VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR MARRIAGE AND FAMILY THERAPISTS
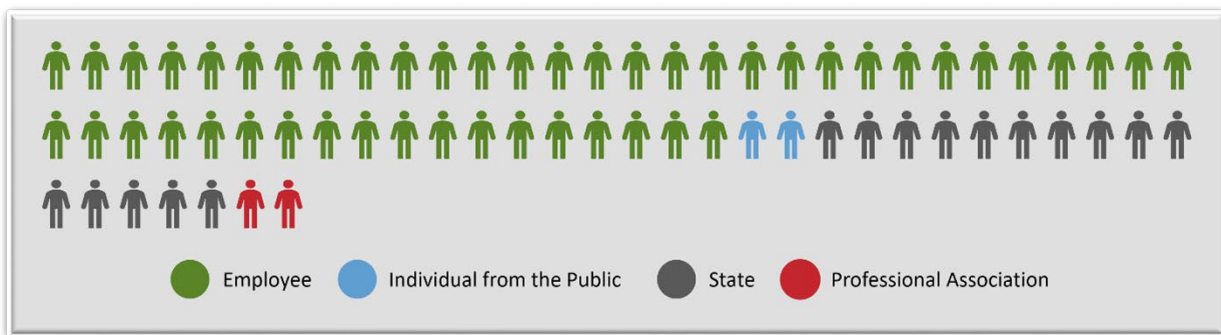### Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is developing a national standard of practice for VA Marriage and Family Therapists which would standardize the scope of practice for these health care professionals in all VA medical facilities provided they have the proper education, training, and skills to perform the tasks and duties detailed in the national standard of practice.

On April 26, 2024, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Marriage and Family Therapists in the Federal Register (89 FR 32527) for public comment and on VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent letters, including the proposed VA standard of practice, to the state licensing boards for Marriage and Family Therapists to provide an opportunity for them to comment directly to VA on the proposed standard. VA requested all comments on the Federal Register, VA's intranet site, and from the states be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on June 25, 2024, and VA received 67 comments in total.

VA received 48 comments from VA employees, 2 comments from individuals from the public, and 2 professional organizations. As of June 25, 2024, VA received comments from 15 out of the 55 state licensing boards for Marriage and Family Therapists; however, VA will continue to actively engage with states.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Marriage and Family Therapists in light of the comments, including those that present evidence-based practice and alternatives that help VA meet our mission and goals.

VA will post a collective response to all comments in a final report on https://www.va.gov/standardsofpractice once the VA standard of practice for Marriage and Family Therapists is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1.

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs