

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2024 Candidates

BOARD MEMBER (3 POSITIONS)



Christopher Wirth, MS (He/Him/His)

I am honored to be nominated to serve on the AAMFT Board of Directors. Through various experiences, I've had the opportunity to serve the profession through leadership at the divisional, interest network, and national levels, through advocacy efforts, and through collaboration with multiple stakeholders. In my past work on the AAMFT Board, I have had the opportunity to be a part of AAMFT's continued dedication to actualizing our commitment to DEI principles and supporting the integration of these policies into every level of our governance process. If elected to the AAMFT Board of Directors, I hope to capitalize on AAMFT's positive momentum by positioning AAMFT as a leader in the broader healthcare environment through:

- increasing development opportunities for students, practitioners, educators, and researchers in ways that celebrate diverse perspectives, enrich our field, and increase access to all whom may benefit from our expertise;
- continuing to support onboarding of MFTs as Medicare providers, to strengthen our presence on the national stage;
- advancing MFT Licensure Portability at the state level, to eliminate barriers to LMFT's ability to practice;
- continuing to build partnerships with key stakeholders;
- supporting the dissemination of resources to benefit our members and to increase public awareness of the MFT field; and
- maintaining the fiscal responsibility that the current board has engendered.

Now more than ever, our expertise as MFTs is needed. I am confident that our profession is well positioned to meet the numerous challenges present in our world, and that AAMFT will continue to lead through transformative and strategic actions. I am committed and focused on serving the practice and profession of Marriage and Family Therapy, and I hope you will consider allowing me the opportunity to contribute to the field's ongoing growth and evolution through service on the AAMFT Board of Directors.

Thank you,
Christopher Wirth LMFT

(I) PRESENT PROFESSIONAL POSITION

**University of Wisconsin Medical Foundation
UW Health**

Clinical Supervisor for In-Training Providers (AAMFT Approved Supervisor in training)
Mental Health Clinician
Madison, Wisconsin
April 2019 – Present
Multi-specialty medical group

(II) MOST RELEVANT PAST PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS (WITHIN THE LAST 7 YEARS)

Mental Health Solutions S.C.

Psychotherapist
Madison, Wisconsin
March 2013 – May 2019
Group Mental Health Clinic

Northside Mental Health and Consulting

Owner/Psychotherapist
Madison, Wisconsin
August 2010 – October 2016
Private Psychotherapy Practice

Canopy Center

Psychotherapist (Oasis Program)
Madison, Wisconsin
April 2011 – June 2013
Child abuse treatment and prevention agency serving the Dane County community.

Oregon Mental Health Services, L.L.C.

Psychotherapist (In-home)
Oregon, Wisconsin
August 2007 – August 2011
In-home psychotherapist for SED youth

Agnesian Beyond Boundaries of Autism

Senior Therapist
Fond du Lac, Wisconsin
July 2004 – August 2006
In-home Autism treatment provider

Wisconsin Early Autism Project

Senior Therapist/Consultant
Madison, Wisconsin
April 1999 – April 2004
In-home Autism treatment provider

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2024 Candidates

(III) AAMFT MEMBERSHIP: PAST AND PRESENT PARTICIPATION IN AAMFT, INCLUDING TOPICAL AND GEOGRAPHIC INTEREST NETWORKS

Foundation for the Advancement of Human Systems (FAHS)
Foundation Awards Committee – January 2024 to Present

American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (AAMFT)

Board Director – January 2022 to Present
Performance Evaluation Committee Chair – January 2024 to Present
Performance Evaluation Committee member – January 2022 to December 2023
Certificate of Leadership Mentor – March 2023 to Present

Wisconsin Association for Marriage and Family Therapy (WAMFT)

Chairperson - May 2018 to December 2020
President – January 2018 to May 2018
President-Elect - 2017
Legislative Committee Chair - 2017
Diversity and Social Justice Committee Co-chair - 2017
Finance Committee Member – 2017
Board Director-at-Large - 2016
Legislative Committee Chair - 2016
Diversity and Social Justice Committee Co-chair - 2016
Finance Committee Member – 2016

(IV) PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (Activities should be directly linked to the position and should demonstrate the skills needed for the position. Please refer to the list of competencies and skills for the position)

Past and present activities, projects, or publications (limit 3) that are evidence of leadership skills, experience integrating information, working towards consensus, and decision-making skills.

Wisconsin Council on Mental Health - Legislative and Policy Committee, Organizational Seat

January 2018 to December 2020 - Voting Member
August 2017 to December 2017 - Alternate Member

University of Wisconsin – Department of Psychology

April 2012 to December 2020 – Student Mentor, Department of Psychology

Combating Stress In The Workplace: Tips For Stressed Out Librarians

Presentation at the Annual Wisconsin Library Association Conference
November 6, 2014

Adolescence and ASD: How Families Navigate The Road to Adulthood

Presentation at the Annual Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin Conference
October 19, 2013

Healing Families: When Sexual Abuse Hits Home

Presentation at the 1st Annual Paths To Healing: Conference on Child Sex Abuse Survival
June 20, 2013

(V) COMMITMENT TO DIVERSITY, EQUITY, AND INCLUSION: Past and present activities demonstrating knowledge of and commitment to social justice and systemic science.

In my role as Chair of the Performance Evaluation Committee (PEC) for the AAMFT Board, it is my duty to support all board members in attending to matters of process at all levels of self-evaluation of the Governance Units under the PEC's responsibility. The committee's commitment to inclusion involves the continuous identification and effective elimination of barriers to access to association roles, resources, and relationships, and to creation of systems of excellence that promote equity for all. More specifically, this commitment dictates that the PEC will not fail to monitor the Board's process in both in-person meetings and in the online forum to ensure compliance with the *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Statement and Policy Title: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Accountability*; ensure adherence to the *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Statement and Policy Title: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Accountability* in the self-evaluation of Board, Task Force and Committee work; and monitor its own process in its work as the PEC to ensure adherence to the *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Statement and Policy Title: Diversity, Equity, and Inclusivity Accountability*.

In my previous volunteer roles at the state level, I maintained a commitment to leverage my position to elevate the voices of presenters from diverse backgrounds at state conferences, to support students and emerging professionals from multiple ethnic and racial backgrounds as a mentor and guide in navigating systems in ways that allowed them to advance in their professional development, and hopefully acted as a model for those who saw themselves in me.

As an AAMFT Supervisor in training, I seek to create a relationship within the supervision dynamic which privileges acknowledgment of and attendance to contextual factors. Having an understanding of how our multiple identities and the multiple contexts we inhabit inform our work as therapists is critical to discuss openly in the supervisory

Biographical Data and Platform Statements

2024 Candidates

setting, and I do my best to create an environment for this to happen through modeling awareness of my own understanding of and curiosity about these factors, inviting supervisees to comment on the identities and contexts which inform their approaches, sharing an understanding of how historical and social factors may inform clients' perceptions of the supervisee, and how the professional setting informs clients' perceptions.

In my personal practice, I continue to seek appropriate consultation with peers to maintain awareness of how self of the therapist issues may impact my provision of therapy, and attend to how the intersections of my identities inform my practice. I regularly attend trainings and CE sessions to stay current with emerging knowledge.

(VI) RELEVANT DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION – Optional (up to five sentences)

You may choose to identify and/or describe parts of your background which may include the following: work setting (e.g., private practice, academia, agency, community health, government), home location (e.g., rural, urban, suburban), region (e.g., US state, international), any other relevant demographic information (e.g., age, ethnicity/race, gender, sexual orientation, religious/spiritual affiliation, ability, immigration status, languages spoken).

I am from a multi-ethnic and multi-racial background. I always find it difficult to describe myself, as various aspects of myself are prevalent at different moments and in different contexts. The short answer is that my mother is Panamanian and my father was Swiss (American 1st generation), and within this background there are many other identities which inform who I am today. I am married to a wonderful woman from Trinidad and Tobago, and we have a lovely 7 year old daughter whom I absolutely adore.