



KIN QUARTERLY

Kentucky Interest Network Second Quarter Engagement Letter

June 2020

PRACTICING MFT IN A WORLD ON FIRE

Karen Westbrooks, PhD, LMFT

The Kentucky Interest Network (KIN) along with AAMFT recognizes that relationships are fundamental to the health and well-being of individuals, couples, families, and communities. Like AAMFT, we are outraged by continued racial trauma both locally and nationally. Whether from a tree or with a knee, a lynching is still a lynching – and the practice is 400 years old!

Our members, our clients, and our communities are hurting deeply and it is vital we stand together in solidarity against injustice. The scenes of protesters with signs reading “No Justice. No Peace” reminds us of the Civil Rights struggles of the 1960’s. Now the children and grandchildren of that generation are still marching in the streets and sadly for the same reasons.

AAMFT maintains that marriage and family therapists have a direct responsibility to counter racism. MFTs are uniquely positioned to understand and recognize the systemic effect of oppression and inequity that damages the whole human race, not only people of color. The majority culture is damaged by normalizing racism and by experiencing the privilege of hiding behind its comforts and often choosing to ignore the suffering, the pain, and the struggle of other humans. The majority has benefitted by allowing this oppressive system to go unchecked. A global pandemic makes us recognize that black and brown people are disproportionately represented in contracting the virus and disproportionately represented in the number who are slain by law enforcement.

The Kentucky Interest Network stands in support of our members dedicated to advancing the fundamental rights, health, safety, and well-being of all individuals, relationships, and communities. As a professional organization, KIN will continue to advocate for social justice and seek solutions in our policy work to ensure that vital change is occurring.

[Click here for resources for MFTs in a racialized climate](#)

[Click here for meditations that address racial trauma](#)

[If you want it raw and in your face, watch, “I Can’t Breathe Again” by Nick Cannon](#)



A construction site burns in a large fire near the Third Police Precinct on May 27, 2020 in Minneapolis, Minnesota. (Stephen Maturen/Getty Images)

In This Issue

- Practicing MFT in a World on Fire
- COVID 19 updates
- Spotlight on KY MFTs giving back
- KIN Virtual Hangouts
- Advocacy Update



An open office door. Source: <https://www.fm-magazine.com/content/dam/>

COVID 19: Using our Best Judgment

Mike Rankin, LMFT

Someone once said that all horror stories begin with the following statement,"one day a monster moved into the house." As clinicians many have had to adjust to changing how we practice and how we do supervision. Many have grown accustomed to telehealth with clients and with supervisors doing supervision online. No doubt as we venture back to our offices we may wonder how will things be in the future. Our clients too may be wondering will we ever be the same. How will life change for us, our families and our client families.

Rainer Maria Rilke once wrote that we need to grapple with our questions and as we do, our answers may emerge as we trust the voice within and the voices beyond us, e.g. our trusted friends, colleagues and family members. KIN is certainly interested in addressing the needs of MFTs in Advocacy, Continuing Education, and Networking with one another. The Leadership Team will be making plans to address the current context to serve MFTs in KY.

In the meantime check out this [page](#) at aamft.org in regard to guidelines for re-opening our practices.

KIN Spotlight

KIN would like to spotlight Dr. Dale Bertram and Tony Watkins for their heroic efforts during the last two months of the COVID pandemic. When KY MFTS were put between a rock and a hard place: needing to comply with a Telehealth Regulation that required 15 hours of training, these trainers, Bertram and Watkins, offered their services for FREE to the Network by partnering with KIN to launch a fundraising event with 100% of registration fees/ proceeds from the Telehealth Workshop going directly to the KIN Legislative Fund. The number of completed registrations were 184 and the amount raised was \$27,500. COAM-FTE students were allowed to register for free and KIN members registered for less than half price!

Bertram and Watkins have an Interactive Training company, ICET, that provides highly interactive systemically-oriented continuing education opportunities. The core values of these trainers can be easily found in the ways they give back to the MFT profession, support the development of young professionals and support the state professional organization. Students are not the only beneficiaries of their generosity. They also offered a FREE 10 hour AMFTRB course to 79 Associates who are preparing to sit for the licensure exam. This is the link to their website: <https://www.interactivecetraining.com/>

KIN Virtual Hangouts

During these difficult times we would like to invite our members and all MFTs in KY to connect with us to discuss how they are coping with the realities of COVID-19 and the current racial distress in our state and nation.

We are offering a space of encouragement, self-care, support, the ability to laugh, lament, and ask for what you need.

We have two times for you to join us:

**Thursday June 18th
@ 8pm - 9pm**

Click here to [attend](#)

**Saturday June 27th
@ 9:00am –
10:00am**

Click here to [attend](#)

We will use Google Meet for these sessions. For more information about how to join a video meeting click here: <https://support.google.com/a/users/answer/9850339>



abstract photo of connectivity concept, Linking entities, Hierarchy and HR

KIN and Advocacy Work

This year from January through April the Kentucky General Assembly met for 53 days cutting their session short 7 days due to COVID-19. Many bills have been passed. You can find the information online at <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/lrcsearch> and look at the menu for the bills that have passed or by topic of the bill.

In Kentucky, The Rotunda Group, work with a great deal of vigilance on behalf of all MFTs in KY in conjunction with KIN. With over 1000 bills filed this session, they review and monitor every proposed bill and amendments of those bills that may come before the legislature. Here are a few ways The Rotunda Group has worked throughout the year to advocate for MFTs in KY during the interim session :

- Engaged the issue of the licensure board reorganization bills and policy changes. This helped to maintain a strong MFT licensure board within state government.
- Reviewed the impact of professional services taxes on our profession. As the state grapples with hundreds of millions of dollars of deficit due to COVID-19 and the possibility of new services taxes in KY will continue to be under review.
- Worked to be included in Senate Bill 8 which created more mental health resources and options for the local school boards. Under Senate Bill 8, MFTs are an option for school boards to be included in the interdisciplinary mental health teams.

In addition to the work of the Rotunda Group, just recently, KIN worked with Roger Smith, the attorney at AAMFT, to be in touch with the KY Licensing Board in regard to waving the restrictions on Associates doing online therapy due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Protecting our profession is all about relationships and KIN along with our lobbyist works to advocate for our goals with the KY State Government. We encourage you to join us in contacting your representatives and let them know what we MFTs want. To learn who represents your district in KY, visit this [webpage](#). On the menu, you can put in your address and find your legislative representatives.



Source: <https://www.ebsco.com/products/research-databases/education-source>

Networking with COAMFTE Programs

The Kentucky Interest Network (KIN) desires to support the profession of marriage and family therapy in the commonwealth of KY. In order to do this we believe that it is important that we support the development of the future generations of MFTS by supporting MFT students in the state and their training programs. Therefore, the KIN leadership team has made an intentional effort to reach out to the program directors of the four COAMFTE accredited MFT programs in KY. These four programs are:

Campbellsville University
Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary
University of Kentucky
University of Louisville

KIN has begun meeting with these directors and look forward to collaborating with these programs and their students to help promote networking and resources for students as well as promoting the development of the professional identity of future MFTs in the commonwealth.

Contact Us

Feel free to reach out to us for more information or to learn more about how you can get involved.

Email:
mftkyin@gmail.com

Visit us on the web at
[https://
networks.aamft.org/
kentucky](https://networks.aamft.org/kentucky)

OUR MISSION

The Kentucky Interest Network (KIN) is an Engagement Program of the American Association of Family Therapy (AAMFT). The KIN mission is to cultivate the professional practice of marriage and family therapy in the Commonwealth of Kentucky through advocacy, collaboration, and education.

OUR VISION

A healthy-minded Commonwealth created through thriving, harmonious, resilient interpersonal relationships.