



**JON S. CORZINE**  
*Governor*

## *New Jersey Office of the Attorney General*

Division of Consumer Affairs  
State Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners  
124 Halsey Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, Newark, NJ 07102



**ANNE MILGRAM**  
*Attorney General*

**DAVID SZUCHMAN**  
*Director*

January 20, 2009

Lawrence DeMarzo, Director of Consumer Relations  
Department of Law and Public Safety  
Division of Consumer Affairs  
124 Halsey Street  
Newark, New Jersey

**Mailing Address:**  
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Dear Mr. DeMarzo,

On behalf of the Board of Marriage and Family Therapy Examiners, I want to thank you for attending our meeting on December 11, 2008, and responding to our earlier letter to you. We are especially appreciative of your openness and responsiveness. Additionally, it was encouraging to learn of the Department's willingness to consider some forms of outreach to the public. Efforts by the Board to address the problem of increasing the public's access to marital and family therapy services are not only appropriate but now seems possible.

I would like to summarize the important ideas that were shared at our meeting. The first suggestion was made by you which was to put out a newsletter to the licensees. Our initial response will be to explore the possibility of putting articles in the AAMFT-NJ Newsletter (the NJ Division of the American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy), perhaps beginning with an accounting of the current situation and some of our ideas about what we may do. While not all licensees are members of AAMFT, this is a currently available option which will reach most of the licensees.

The second suggestion was to have public Board meetings in other places. We have decided to actively pursue that option, perhaps having one at the annual AAMFT-NJ meeting.

The third suggestion was to organize a public outreach by making an attempt to inform the public about the nature and availability of marriage and family therapy. This will take careful consideration and planning and would include reaching out to mental health associations and facilities of all kinds. Learning about and contacting the New Jersey Mental Health Counseling Association would be a first step; when prepared, we will certainly accept your kind and supportive offer to assist us in this endeavor. Secondly, we will explore a plan for reaching out to specific mental health facilities, both public and private, to help them learn how to access licensed and permit holding marriage and family therapists. We will also explore appropriate ways to further educate the general public, perhaps with newspaper articles. Finally, we will continue the outreach that we have made in the past with MFT educational programs in the state as well as their students. We will certainly be looking to you for guidance so that we will consistently maintain our focus on public protection and on Department guidelines.

The Board is well aware that this is a large task, and one that must be assumed by Board members and not by the staff. This probably means that it will be a slow moving project, but the Board is energized to be able to pursue it. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Verser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

James Verser, Ed.S., LMFT