



MARYLAND Department of Health

Board of Professional Counselors and Therapists

News and Updates from the Board

November 2019

Board Officer Election Results

Risa Ganel, LCMFT, Chair



I'm a Licensed Clinical Marriage and Family Therapist. A graduate of the University of Maryland at College Park, with a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family Therapy, and a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Hofstra University, I've been in practice since 1994, providing individual, couples, and family therapy in a variety of settings and opened Together Couples Counseling in 2005.

I have had many wonderful mentors throughout my career, which includes spending a week in Tuscany Italy learning from and working for a year under the supervision of Esther Perel (Author of *Mating in Captivity* and *The State of Affairs*). I am currently in the process of becoming a Certified Relational Life Therapist under the guidance of Terry Real (Author of *The New Rules of Marriage* and *I Don't Want to Talk About It*).

I'm dedicated to advancing the profession of Marriage and Family Therapy, because I believe MFTs are uniquely trained and are *the most qualified as relationship experts* to help individuals, couples and families with the challenges of the complexities of all relationships. I was appointed by Gov. Larry Hogan to serve as a Board Member and, in October 2017, was elected Chair of the Board and continue in that position currently. I have also served on the Board of Directors for the Middle Atlantic Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy since 1999 as Treasurer (1999-2005), President Elect (2006-2007), and President (2007-2008).

In addition, I am a wife, mother, step-mother, mother-in-law, marathon runner, and chocolate lover. Paddle Boarding, Fall Festivals, singing at the top of my lungs with my daughter, and family/friend gatherings are always part of my weekends. I've completed the Marine Corps Marathon four times, the Disney Marathon once, and numerous half marathons. I've been a Team In Training Mentor for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, and my family and I have raised over \$30,000 for LLS since 2009. Don't be surprised if you see me running through the streets of Columbia or Severna Park!



Jeffrey Galecki, LCADC, LCPC, Vice Chair

Jeff Galecki, MS, LCADC, LCPC, graduated from Loyola University Maryland in 2011 with a masters in clinical psychology. He has worked in methadone clinics and at Johns Hopkins School of Medicine Department of Nuclear Medicine researching addiction and mental health. Presently, he serves as Vice-Chair and Chair of the disciplinary review committee on the Board of Counselors and Therapists. Additionally, he works full time for the Center for Medicare & Medicaid Services as a data analyst and subject matter expert focused on mental health and substance abuse in Medicaid. He conducts psychiatric evaluations in Sinai and Johns Hopkins Bayview's emergency departments and conducts mental health groups at the National Institute for the Study, Prevent, and Treatment of Sexual Trauma.

Nicki Drotleff, LCMFT, Secretary



Mary "Nicki" Drotleff, M.S., LCMFT, graduated from the University of Maryland College Park's Family Therapy Training Program in 1981. She has provided therapy in a variety of settings from residential, to outpatient and home based. After 26 years of service, she retired from Montgomery County Government in 2014 as the Manager of Child and Adolescent Behavioral Health Services managing a wide array of services and contracts for children and adolescents. She operationalized programs that provided home based therapy and case management services to both the Child Welfare and Juvenile Justice populations. She is designated an Approved Supervisor by AAMFT and the Maryland Board of Counselors and Therapists. She has a private practice in Silver Spring, Maryland.

[Online Renewal Portal is Open](#)

The online portal will close at midnight on ***January 31, 2020.***
Please visit the Board's website for details: health.maryland.gov/bopc



Applications:

Did you know that the Board receives over **5,000** applications each year?

- Due to the volume of applications, Board staff is not able to provide status updates unless it has been more than 30 days since the application was received by the Board.
- Board staff may not discuss applications with anyone other than the applicant. This includes supervisors, employers, spouses and parents of the applicant.
- Applications do not remain open indefinitely. If your application is missing information, you will be notified, in writing, and will have 90 days to provide the requested information. If the information is not received within 90 days, your file will be discarded and you will be required to re-apply and pay the application fee.



NEW **Maryland Law Assessment (MLA)**

The Board is pleased to announce the launch of the MLA. All new

applicants (except ADTs and LBAs) will take the MLA.

The MLA is designed to test one's knowledge of the rules and regulations in a tutorial format. The MLA is available online and on-demand. Details regarding the MLA can be found on the Board's website.

Board Meetings:

Open Session meetings are open to the public. Dates, agenda and meeting minutes can be found on the Board's website. Please note the Board will not hold a meeting in December 2019. The next Open Session is January 17, 2020 at 10:30 a.m.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Board and Board Staff!