

MTAM Board Meeting Minutes

Saturday, March 10th, 2012

8:30 a.m. Augsburg Chapel-Spring state conference

Present:

All conference attendees.

Call to Order:

8:30 a.m. by Peter

I. Welcome and Announcements

1. Melissa Wenzell announced that Suzanne Oliver will be offering a CMTE 5-credit course for NMTs only. This will take place on June 3rd. The cost should be around \$80 but will depend on how many sign up for the workshop. More details to follow.
2. Becky Pansche announced an 8-hour per week position opening in the Fairview Riverside transitional care unit.
3. A new master's program will be opening at Augsburg in the Fall of 2013. It will be a health-care focused program.

II. State Recognition Task Force

1. Claire Klein introduced the government relations and MN State Recognition Task force. They are working toward licensure as a national goal-they are working with Judy Simpson.
2. Kimberly Sena Moore was present at the meeting in person and Dena Register was present via Skype to answer MTAM member questions regarding licensure. It was introduced that a licensure bill was submitted earlier this year as a joint effort between AMTA and CBMT. There are currently 35 active state task forces across the country. Currently, Nevada and North Dakota have passed licensure legislation. A total of 9 states have submitted licensure legislation. A connect between Todd Schwartzburg and State Representative Slowick (sp?) is what allowed this bill to be supported so quickly in Minnesota.
3. Kimberly and Dena answered member questions about licensure. Following is a brief summary of questions posed by members and answers provided.

Isn't board certification a national certification? Why isn't that enough?

Licensure would provide better access to services as well as protect our clients by making sure that MT-BC is recognized as the ONLY credential for services and being a competent music therapy provider.

How much will licensure cost?

It has not been exactly determined yet. We would ask states to follow the 5-year cycle to match up with what we already do for our MT-BC credential. Right now states have an annual or bi-annual fee cycle. The point is recognize what we already have, not create “extra hoops to jump through.” It is about \$50 per year in other states.

How will this affect reimbursement?

Waiver funding funds music therapy whether it is a licensed or unlicensed profession. We are hoping that licensure will open up other sources of 3rd party reimbursement for MT. The point of licensure is ACCESS to SERVICES and protection of the public. Some states have said that we can access extra money until we’re licensed. Licensure should help and not hurt us from getting extra funding and reimbursement for services provided.

Is this helping minimize the “30-year gap between occupational therapists and music therapists?”

Dena Register believes that we are not 30 years behind OT as a profession. In going through this process we’ve discovered more similarities between MT and other related professions. We are getting pushback from related professions to pull certain items from our billing description i.e. billing for “improving communication” is viewed as threatening to Speech/Language pathologists.

What are the logistics of how this process will work?

CBMT has provided simple language for bills to all states going through this process. Bills will be passed through the Senate and House of Representatives and then signed by the governor. The process of writing regulations will then start. We don’t know how long this process will take.

Will this require us to have additional training?

Not so far in Nevada. This whole process could take awhile. Ethics requirements and background checks have been the only “extra” requirements in other states. At this time no one is advocating for extra requirements.

Kimberly and Dena then summed up 3 main points of licensure as:

- 1) Greater access to services for our clients
- 2) Protecting the public from getting so-called music therapy services from a provider who is not certified.
- 3) Protect the MT-BC credential

4. MT day on the hill is next week. MTs are encouraged to send letters and emails to their respective representatives. There will be a debriefing after the day on the hill at Town Hall Brewery.

Meeting was adjourned and state conference commenced.

Respectfully submitted,
Erinn Danielson