

# KEEPING THE MINDS OF TEXANS STRONG AND HEALTHY

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Many areas of Texas today are threatened by the lack of Mental Health workers. In fact, a recent Texas Department of State Health Services (DSHS) documented that 173 out of 254 Texas counties and two partial counties were designated as Health Profession Shortage Areas (HPSAs) for mental health. For each person who seeks help, there are many who do not for lack of financial resources, fear or a deficit in access to care.

Marriage and Family Therapists are one of the 5 core mental health professions recognized by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Marriage and Family Therapy is a nationally recognized license in all fifty states. For over 20 years Marriage and Family Therapists have been assessing and diagnosing mental health disorders and treating Texas clients in private practice, clinical settings, through state and non-profit agencies.

Insurance requires a diagnostic code for reimbursement, whether those services are delivered in private practice or through a state agency contracts. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists are extensively trained in utilizing these billing codes through coursework and thousands of hours of intern work under supervision. Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists were contributing editors to the latest Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders– V, which provides a common language of consistent descriptions, symptoms and other criteria about mental health disorders for all health-care providers, clinicians and researchers.

Please join the fight to increase access to mental health care, preserving the critical role that Licensed Marriage and Family Therapists, along with other mental health providers, to the fullness of their training, enabling their continued use of market tested diagnostic codes to treat mental health and provide for a better Texas

I support the right for Marriage and Family Therapists to continue to use the DSM-V or ICD codes for billing purposes.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Practice \_\_\_\_\_

*Thank you for your support!*

