

END OF YEAR REPORT for 2023

DECEMBER 30, 2023

Prepared by:

Dr. David Van Dyke, Chair

Dr. Heather Katafiasz, Chair-Elect

Jill Fogolin, Director of Accreditation



COAMFTE

Commission on Accreditation for
Marriage and Family Therapy Education

Letter from COAMFTE Leadership

Dear Colleagues:

In 2023, COAMFTE focused on the following:

- Preparing CHEA Recognition Report and Supporting Evidence
- Strengthening COAMFTE Governance and Policies
- Conducting the Fall 2023 Accreditation Workshop
- Soliciting and Researching Feedback for Standards Revision
- Addressing Program Complaints

COAMFTE is proud to share the work accomplished in the 2023 End of Year Report.

Dr. David Van Dyke, Chair

Dr. Heather Katafiasz, Chair-Elect

Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA)

The COAMFTE Staff and Leadership Team worked together to prepare and submit the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) Recognition Report with all the necessary supporting documents. CHEA is COAMFTE's accrediting body, and we had to write a self-study for reaccreditation. This was a huge undertaking and demanded significant time and resources to complete the self-study. Special thanks go to Jill Fogolin, Lloydian Holness and Corey Miles for the months of preparation which equipped the Commission to provide the necessary documentation to CHEA. If it were not for our staff and their commitment to MFT education and accreditation, the future would be much dimmer. Thank you three for your unwavering commitment and dedication.

COAMFTE submitted the renewal of recognition report to the Council for Higher Education Accreditation (CHEA) on November 28, 2023.

Strengthening COAMFTE Governance, Policies and Procedures

As part of the Commission's commitment to ongoing improvement, COAMFTE developed and implemented the following policies and procedures utilizing feedback from communities of interest and research from peer professional accreditors, in 2023:

Transfer of Sponsorship Policy: The Commission added a new policy and procedure for requesting a *Transfer of Sponsorship* of a COAMFTE accredited program from one educational institution to another institution resulting from a merger, acquisition, or change of ownership/control of the sponsoring institution in the [COAMFTE Accreditation Manual: Policy and Procedures p. 34](#).

Extended Standards Review Cycle: The *Standards Revision Process* was changed to from a five (5) year cycle to ten (10) year cycle. Going forward, new accreditation standards will be published every 10 years. Accreditation and reaccreditation timelines will not change and the maximum timeframe for accreditation and reaccreditation will still be 7 years.

Geographic Reach of Accredited Programs Survey: The Commission is in the process of seeking information related the geographic reach from all COAMFTE accredited programs to

understand how programs are serving students in the United States and/or Canada (consistent with the scope of COAMFTE's recognition by the Council on Higher Education Accreditation).

Revised COAMFTE/AAMFT Memorandum of Agreement: The newly revised Memorandum of Agreement clarifies the semi-autonomous role of COAMFTE with AAMFT and encourage more clear communication between the Chair of COAMFTE and the President of the AAMFT Board.

Strengthening COAMFTE Volunteer Pool with attention to Expertise, Experience, Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion

Annual Report Reviewer Pilot: In 2023, COAMFTE initiated the Annual Report Review Pilot (ARRP) that will establish a subcommittee of the Accreditation Review Committee (ARC) to focus on annual report reviews and delegate the authority to review maintenance criteria compliance in the annual report. The ARRP will expand opportunities to become involved in the COAMFTE annual review process that will (1) serve as an entry level experience to become acquainted with the accreditation review process, (2) increase diversity and inclusiveness in the COAMFTE volunteer pool and (3) help to offset heavy Commissioner and ARC member workload.

Commission Handbook: The Policy and Strategy Subcommittee developed a Commission Handbook that outlines the duties and responsibilities of Commission members which will be a living document to assist with onboarding of new Commissioners and serve as a reference for continuity among a Commission with rolling terms.

2023 COAMFTE Accreditation Workshop

COAMFTE conducted its first stand-alone two-day Accreditation Workshop on October 19-20, 2023 in Tampa, FL. The format of the COAMFTE's Accreditation Workshop agenda encouraged engagement from all workshop attendees during networking meals, round table involvement and Q&A periods. All nine (9) Commissioners (7 Professional Members and 2 Public Members) shared valuable information, tips and tools about version 12.5 standards, served as spokespersons for round table discussions, and offered experiential case scenarios. The workshop delivered opportunities for all participants to take part during interactive sessions to learn different steps of the accreditation process as well as break-out sessions. Attendee feedback overwhelming expressed appreciation to COAMFTE for providing an event that conveyed and demonstrated a message of inclusivity with accessible standards of excellence.

Highlights of the topics shared by the Commission with programs during the Workshop included:

- program director leadership strategies,
- initiating COAMFTE accreditation,
- supervision,
- distance education,
- teletherapy training, and
- diversity, inclusion and equity.

Standards Review Committee Research

The Standards Review Committee (SRC) completed the following tasks in 2023:

- Conducted research with programs regarding teletherapy and virtual supervision practices in COAMFTE accredited programs. The results of the survey were shared with participants at the 2023 COAMFTE Accreditation Workshop and will help inform future standards revision.
- Began to identify developmental competencies and curriculum components specific to diverse types of programs to inform the next set of standards.
- Gathered data about current qualifications, experience and credentials of program directors in COAMFTE and compared them to similar professional programmatic accreditors.
- Developed resources to ensure that the foundational curriculum and application components are met for doctoral programs which can be found on the [website](#).

Communicating with Additional Stakeholders

- **Meetings with AAMFT Leadership:** The COAMFTE Leadership Team met three times with the CEO, President and President-Elect of AAMFT. The main focus of these meetings in 2023 was to maintain transparency of operations with AAMFT.
- **Meetings with AMFTRB:** The COAMFTE Leadership Team also met with representatives from AMFTRB twice this year. Discussion focused on emerging issues facing MFT programs and exam takers.

Program Accreditation: Initial, Renewal, Maintenance

The Commission reviewed programs for initial, renewal, and maintenance of accreditation to determine demonstrated substantial compliance with COAMFTE Accreditation Standards Version 12.0 and Version 12.5.

The Commission reviewed the following at the Spring and Fall COAMFTE Meetings in 2023.

Type of Review	Spring 2023	Fall 2023	Total 2023
<i>Initial Accreditation</i>	3	1	4
<i>Renewal of Accreditation</i>	10	10	20
<i>Response to Stipulations</i>	3	9	12
<i>Annual Reports</i>	60	61	121
<i>Special Report</i>	5	1	6
<i>Total</i>	81	82	163

The Eligibility Review Committee reviewed 3 Eligibility Criteria Reports. The Commission and Accreditation Reviewers reviewed a total of 21 Self-Studies. COAMFTE conducted 10 Virtual Site Visits and 5 campus-based Site Visits in 2023.

Currently COAMFTE accredits 121 programs:

- 28 Doctoral programs
- 90 Master's programs
- 3 Post-Degree programs

COAMFTE Sustainability

The COAMFTE Financial Planning Committee conducted research (assessing future operating costs and number of projected accredited programs) to determine a revised fee structure intended to maintain sustainability and increase autonomy of COAMFTE, as an accrediting body, with financial independence from its parent organization, AAMFT. To ensure that revenue from accreditation fees cover COAMFTE operating expenses, the Financial Planning Committee proposed a new COAMFTE Fee Structure beginning in 2026 that includes:

- Revision of Tiers for Annual Sustaining Fees based on student enrollment
- Fee Increases

The changes in the COAMFTE Fees will be posted on the [COAMFTE website](#) in Fall of 2024.

Complaints

In 2023, the Commission investigated 4 complaints against two programs.

COAMFTE Volunteers

The Commission is deeply appreciative for the dedicated commitment of COAMFTE volunteers who are essential to the compliance work and accomplishments of the Commission.

[Standards Review Committee members](#)

[Eligibility Review Committee members](#)

[Accreditation Reviewer Program members](#)

[Active Site Visitors](#)

2023 Commissioners

David VanDyke, PhD – Chair

Heather Katafiasz, PhD – Chair Elect

Blake Berryhill, PhD

Sara Blakeslee Salkil, PhD

Darren Moore, PhD

Aaron Norton, PhD

Jaclyn Cravens Pickens, PhD

Nancy Shankle, PhD, Public Member

Michael Westerfield, PhD, Public Member

2023 COAMFTE Elections Results

Krista Speicher, DMFT – 3-year term

Blake Berryhill, PhD - will serve a second 3-year term as Professional Member

Aaron Norton, PhD - will serve a second 3-year term as Professional Member

2023 Chair-Elect Election Results

Aaron Norton, PhD was elected as the 2025 COAMFTE Chair. He will serve as the Chair Elect in 2024.

Call for Volunteers in 2023

COAMFTE continues to prioritize expansion of its volunteers while also being intentional in its recruitment efforts to broaden inclusivity and diversity within the COAMFTE community. COAMFTE staff broadcasted numerous “*Call Outs*” for volunteers beginning in March of 2023 for the new Annual Report Reviewer Pilot, the Accreditation Reviewer Committee, Standards Review Committee and Site Visitors.

- 8 new Accreditation Reviewers were appointed for 2024 and 4 renewed their term
- 11 new Annual Report Reviewers were appointed for 2024
- 1 new Standard Review Committee member
- 8 new Site Visitors