



KEENAN BLOOM-RAFAEL RCST®

2026 Candidate for the BCTA/NA Board of Directors



BIOGRAPHY

My name is Keenan Bloom-Rafael. I am 36 and live in Corvallis, Oregon, with my family. I maintain a full craniosacral therapy practice and offer a free monthly infant clinic for families throughout the region.

I also manage a building housing 17 health and wellness offices and oversee the business and financial operations of three healthcare practices: craniosacral therapy, psychotherapy, and acupuncture. These responsibilities have given me experience in administration, financial management, tax preparation, problem-solving, and supporting practitioners across disciplines.

Before moving to Oregon, I lived in Boulder, Colorado. I worked at a synagogue for four years as event coordinator, communications director, and executive assistant. Working within a nonprofit community strengthened my skills in administration, communications, event planning, discretion, and balancing the needs of staff, leadership, volunteers, and community members. During that time, I helped facilitate Jewish Ancestral Healing workshops with Rabbi Tirzah Firestone, PhD, and Dr. Ilene Naomi Rusk. This work deepened my ability to support meaningful group processes, anticipate the needs of facilitators and participants, and attend to group dynamics.

My degree is in theatrical lighting design. Nearly a decade of theatre work taught me to collaborate, coordinate complex projects, respond creatively under pressure, and use my skills in service of a shared purpose. I have also lived in communal homes or cohousing communities for much of the past decade, strengthening my abilities in communication, conflict navigation, and collective problem-solving.

Outside of work, I spend time with family and friends, garden, play music, experiment with dyeing clothes, and dream of building a backyard sauna. I have difficulty ignoring a problem once I see it, whether in myself or the world around me. I care about making a meaningful difference, being the best parent I can be, and honoring tradition while innovating to meet present needs. I strive to approach difficult questions with curiosity, communicate clearly and honestly, and trust in the goodness of people.

STATEMENT / LETTER OF INTENT

The death of Franklyn Sills last year represents a pivotal moment in the history of BCTA/NA and the broader biodynamic craniosacral community. As we move forward without one of the most influential teachers and leaders of our field, the association faces important questions about who we are, what we value, and how we understand our responsibilities to both our lineage and the future of the work.

Our tradition carries the teachings of A. T. Still, William Garner Sutherland, Rollin E. Becker, Franklyn Sills, and many others who helped shape the field we practice today. I believe

we have a responsibility to preserve the integrity and depth of those teachings while also remaining open to continued learning, thoughtful innovation, and exploration at the evolving edges of our work. The challenge is not simply to choose between preservation and change. It is to develop structures that allow the work to evolve without losing its center.

I am interested in serving on the BCTA/NA Board of Directors because I would like to participate in that process of discernment. I am particularly interested in helping the association clarify what lies at the center of biodynamic craniosacral therapy, how we define the appropriate edges of the field, and what careful and principled processes can guide its continued development. Clear structures can provide both stability and freedom: preserving the integrity of our lineage while creating responsible pathways for new understanding, new applications, and deeper responsiveness to the needs of our clients and communities.

As a 36-year-old practitioner with young children, I also believe I would bring an important future-oriented perspective to the board. I have practiced craniosacral therapy professionally for five years, and I recognize that I am still relatively new within a field that includes practitioners and teachers with decades of experience. I deeply value the wisdom of those who have carried this work for many years. At the same time, I believe the voices of newer and younger practitioners are necessary if the association wants to remain relevant, accessible, and sustainable for the generations that will inherit it.

I am interested in how the BCTA/NA can continue improving the ways it serves students, practitioners, teachers, and the public. How can we help practitioners remain rooted in the foundations of the work while continuing to respond to what the Breath of Life reveals to us about the work itself? How can we strengthen education so practitioners are prepared to meet the changing needs of their clients? How can the association support innovation without allowing the identity or foundational principles of the work to become unclear? These are not questions I expect to answer alone, but they are questions I would be honored to explore collaboratively with the board and the broader membership.

One of the strengths I would bring to the board is systems-level thinking. I naturally consider how individual decisions affect the larger organization, the people it serves, and the generations that will follow. Parenthood has deepened that orientation in me: I regularly have to think beyond immediate needs and consider what kinds of structures, relationships, and opportunities we are creating for the future. I would bring that same long-term perspective to the work of the association.

My professional responsibilities have given me practical experience putting that kind of thinking into action. In addition to maintaining a full craniosacral therapy practice and offering a free monthly infant clinic, I manage a professional building containing 17 offices for independent health and wellness practitioners. I coordinate leasing, communications, building operations, finances, maintenance, and administrative systems while balancing the needs of practitioners from different disciplines. I also oversee the business and financial operations of my practice and those of my partners, including bookkeeping, payroll, tax preparation, regulatory responsibilities, and long-term planning. Through this work, I have developed skills in systems development, project management, financial oversight, conflict resolution, independent problem-solving, and collaborative decision-making.

My clinical work has also strengthened my ability to communicate clearly, maintain professional boundaries, collaborate across disciplines, and respond thoughtfully to the needs of individuals and families. Offering a free infant clinic has given me additional experience creating accessible community services and considering how professional organizations can support both practitioners and the wider public.

Before moving to Oregon, I worked for four years at Congregation Nevei Kodesh, a nonprofit synagogue in Boulder, Colorado, serving in roles that included event coordinator, communications director, and executive assistant. As part of that work, I participated in and supported numerous committees and worked closely with the synagogue's board of directors. Although I have not previously served as a board member myself, this experience gave me a practical understanding of nonprofit governance, committee work, organizational

decision-making, and the relationship between a board, staff, volunteers, and the wider community. It also taught me the importance of clear communication, discretion, follow-through, and balancing the needs and perspectives of many different stakeholders.

After earning my degree in theatre arts concentrating in Lighting design I worked professionally as a lighting designer and electrician in the theatrical field. That work taught me how to collaborate toward a shared vision, coordinate complicated projects, meet firm deadlines, and respond creatively when circumstances change unexpectedly. Across these different areas of my life, I have learned how to move between broad vision and practical implementation—an ability I believe would be valuable in board service.

Although I have a full professional and family life, I do not anticipate difficulty meeting the expected commitment of three to seven hours per month. I have discussed this opportunity with my family and have their support in making the necessary time available. I also look forward to serving as an ambassador for BCTA/NA, participating in community events, and representing the association with care and professionalism. At this time, I am not aware of any personal, professional, or financial conflicts of interest that would interfere with my service on the board.

My hope in serving on the board would be to help create thoughtful systems, discernment structures, and clear processes that allow the BCTA/NA to honor its history while growing into its next chapter. I would be grateful for the opportunity to contribute my perspective, practical experience, and energy to that work.