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Jonathan C. Davis and **Jeffrey S. Powell*** (jspowe11@samford.edu), Dept. of Math & CS–Samford University, 800 Lakeshore Dr, Birmingham, AL 35229. *Gatekeeping and the Professional Network of Therapist Supervisors*. Preliminary report.

As marriage and family therapist (MFT) supervisors play a critical role in the licensing of new marriage and family therapists, the underlying professional network of these supervisors is particularly important in light of their gatekeeping function (i.e. ensuring that “bad candidates” do not get licensed). To study the network of one state’s supervisors, Dr. Davis performed a census which asked each MFT supervisor to assess their relationships to all other MFT supervisors in state. This information was used to construct an approximation of the underlying professional network. In this talk, we will examine the structure of this network and discuss several relevant measures and properties. We will present both the positive and negative implications of the network structure from the perspective of the supervisors’ roles as gatekeepers. The research in this talk represents a collaboration between the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science and the Department of Human Development and Family Life Education (Received September 26, 2017)