Music Therapy Association of Minnesota

Spring/Summer 2014 Newsletter

A newsletter for Minnesota's music therapists

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Check us out at
http://www.musictherapymn.com

MTAM celebrated Minnesota Music Therapy Week this spring! Did you?

A Letter from the President's Desk

Greetings MTAM members!

I hope you all are enjoying this 2014 year! It is hard to believe it is June already.

2014 is a new year of MTAM board members. Everyone has been working hard to get their roles organized and in action. We put together a wonderful spring conference on May 3rd. "What Happens in Cyberspace, Stays in Cyberspace" was presented by Debbie Bates from Ohio. Approximately 60 members were in attendance.

The board will be meeting in the upcoming months to review bylaws and note any changes that need to be made and voted on by membership at the fall conference. Additionally, the board is working to develop a budget that is aligned with our 501(c)(3) status. We have received information about partnership opportunities for community outreach and the promotion of music therapy. Please continue to send information our way as we are making a list of these opportunities and developing an outreach process.

MTAM will be offering CMTE Scholarships for the National conference in Louisville and again for our fall conference. Continue to watch your email for information in regard to these opportunities.

It was great to see many of you at our last conference! I look forward to meeting many more of you at future conferences. Please feel free to contact me in regard to any questions about MTAM you may have at devillersjl@gmail.com . Have a great summer!

Respectfully Submitted,
Jessica De Villers, MA, MT-BC
MTAM President

2013-2014 Legislative Summary

Submitted by Claire Klein

These past two legislative sessions have been eventful for the MN music therapy community. Below is a timeline of events from the 2013 and 2014 biennium.

Music Therapists Now Included in the Teacher's Union

- In the 2014 legislative session, action was taken to add music therapists to the definition of "teachers." This bill will allow music therapists employed by school districts to be a part of the teachers' bargaining unit.
- This bill, authored by Senator Hoffman, was heard in the Senate Education and State and Local Government committees, was approved by the full Senate, and then was approved by the full House. It was signed in to law by Governor Dayton on May 16, 2014 and will be in effect on July 1, 2014.
- On the House side, the bill was championed by Representatives Yarusso, Carlson, Urdahl, Davnie, and Morgan.
- The Education Minnesota lobbyist was a great supporter and advocate throughout the process.

Licensure

- Two bills were submitted for music therapy licensure - one in the House, HF849, authored by Representative Zach Dorholt, and one in the Senate, SF404, authored by Senator Julie Rosen.
- Because 2013 was a budget year, most legislators focused on issues relating to budget proposals. However, we were able to meet with and pass out folders of information to over 50 lawmakers at our Day on the Hill.
- Throughout the process, many co-authors signed on. In the Senate, Senators Fischbach, Hoffman, Eaton, and Dziedzic co-sponsored the bill. On the House side, Representatives Carlson, Bly, Freiberg, Lien, Halverson, and Loeffler signed on in support of music therapy licensure.
- In 2014, the two bills remained active in the both the House and the Senate. SF404 was first heard in the Senate Health and Human Services Committee and was passed. At that hearing, representatives from the Minnesota Speech and Language Pathology and Physical Therapy communities were present. Though they did not testify against the bill at the time, meetings were set to address concerns they had about music therapy licensure.

- SF404 was then heard in the Senate State and Local Government Committee. It passed, despite opposition from a sound healer and the libertarian organization Institute for Justice.
- A fiscal note was added to the Senate bill for an extremely high amount. Because of this and not getting movement on the House side, Senator Rosen pulled the bill from the next hearing. A fiscal note is determined by the number of therapists in the state currently practicing and the expected number of therapists for a few years. However, a new software program used by the state for licensure issues was put in to use this year and is to be paid for through new licensure fees, which affected the predicted fee for music therapists.
- On the House side, only licensure applicants without any opposition or edits to existing licensures were heard. The chairperson, Senator Liebling, was also concerned that there was no "potential for harm" from having unlicensed music therapists. The task force has since created a document clearly stating the necessity of having regulation for music therapy in order to protect clients.

- Throughout the session, we received help and guidance from the Fraser School's public policy specialist.
- Folders of information about music therapy were passed out to EVERY legislator as part of Minnesota Music Therapy Week.
- The Task Force will continue to meet with groups expressing opposition to find language suitable to all parties. New bills will need to be filed next session for 2015 and 2016.

Music therapists Todd Schwartzberg, Claire Klein, Amy Furman, and Amy Madson meeting with legislatures at the State and Local Government hearing.

Three Minnesota Music Therapists Receive Prestigious Awards

Submitted by Dawn McDougal Miller

Three seasoned Minnesota music therapists received prestigious community awards in October and November of 2013.

In October 2013, Sandra Holten, MT-BC, music therapist at Park Nicollet Struthers Parkinson's Center, received the 2013 Direct Care Service Award from the Minnesota Adult Day Services Association for her work as a music therapist. She was nominated and honored for her outstanding work in Club CREATE, the therapeutic day program at Park Nicollet Struthers Parkinson's Center.

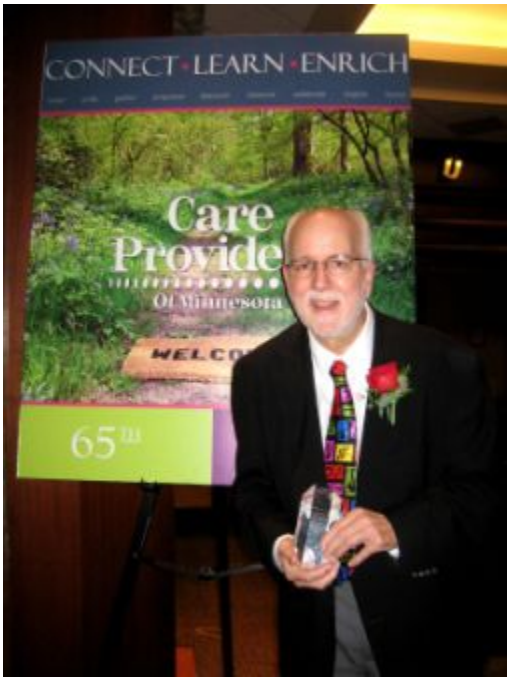
Sandra began her music therapy career in 1983 at Golden Valley Health Care Center, after graduating from Augsburg College. Sandra was the last music therapist employed at Golden Valley Health Care Center before it closed. Golden Valley Health Care Center was a well known psychiatric facility with innovative and new programs such one of the first dual diagnoses Mental Illness/Chemical Dependency programs and a Sexual Addiction program. At one time Golden Valley Health Center employed more than 10 music therapists, and was said to have had "more music therapists per patient" than any other psychiatric facility in the country. Golden Valley Health Center was also highly competitive music therapy internship site that trained hundreds of music therapy interns, and Sandra helped to train 13 of those interns.

In November 2013, Sandra's music therapy colleague at Park Nicollet and former intern at Golden Valley Health Center, Dawn McDougal Miller, MME, MT-BC, also received an important award. Dawn received the Health Partners President's

Award for her work as a music therapist and for coordinating Park Nicollet's music therapy internship program. Dawn began her music therapy career in 1986, and has created several music therapy positions for Twin Cities' hospitals and hospice programs. She has been a music therapist for the oncology and hospice programs at Park Nicollet since 1995 and developed the internship program in 1998. Together, Miller and Holten have trained 94 music therapy interns at Park Nicollet Health Services.

"The healing power of art is amazing, and [Miller] is a pioneer in its use," said Health Partners President and CEO Mary Brainerd. "[She] uses music to connect with our patients and their families. It takes a tremendous amount of empathy and compassion. The President's Award is Health Partners' way of recognizing and showing appreciation to individuals like [Miller] who truly go above and beyond for our members, patients and community."

Also in November of 2013, Bill E. Webb, M.A., MT-BC, was awarded the Care Providers of Minnesota's Champion Award at the Care Providers of Minnesota Convention. Bill began his music therapy career with the Good Neighbor/Good Samaritan company 25 years ago. He created a music therapy internship site at University Specialty Center in Minneapolis (now Good Samaritan Specialty Care Community of Robbinsdale) in 1993 and has provided supervision to over 100 music therapy interns.



Bill, a creative arts supervisor, instructor and professional drummer, was praised at the awards ceremony for bringing music, art, poetry, painting and dancing to people who thought those things were gone from their lives forever. He was lauded for encouraging, challenging and championing people to be creative, to take chances, to try again, and to try something new.

As a show of their deep admiration, over 20 former interns and music therapy colleagues surprised Bill at the award ceremony with a full band and heartfelt musical tribute--a re-write of one of Bill's standard percussion grooves--"Dixie Chicken."

Mark your calendar for the 62nd Annual Conference of the Great Lakes Region-American Music Therapy Association!

"Plant. Grow. Cultivate. Wellness in Music Therapy"

April 8th-12th, 2015

The Depot Residence Inn, Downtown
425 S. 2nd St, Minneapolis, MN 55401

To contribute articles or pictures,
e-mail MTAM Newsletter Editor Beth Engelking
bethengelking@gmail.com