 2017 American Family Therapy Academy conference and has served on the national election council of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy. She is a former AAMFT Minority Fellow and is currently serving on the advisory board of the program. She has received multiple awards for her community service, social justice work, and leadership.

GAMFT is honored to have her present this year's Armour Lecture.

*To learn more about DeAnna, click below for a special video interview conducted by GAMFT President Andrea Meyer-Stinson.*



**DeAnna Harris-McKoy,  
PhD, LMFT-S**



# Classifieds

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Successful counseling practice in Alpharetta looking to add a skilled couples counselor. Experience working with couples in graduate school and/or clinical settings required. Marriage and Family Therapy license an advantage. Must have scheduling flexibility to be willing to see some clients on Fridays and Saturdays. Please send cover letter and resume to [andrew@mcconaghiecounseling.com](mailto:andrew@mcconaghiecounseling.com)

**SUPERVISION:** New post graduate supervision group forming this spring. Meets the 2nd Friday of the month 9-11am in Roswell. Cost is \$60. Consultation prior to group start is required. Led by Jennifer Vann, LMFT, AAMFT Approved Supervisor.  
<https://www.cornerstonefamilyservices.com/copy-of-jennifer-vann-lmft>

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Thriving private practice in Woodstock, Georgia seeking licensed clinician to perform intake, therapy, and possible assessment/testing responsibilities. Clinician must be willing to join major insurance panels if not already a participating provider. Warm, friendly work environment with administrative and collegial support. Significant independence and ability to plan own work hours. Please contact office manager, Teresa Ingram, if interested at 770-592-0150.

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Seeking Fully Licensed Professional Counselor, Marriage & Family Therapist or Clinical Social Worker: Eagle Ranch, a Christian children's home in Georgia, has an immediate opening to work in their girls' program. [eagleranch.org/employment/counselor](http://eagleranch.org/employment/counselor)

**EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY:** Accelerated Recovery Centers is seeking experienced LMFTs for Full-Time and Contract openings in our Family Systems Program. For more information, please contact Scott Ferguson at 678-429-3958 or at [sferguson@iwanttostopnow.com](mailto:sferguson@iwanttostopnow.com). Days, Nights and Weekends.

**OFFICE SPACE:** BEAUTIFUL OFFICE SPACE NEAR CLAIRMONT AND I-85. Amenities include office supplies, equipment, free parking and handicap access. Reasonably priced. Contact Jeanne Montgomery MA, LMFT 404-633-3347.

**TREATMENT PROGRAM:** Paul Anderson Youth Home in Vidalia, GA, is a residential program founded in 1961 focusing on young men between the ages of 16 to 21 years of age. Treatment focuses on substance abuse, mental health and failure to thrive issues. Call (912-535-2128) or find us at [PAYH.org](http://PAYH.org).



# Upcoming Continuing Education

8/20	Ethical Practice in Juvenile Justice Settings	5 Ethics Hrs	Live webinar; Lainey Richardson, Psy.D. and Christine Doyle, LCSW	Ron Koon, Ph.D., 404-478-4522
8/21	Social (In)justice, Racism and Healthy Conversations: Ethical Implications for Clinical Practice	5 Ethics Hrs	Live webinar; Michael Chafin, M.Div., M.Ed. and Cecil Walker, MFT	Michael Chafin, 404-872-8065
8/22	Telemental Health: Breaking Geographical Boundaries	6 Telehealth Hrs	Live webinar; Dr. Sonja Sutherland	Dr. Sonja Sutherland, 404-835-6119
9/11	When Marital Intimacy Protects: Chronic Female Sexual Problems	4 Core Hrs	Live webinar; Michael Sytsma, Ph.D. and Marti Witherow, LPC, LMFT	Michael Sytsma, PhD, 770-822-4505
9/11	Becoming One Treatment Team: Involving the Family in Your Work with Teens and Young Adults	5 Core Hrs	Live webinar; Ashley Lanier-Pszczola, LMFT	Dawn Collinge, 404-709-3171
9/18	Life and Death, In Between is only Death: Existential Psychotherapy Approaches to Working with Youth	3 Core Hrs	Ridgeview Institute Smyrna; Weston Robins, LPC	Latosha Lawler, 770-434-4568, ext. 3001
9/21	Boundaries in Clinical Practice: Top Ethical Challenges	6.25 Ethics Hrs	Live webinar; Latasha Matthews, MA, LPC, CPCS, CPLC	Abby Klingenberg, 715-855-8107
9/25	Ethics in Today's Political Climate	4 Ethics Hrs	Live webinar; Lakeeya Thornton, LCSW	Wydia Houston, 267-322-9816
10/2	Internal Family Systems Therapy: Step by Step Procedures	6.25 Core Hrs	Live webinar; Alexia Rothman, Ph.D.	Chris Boggs, 770-391-1099
10/9	Domestic Violence Training/What Do I Need to Know?	5 Core Hrs	Ridgeview Institute; Davine S. Ricks, Ph. D.	Latosha Lawler, 770-434-4568, ext. 3001

**For more upcoming CEU opportunities, please visit:**  
<http://gamft.org/upcoming-workshops-and-conferences/>

# Attention GAMFT Members!

## We'd love to hear from YOU!

In addition to sharing relevant information with our members, the goal of the GAMFT newsletter is to strengthen our MFT community by supporting and promoting connection and inclusiveness through sharing our collective wisdom, resiliency and enthusiasm. Therefore, the more of us who contribute our knowledge, experience, and ideas, the richer our GAMFT family becomes.

We encourage members to make submissions including clinically related articles that offer educational and/or inspirational insights to your colleagues, reviews such as books or movies that may be valuable to MFT's, or any relevant information on issues involving the GAMFT community. Please note that this does not include advertisements for workshops, employment or office space so please refer to the protocol for these submissions in the advertisement section. All submissions will be printed in full as received whenever possible but are subject to editing for length, clarity, readability, grammar, spelling, biased language, and appropriateness. Opinions expressed in the GAMFT newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of GAMFT. Submission of an article does not guarantee its publication.

### Submission Guidelines are as Follows:

Guidelines and recommendations for an article is maximum word count of 920 for full page; recommend maximum 750-word count with photo. Word counts also include approximately 690 for 3/4 page, 460 for 1/2 page, 230 for 1/4 page. We do recommend and encourage including a professional photo of the author, as well as specific listing of name and credentials as they should appear with the article. Please submit a 1-2 line biography of the author as well to be added at the end of the article.

The Newsletter is published quarterly, in February, May, August, and November. Submissions need to be received by noon on the 20th of the month prior to the newsletter going out that you would like your submission included in. Therefore, if you want to publish in the May newsletter, you will need to have your submission in by April 20th.

Articles can be submitted in Word format to **StephanieJordanLMFT@gmail.com** and any questions can be directed to our **Social Media Chair and Newsletter Editor**, Stephanie Jordan, at the above email address.

We look forward to hearing from you and including your voice in this process! Thank you!



Stephanie Jordan

# Board of Directors

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**Treasurer:** Jennifer Lambert-Shute, Ph.D, LMFT, 229.245.4323  
**Past President:** Bowden Templeton, Ph.D, LMFT, 478-301-4077

## Committee Leadership

**Approved Supervisors:** Kara McDaniel, Ph.D, LPC, 678-430-8089  
**Continuing Education:** Jeff Bickers, LMFT, 229-244-4200  
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**Ethics:** Meg McLeroy, LMFT, 404-721-3596  
**Legislative/Govt. Affairs:** Michael L. Chafin, LMFT, 404-872-8065 x1  
Michele S. Smith, Ph.D., LMFT, 770-968-6464  
**Membership:** Shannon Eller, LMFT, LPC, 770-468-7424  
**Multicultural Issues:** Cecil Walker, 470-231-9640  
**Personnel:** Open  
**Public Relations:** Abby Culin, 678-329-7009  
**Student Representation:** Shirley Shani-Ben Zvi, 770-846-2595  
**Social Media/Technology:** Stephanie Jordan, LMFT, 678-744-4064

## Chapter Leadership

**Coastal GA (Savannah):** Ashley Moore, M.F.T., 912-675-8913  
**East GA (Augusta):** John Hill, D.Min., 706-305-3137  
**Metro Atlanta:** Courtney Geter, LMFT, CST,  
**North Metro Atlanta:** Ken Cross, LMFT, 770-429-9293  
**Middle GA (Macon):** Andrew Benesh, Ph.D., LMFT, 478-301-4078  
**Northeast GA (Athens):** Andrea Farnham, LMFT, CST,  
**Northwest GA (Roswell):** Aaron Shaner, LMFT, 706-264-1920  
**South GA (Valdosta):** Leah McMillan, DPA, LMFT, 229-262-1000  
**South Atlanta:** K. Nichole Hood, LMFT, 678-671-9908  
**Southwest GA (Albany):** Nicola Bradley, LMSW, 229-312-7006  
**West GA (Columbus):** Fred Remick, LMFT, 706-577-2725



## ABOUT

The GAMFT Newsletter is a quarterly publication for GAMFT members and MFTs in the state of Georgia.

## SUBMIT AN AD

Please direct inquiries to:

**office@gamft.org**

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and October 15

## RATES

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P.O. Box 29745  
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