

MT Times

February 2019

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Music Therapy Times

Your monthly newsletter from GLR-AMTAS!

Message from the President:

Greetings, everyone!

Can you believe that GLR Conference is quickly approaching?!

Passages is looking to be a rewarding day full of both student speakers and professional speakers! Passages will happen on March 14th from 10am-5pm in Rookwoods. As mentioned in a previous newsletter, we will be holding an intervention swap where professionals will share ready-to-go interventions with us. Our "intervention swap" during Passages will include the following MT-BCs: -Kellie Coviak-Hansen & Laurel Rosen-Weatherford (School-Based MT) -Jennifer Hicks (mental health/substance abuse) -Emily Guthe (adult medical) -Allison Gunnink (hospice).

Please start thinking about if you might be willing to run for a position on the GLR-AMTAS Executive Board. We will hold elections during our business meetings at the GLR Conference. The meetings will be on Friday/Saturday evenings from 6pm-7pm, the same time as the professional business meetings. Even if you don't want to run for an office, please attend these meetings to hear what students throughout the region have been doing all year.

I look forward to meeting you all in Cincinnati!

-Michelle Bingheim, GLR-AMTAS President

The State Recognition Operational Plan

By: Kara Schifano, Secretary

What is State Recognition and Licensure?

There has been a recent trend in the qualifications of professionals from federal requirements to statewide requirements. This means, while the current MT-BC credential does much to validate the high-quality accreditation of certified practicing music therapist, it is not enough as many states require that education and health care providers have a state license to practice. In 2005, AMTA and CBMT joined together to form a national initiative to advocate for state recognition to ensure the public of certified music therapy services. This recognition would demand that the practitioner be educated, clinically trained, and certified at the level required by AMTA and CBMT in order to be able to provide music therapy.

Why is it Important?

The main benefits of state recognition are (1) provided protection against unqualified practitioners for the public seeking music therapy services and it (2) allows clients to access services by a board-certified music therapist in states where state recognition is required. While receiving board certification protects the quality of the service music therapists provide, being recognized by the state would increase advocacy for music therapy through increased publicity, referrals, and expansion of training and educational programs for music therapists. Obtaining state recognition will also increase validation for the role a music therapist plays and the skills they bring to health care and education teams. Finally, state recognition will provide increased access to public and private funding as well as the distinction between music therapy and other related care professions. In short, for the field of music therapy to continue to grow, practitioners need to be recognized by their states as qualified professionals and gaining state recognition is the key to that continued growth.

What is the Current Situation of State Recognition in the GLR?

In the GLR, so far only Wisconsin has state recognition according to CBMT while legislative and agency advocacy is actively present in Minnesota, Illinois, Michigan, and Ohio. In Indiana, the task force

is currently at work toward enabling board-certified music therapists to apply for a professional license.

What Can We Do?

Advocacy to gain state recognition requires many hours of volunteer work. If you are interested in joining those already working toward the goal of professional recognition in your state, please contact your task force chair about how you can participate before taking any action. The contact information for your state task force can be found on the CBMT website.

This article is meant to be a brief overview of the State Recognition Operational Plan and is by no means comprehensive. To learn more, the CBMT website <https://www.cbmt.org/> is a great resource with a wealth of information on this topic.

Announcements:

-Passages 2019 will be held on Thursday, March 14th, 2019 during the 2019 GLR Conference in Rookwoods.

-Student scholarship applications are available on our website. There will be two levels of student scholarships available. Students must be attending the 2019 GLR Conference in order to receive a scholarship. The deadline to apply is March 1st. Winners will be announced at Passages.

-Registration for the 2019 GLR Conference is available on the GLR website. (glr-amta.org) Hotel information can also be found on their website.

Gift of Music Grant

The Gift of Music Grant is a grant sponsored by GLR-AMTAS that funds a maximum of \$400 to a private practice within the Great Lakes Region of AMTA for instruments, equipment, and other necessities.

Applications are available from now until March 1st, 2019. The winner will be announced at the 2019 GLR Conference, though the winner need not be in attendance.

Any questions regarding the grant may be directed to Michelle Bingheim (GLR-AMTAS President) at glr.amtas@gmail.com