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AAMFT Approved Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy

Course Catalog 2025-2026

Apply for Certification in Marriage and Family Therapy Take courses for professional development, licensure and CE credits in MFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling and Psychology

Sign up for Supervision and accrue hours for state licensure in MFT, Social Work, Professional Counseling and Psychology

> Council for Relationships 4025 Chestnut Street 1st Floor Philadelphia, Pa. 19104 215-382-6680

www.councilforrelationships.org

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Training Program Administrative Contacts

Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy

Director: Jamie Rose

jrose@councilforrelationships.org

Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy

Assistant Director: Matthew McCrikard mmccrikard@councilforrelationships.org

Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy-Clergy Track

Director: Rev. Dr. Dolores Littleton dlittleton@councilforrelationships.org

Academic Administrator

Michelle Serious

mserious@councilforrelationships.org

Eligibility

Classes are open to all qualified students during the academic year. Requirements for all courses include at least a Master's degree in a related mental health field and prior counseling experience. All courses are conducted either virtually or in person at Council for Relationships' main branch, 4025 Chestnut Street, Philadelphia, PA 19104.

Certification requirements for MFT

Completion of all courses, 100 hours of supervision, 300 clinical contact hours. A minimum of 100 hours must be systemic therapy hours and 200 hours can be individual therapy hours. A minimum of 150 hours must be seen through CFR internships and 150 hours can be seen off-site.

Continuing Education Credits

Our courses and intensives are available for Continuing Education credits in the fields of MFT, Psychology, Social Work, and Sex Therapy in Pennsylvania and all courses and intensives are available for Continuing Education credits in the fields of MFT and Psychology in New Jersey. Please indicate your interest in CE credits before starting the course. The credentialing bodies require 100% attendance for 100% of the course in order to receive CE credits.

MFT courses are taught in quarters/4 quarters per academic year.

Course Length Description

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o Course: 10 week duration

Mini-course: 5 week length duration
 Intensive: 1 day/ 5 hour duration

SUPERVISION

1st Semester September 1, 2025 – February 28, 2026 2nd Semester March 1, 2026 – August 31, 2026

Capstone & Group Supervision

The Capstone is a project in three phases spanning the academic year. Each phase involves a written assignment/paper, and Phase III will conclude with students' Capstone Presentations, in which students present their work to the faculty and their peers in a supportive learning environment. The Capstone is an integrative project that represents the culmination of the student's scholarly requirements. The overall goal is for students to formulate an empirically grounded personal philosophy of change as a foundation for their clinical practice and continued learning as they progress in their careers.

Capstone meetings will be held as an additional hour within Group Supervision. Supervisors and Students will coordinate when the additional hour of supervision per month will be held.

Students have the choice to attend classes via Hybrid (virtual or in-person). If inperson attendance is necessary, students will be given advance notice.

UNIT II: TUESDAY SCHEDULE

1st Quarter

Course: Adult Psychopathology with a Systems Perspective

Instructor: Maura Dunfey

Dates: Tuesdays September 2, 2025 – November 18, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

This course explores relevant theory, research, and practices in the treatment of psychological disorders. Students are encouraged to critically evaluate the role of mental health disorders in helping individuals, couples, and families to achieve their goals. This course is designed to conceptualize and practice a comprehensive approach to understanding disorders in family systems. This course integrates the existing medical model currently set out in the DSM- 5 with the strength-based models that are the primary focus of the CFR training program. This course emphasizes the process of assessment and diagnosis as they relate to treatment planning, provision of psychoeducation models, and targeted interventions for clients.

We will cover the major groupings of psychiatric disorders in the DSM-5 and some of the available medical and psychosocial treatment interventions. This class will compare and contrast strengths and challenges of both the medical model and family systems models. This class will highlight the importance of evidence-based treatment and leading treatments in our field for the best outcomes for clients. Through a combination of didactic and experiential learning, and case illustrations, students will navigate ways to integrate models for case conceptualization and empirically guided treatment.

2nd Ouarter

Course: Child/Adolescent Development and Psychopathology

Instructor: Laurel Roe

Dates: Tuesdays November 25, 2024- February 10, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM - 12PM

This course provides the student with basic information pertaining to child and adolescent development and psychopathology within a systemic framework. The course is composed of two parts, in the first part we will discuss key aspects of child development (physical, psychosocial, and cognitive) and their interaction with family life. In the second part we will focus on the etiology, classification and principles of treatment of the child and adolescent

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disorders that are most frequently encountered by professionals in mental health and educational settings. The course will also review the trends in child-focused family therapy, how to assess and conduct initial interviews with families, and how to understand various family-based treatment approaches. Students will have an opportunity to explore special topics such as divorce, sibling rivalry, grief, school refusal and peer influence.

3rd Quarter

Intensive: Brain-Based Therapy

The Family Brain: The Neurobiology of Intimate Relationships

Instructor: Jonathan Baylin

Date: TBD

Time: 9:00 AM-3:00 PM

This workshop focuses on the integration of neuroscience and treatment, emphasizing the neurobiology of attachment and attachment-focused treatment. The morning session will cover the fast-growing science of experience-dependent brain development, centering on how early life exposure to highly stressful care channels brain development towards chronic mistrust and self-defense. In the afternoon, Dr. Baylin will present a brain based model of treatment based on his new book with Daniel Hughes, The Neurobiology of Attachment-focused Therapy (Norton, 2016 in the Norton Series on Interpersonal Neurobiology).

Course: Adult Development from a Family Systems Perspective

Instructor: Jamie Rose

Dates: Tuesdays February 17, 2025- April 28, 2025 Time: 9:00AM-12:00 PM (April 28 9am-3pm)

This course is designed to tie together a number of streams of information about normative adulthood, the individual and family life cycle, and how gender and ethnicity, sexual orientation, culture and class impact life cycle processes. We will consider the range of possible adaptations to the biology of adult development, including pair-bonding, sexuality, parenthood and aging, as well as the impact of personality, family of origin, society and culture on intimate relatedness, family, work and friendship in the course of adult life.

Students will consider their own lives and clinical cases from different theoretical perspectives to deepen their understanding of adult development, clinical interventions, and what they bring to treatment in the person of the therapist. In addition, you will prepare a presentation and write a series of papers to more fully explore issues of adult development in the context of your own life and family of origin.

4th Quarter

Course: Trauma Expertise in Clinical Practice: Towards an Integrated Systemic Model of Trauma

Treatment Instructors: TBD

Date: Tuesdays May 5, 2026- June 30, 2026 Time: 9:00AM – 12:00 PM (June 30 9am-3pm)

This course provides an overview of the field of Trauma Studies through the exploration of an evolving model of coping and adaptation after extreme trauma. The Transcending Trauma Research Project conducted under the auspices of the Council for Relationships has contributed to a more comprehensive understanding of trauma's impact on individuals and families and the intergenerational transmission of trauma and resilience.

The course will review definitions of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and the expanded understanding of what has been termed "complex PTSD". An overview of treatment modalities will highlight empirically supported approaches informed by neuroscience, cognitive, affective and experiential change processes, systemic theory and

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trauma-informed care. Post Traumatic Growth, risk and protective factors, and the emergence of resilience will also be reviewed.

In addition, this course will focus on an expanded consideration of ethno-racial differences in the experience of trauma in the US, including the impact of historical trauma on Black and indigenous communities, other minority groups, and refugees fleeing persecution and war. How does this knowledge contribute to our understanding of trauma, and how trauma treatment can (and needs to) evolve? We will engage in the emerging cultural conversations about past and ongoing collective trauma, including colonization and patriarchy, the pandemic, gun violence, racialized police brutality and climate change.

In the face of these various challenges, hardships, and the existing social structures that have evolved in response, how does trauma treatment achieve not only recovery and healing, but also promote meaning and purpose in people's lives?

Students have the choice to attend classes via Hybrid (virtual or in-person). If in-person attendance is necessary, students will be given advance notice.

UNIT IV: FRIDAY SCHEDULE

1st Quarter

Course: Research in Couple and Family Therapy

Instructor: Matthew McCrickard

Dates: Fridays September 5, 2025- November 7, 2025

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00PM

This course explores what it means to be a research-informed clinician within the context of CFT approaches, and has the goal of supporting students in becoming discerning consumers of research. It promotes acquisition of skills needed to acquire, critically evaluate, and integrate research findings into clinical decision-making through collaborative exploration of research on common factors in psychotherapy and CFT in particular, outcome and process research related to various systemic models, and patient-focused research that monitors treatment progress. The course encourages students to use empirically supported treatments and assessment tools as a foundation for the evolution of their clinical skills. Students will learn to value and integrate multiple sources of empirical evidence, from research as well as first-hand clinical observations and patient feedback, and develop a nuanced understanding of the advantages and risks of the growing trend toward "evidence-based practice" in CFT and psychotherapy more generally.

2nd Ouarter

Course: Diversity, Social Justice and the Practice of Family Therapy

Instructors: Rabbi Julie Greenberg

Dates: Fridays November 14, 2025 - February 6, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM

The goals of this course are (1) to deepen understanding of the social dynamics of power, privilege and oppression in personal, interpersonal and political contexts; (2) to examine ways in which these dynamics affect human experience, and more specifically the therapeutic relationship; (3) to develop awareness and sensitivity to clients' religion, family structure, gender identity, race, socioeconomic status, sexual orientation, culture and physical ability; and (4) to develop clinical skills relating to systemic issues such as poverty and racism that affect clients.

Intensive: Intimate Partner Violence

Instructor: Tony Lapp

Date: TBD

Time: 9:00 AM- 12:00 PM

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This intensive workshop will provide a broad-based perspective on intimate family violence. Contemporary issues in working with family violence will be addressed along with specific recommendations for clinical practice. Child abuse and neglect will be discussed along with current guidelines for therapeutic intervention.

The presentation will include a historical perspective, an overview of research, and practical requirements for addressing intimate family violence. Video presentations will serve to heighten awareness and increase sensitivity to these issues. Participants will be provided with a directory of resources for the greater Philadelphia area.

3rd Ouarter

Course: Professional, Ethical and Legal Issues in Systems Therapy

Instructor: Alexis Bove

Dates: Fridays February 13, 2026 - April 24, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

This course is designed to familiarize the student with professional and ethical issues common to systems-oriented therapy. It begins with a conceptual overview of professional ethics, grounded in the AAMFT Code of Ethics. We will review the steps toward clinical membership in AAMFT, as well as toward state licensure as a marriage and family therapist in PA, NJ, and DE. We will discuss the function of our state licensing boards and practical ways of keeping abreast of changes in law and state rules and regulations.

Issues critical to establishing a sound therapeutic relationship (e.g., informed consent and confidentiality) are covered. Issues relevant to the treatment of children are highlighted with a review of legislation in PA affecting the consent to treatment and access to records of minors, as well as the reporting requirements in situations of suspected child abuse. Laws that set limits on client confidentiality, including reporting suspected child abuse and protecting others from imminent danger, are reviewed. The essentials of good record-keeping practices are covered, along with consideration of access to records through subpoenas and court orders. We review the basics of evaluating and managing the treatment of suicidal clients, including risk assessments. We then discuss the ethical and legal issues involved in the care of violent and dangerous clients. We will also speak to the issue of how to respect the diversity of our clients when working with sexual minorities. We will then move to a consideration of how the personal vulnerabilities of the therapist may impact the therapeutic relationship to produce boundary violations detrimental to the client.

4th Quarter

Mini Course: Social Responsibility and the CMFT Community

Instructor: Sloane Previdi

Date: Fridays May 8, 2026- June 12, 2026

Time: 9:00 AM-12:00 PM

MFT's work in varied settings with individual, couples, families and groups, but whatever the setting or the therapeutic modality, they bring with them a systemic orientation that involves the consideration of each client within both the smaller systems of their familial and romantic relationships, and the larger systems they are a part of, including race, ethnicity, sex, gender, socioeconomic status, religion, sexual orientation, etc. MFT's working with multidisciplinary teams may be the only ones carrying a systemic orientation, and as such must be rooted in their understanding of the value added by this point of view.

This five-week course aims to facilitate the development of an MFT identity, in the context of competency in working with diverse clients affected by privilege and oppression, and amongst colleagues in non-traditional clinical settings. Students will learn about practice with marginalized and underserved communities, and minority groups. Emphasis will also be placed on building skills in multidisciplinary collaboration and practice within defined contexts.

TEACHING FACULTY

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Jonathan Baylin, Ph.D.

Jonathan Baylin is in private practice with in Wilmington. He received his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Peabody College of Vanderbilt University, and has been a practicing clinician for over 30 years, treating children, adults, and families. Over the past twenty years he has focused on integrating neuroscience and psychotherapy, and has been teaching therapists about the brain in national and international workshops. He is the co-author, with Daniel Hughes, of two books with Norton Press that are part of the Norton series on Interpersonal Neurobiology: *Brain-based Parenting* (2012) and *The Neurobiology of Attachment-focused Therapy* (2016).

Maura Dunfey, DO

Dr. Maura Dunfey is board certified in General Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and has an additional certification as a Child and Family Therapist. Dr. Dunfey provides comprehensive evaluations of children, adolescents, and adults. She works collaboratively with individuals, families, pediatricians, and other therapists. She specializes in treating patients with depression, anxiety, obsessive-compulsive disorders, eating disorders, mood disorders, and ADHD. She also treats individuals struggling with transition at any stage of life. Dr. Dunfey uses an individualized treatment approach, which can include both therapy and/or medication management.

Alexis W. V. Bové, MS, JD, LMFT

Alexis Bové is a Staff Therapist in our Paoli office. Alexis attended Georgetown University for her undergraduate studies, received her M.S. in Clinical Psychology from Drexel University, and her law degree from Villanova University School of Law. She completed her Post Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Council for Relationships in 2019. Alexis is a compassionate, empathic, and engaging therapist whose approach is collaborative and supportive while challenging clients to meet their therapeutic goals. She believes in the importance of fostering a safe, secure environment in which clients feel comfortable sharing their vulnerabilities. Alexis takes a systemic approach to her work with individuals, couples and families, addressing the complexities that arise in families of origin and other intimate relationships, in order to nurture clients' change and growth as individuals and within their relationships. In her clinical practice, Alexis uses an integrative approach, meeting clients where they are and employing tremendous creativity to address the different issues that each client presents.

Andrew Fussner M.S.W., L.C.S.W.

Andy is a family therapist. He has been working in Philadelphia for 40 years; Philadelphia Child Guidance Clinic, 20 years; School District of Philadelphia/Head Start, 10 years; School of Social Policy and Practice, University of Pennsylvania, 10 years. Currently teaching and consulting in several agencies, he is practicing retirement.

Bea Hollander-Goldfein, Ph.D., LMFT

Bea Hollander-Goldfein is the Director Emeritus of the Council for Relationships' Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy. Since 1991, Bea has been the Director of the Transcending Trauma Project which is a large-scale research program investigating coping and adaptation after extreme trauma. Bea is licensed as a Clinical Psychologist and as a Marriage and Family Therapist, and is an AAMFT-approved supervisor. She is also a member of the American Family Therapy Association. Bea received her doctorate in psychology from Teachers College, Columbia University and subsequently expanded her training to include certification in Marriage and Family Therapy. Systemic theory has guided her clinical practice and research activities for over 25 years. She has presented broadly on the topic of trauma and the importance of an integrated model of coping and adaptation. She has also published in the fields of Marriage and Family Therapy and Trauma studies. She is the senior author of Transcending Trauma: Survival, Resilience, and Clinical Implications in Survivor Families (Routledge, 2012) and co-editor of Narrative Reflections: How Witnessing Their Stories Changes Our Lives (Hamilton Books, 2014).

Rabbi Julie Greenberg, LMFT

Julie Greenberg, is a 2003 graduate of the Council for Relationships post-grad program. Since then she has worked at the intersection of spirituality and psychotherapy, leading a local congregation, seeing people in private practice, consulting with organizations in transition and working with the multi-faith, multi-racial social justice organization POWER. Julie is mother to five children, author of <u>Just Parenting: Building the World One Family at a Time</u>, in addition to numerous articles, chapters, sermons and on-line resources. Julie teaches two courses, Systems Theory

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and Diversity, in CFR's Post Graduate Certificate program and provides supervision to students in the program. Her website is www.rabbijuliegreenberg.com More information is at www.powerinterfaith.org andwww.leyvhair.org.

The Rev. Dr. Dolores E. Littleton, LMFT

Dee is a Clinical Fellow and Approved Supervisor with the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy and is a licensed Marriage and Family Therapist in Pennsylvania. She graduated from Eastern University with a BSW. Dee received her M.Div. from The Lutheran Theological Seminary (United) in Philadelphia and was ordained in 1983 as a Lutheran Pastor and has served two congregations in the Philadelphia area. She received her Doctor of Ministry in Marriage and Family Ministry from Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary (Palmer). She completed the Council for Relationships post-graduate clinical training in Marriage, Family, and Sex Therapy. In addition, Dee is a graduate of the ELCA Systems Academy which is a four-year structured engagement with family systems theory, theology, and clinical work. She has served four synodical bishops as an Advisor for Fitness for Ministry, addressing matters of health and wellness in the life of the Church and its pastoral leadership.

Dee has had a small private practice for almost 30 years, providing therapy for individuals, families and couples. Her areas of expertise include pre-marital, marriage education, relationship enrichment, spiritual and faith issues, mid-life transition, abuse, attachment, parenting, remarriage and stepfamilies.

Dr. Littleton is a consultant and coach for churches and clergy who are experiencing conflict and are seeking to focus on mission and ministry. She also has experience working with churches that have faced a forced resignation of their pastor.

The Rev. Dr. Dolores E. Littleton is an experienced retreat leader, workshop speaker and trainer for Prepare/Enrich, Healthy Boundary Workshops for Clergy, Congregational and Pastoral Attachment, Congregational Process, and various Relationship Education Programs.

Frani Pollack Ph.D., LCSW

Dr. Frani Pollack is a registered dietician, licensed social worker and licensed psychologist. She has worked in multiple inpatient and outpatient settings and presently is in private practice at Bala Child and Family Associates. Frani also teaches at the Bryn Mawr School of Social Work. Her areas of specialty include working with teens, women and families. Frani received her MSW from New York University and her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Toronto.

Laurel Roe, MS CHR, LMFT

Laurel Roe is a staff therapist at Council for Relationships and Office Director of the Wynnewood and Bryn Mawr offices. She received her undergraduate training in Special Education from Cabrini College and her MS in Counseling and Human Relations from Villanova University in 2001. She completed her Post Graduate Certificate in Marriage and Family Therapy from Council for Relationships in 2017 and Supervises both graduate students and post graduates working toward licensure. Before coming to Council, Laurel worked as a Special Education teacher in both public and private schools, a Case Manager for the Montgomery County Intermediate Unit, and helped establish a family owned business that operates today very successfully without her. Whether working with individuals, couples, or families, she incorporates humor, mindfulness based practices, and experiential techniques to help clients better understand themselves. Ms. Roe's background in education informs her developmentally appropriate practices as she supports people of all ages to discover that while change in life may be inevitable, adaptation and growth are possible. Areas of special interest include supporting families with members who have special needs, parenting issues, childhood developmental concerns, and anxiety in children, teens, and adults. She works with couples in all stages of relationship and helps adults manage the impact of childhood experiences, including trauma.

Priscilla Singleton, LMFT, LCSW

Priscilla Singleton is the Director of Clinical Standards at CFR. She teaches courses in Psychopathology and in Child and Adolescent Development in our post-graduate training program, and is also teaching Foundations of Systemic Practice and Families in Transition in our joint Masters in Family Therapy program with Jefferson University. Priscilla is a licensed clinical social worker (LCSW), a licensed marriage and family therapist (LMFT), a clinical member of AAMFT, and an AAMFT- approved supervisor. She received her MSW from Temple University in 1982, and completed her post-graduate training in marriage and family therapy at Council for Relationships

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(formerly Marriage Council of Philadelphia) in 1989. Priscilla has completed additional training and certifications in EMDR, Sandtray therapy, and co-parent counseling/parent coordination. Priscilla has been in practice for over twenty-five years. Before coming to the Council in 1994, Priscilla worked with children, youth and families in the child welfare system, with women in a crime victim center, with families of children with developmental differences, and with individuals and families in her private practice. Her areas of special interests are separating and divorcing families, adoption, and promotion of child and adolescent connection in their families.

Michele Southworth, JD, LMFT

Michele Southworth is a licensed family therapist and is trained as an attorney. She is the Director of the Post Graduate Certificate Program in Marriage and Family Therapy, as well as teaching and supervising in the program.

She attended the University of Pennsylvania College for Women for her undergraduate work, and began her professional education at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, after which she practiced family law in Philadelphia for 8 years. Working with families in the legal system led to an interest in the then-emerging field of divorce mediation, and then to the study of marriage and family therapy at Council for Relationships. She was certified as a marriage, family and sex therapist by Council for Relationships (then Marriage Council) in 1989. She has been a member of the senior clinical staff at Council since that time, practicing in the dual fields of divorce mediation and marriage and family therapy since that time. Her clinical practice includes working with issues of personal growth, development of self, identity and resilience, gender-role and power conflicts, and life transitions including bereavement, loss, grief and divorce-related issues, including divorce mediation. She has also been involved in several interdisciplinary settings with legal and/or financial professionals who are pioneering new, cooperative approaches to the dilemmas of divorce. This work involves the development of innovative models to support the successful adaptation of all family members as they move through the divorce transition, and has contributed to such new modalities as Collaborative Family Law, and Parent Coordination for high conflict parents.

Rabbi Margot Stein, LMFT

Rabbi Margot Stein is a Staff Therapist in our Bryn Mawr office and was certified as a Marriage and Family Therapist after completion of CFR's post-graduate Clergy Track in 2020. Margot brings two decades of experience working with neurodiverse children, adolescents and adults, including those on the autism spectrum or who have ADHD, other special needs or processing challenges, complex medical issues, nontraditional family structures or who express gender diversity. Utilizing mindfulness and trauma-informed somatic awareness, as well as systemic approaches to healing, clients and their families experience an increased ability to care for and accept themselves as they identify and work toward desired areas of growth and change. Margot's warmth, humor and resilient approach to meeting life's challenges create a highly supportive environment in which to explore new possibilities.

Jamie Rose, MAC LMFT

Jamie Rose is an accomplished professional in systemic and integrative counseling for individuals, couples, and families. With a master's degree in Biblical Counseling and advanced training in Marriage and Family Therapy, Jamie blends faith-based and inclusive approaches to meet the diverse needs of her clients. Licensed in Pennsylvania, she brings creativity, warmth, and humor to her therapeutic practice, fostering a safe environment for healing. Beyond her counseling work, Jamie is the Director of CFR's Postgraduate Certificate Program in Marriage & Family Therapy (MFT), where she also supervises and teaches therapists in training.

Dr. Quianna Snooks

Dr Snooks is a skilled and compassionate instructor who integrates Psychodynamic and Systems therapies to help clients achieve meaningful change. With expertise in trauma, law, and military psychology, this professional brings a unique perspective shaped by a deep understanding of the unconscious mind and systemic influences. They emphasize collaboration in therapy, empowering clients to explore and improve their quality of life through flexible, client-centered approaches. Licensed in Pennsylvania and PSYPACT-authorized for telepsychology across several states, they are committed to serving both local and inter-jurisdictional clients.

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Sloane Previdi, LMFT

Sloane is an empathetic and dedicated instructor who specializes in helping individuals, couples, and families navigate their emotions and relationships. With a focus on creating a safe and supportive environment, this therapist is committed to understanding the root of distressing feelings and guiding clients toward healing and growth. A lifelong helper, they found their calling in becoming a Systems Therapist, where they explore the influence of environment and relationships to understand the whole person.