

June 15, 2023 updates from the IATA board

We were unable to meet at our usual board meeting due to conflicts, injury, and illness. This document serves as a substitute. We will meet again as a board at the scheduled July meeting.

Amber-President

- CE (anti-asian hate) Emailed her back that we are in the CEU process - She agreed we can revisit in the fall.
- June licensure update - use survey results
 - What the results are showing
 - We need to restate the intention of **why** we are exploring licensing. There seems to be some belief we are pushing AATA's agenda.
 - Highlight who this will impact (students)
 - Discuss similarities/differences of AT license vs. LCPC
 - Right now many people don't see the benefit
- SIUE discussion -
 - Concerns about students being able to get jobs
 - Wants IL to hold out on pursuing a license like California is doing
 - Would prefer we focus on how art therapy is and is not working in IL.
 - Believes we should advocate for IL art therapists to pursue research
 - This stems from hospitals selecting music therapists over art therapists in their areas due to MT having done more research. Though I don't know how accurate that is near Chicago since not as many MT also have a clinical license for billing. **Something to research.**
 - Believes licensing makes us more vulnerable
 - Highlighted being CAHEP accredited we are not at the same level of accreditation as other Masters level clinicians.
 - CAHEP accredited rec therapy, med tech, and other tech fields.
 - Belief due to connections that CACREP will not become the standard across all states due to how much money IL makes from schools who are not CACREP accredited.
 - Works regularly with the state of Missouri - the state has conveyed they would not agree to create an AT licensure due to the low number of art therapists in the state.
 - Would like to see reimbursement automatically.

Something I have personally been sitting with since this meeting and reflecting on other conversations is how do we build the infrastructure in our state (with or without licensing) so that art therapists feel supported and advocated for because one question I wonder about is IF we pass an AT license and we needed to pursue further legislation or who knows what, what would that process look like?

Who does that fall on and what does that look like when we struggle to fill board member positions?

- Survey results - only 5 people filled it out
 - We should continue to send this out.
- Membership # update - 93; 8 new members in 202. Overall membership has grown since 2022 (end of the year we were at 85).
- AATA had an all member meeting with a discussion about AI - Tyler did offer to speak with any chapter regarding this topic at any length of time.

Julie - Secretary

- I contacted ATCB to get total # of ATR, ATR-BC's, ATR-P, and ALCS licenses in the state of IL. They said they needed to get permission from higher up so forwarded my email to the appropriate individual. I have not received a response yet.

Shan-Communication

- People are signing up for our newsletters continuously. I am getting notifications regularly. This helps us with community engagement, and growing a presence in the state.
- I peeked into the IL AT survey results and sent out another reminder email, and have grown the survey responses from 5 to 15
- (echoing Amber's point above) according to the survey, I think some people were thinking what we were thinking, and were unclear about why the IL license is necessary, why now, etc. I wonder if we should go back and offer the information we have gotten from Tylor of AATA, about the rationale to pursue state license. I think that will clear up a lot of confusion and bring people to the same page somewhat. My understanding is we are practicing in a landscape and structure that is not our own (LPC/LCPC), and when they change, we might be negatively impacted and left behind. This makes me think about the book called, "who moved my cheese?" https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Who_Moved_My_Cheese%3F
- And also the crying CEO of Nokia, who said, "we didn't do anything wrong, but somehow, we lost".
<https://www.cuinsight.com/we-didnt-do-anything-wrong-but-somehow-we-lost/#:~:text=During%20a%20press%20conference%20last,entire%20management%20team%20publicly%20wept.>
- People on the survey is asking for information and apparently they did not get the newsletter or the one email sent out to the IL AT group. I think the IL AT license mailing list should be used to send out a running bulletin that compiles the history of our research. I envision keeping the information growing without deleting the old stuff. We should provide information beginning from when Tylor alerted us about why we should look into this, the context of Counselor Compact, to the records of our meetings with Maryland, Pennsylvania, Oregon. I can do this with the constant contact account. The

GAC/ Erin and Amber/ the President will continue to develop the updated content so I can add to the bulletin, send them out to people who want to be kept in the loop.

- I have recently encountered an acupuncturist who told me they didn't used to have their own licenses and have worked under Physical Therapists and MD in IL in the past. I wonder if it'd be helpful to find someone who knew their licensing process to discuss why they pursued their license, pros, cons, experience sharing, etc.
- My two cents– we are practicing an unregulated profession. We rely on a structure that's essentially not our own. People are afraid that additional license will get “more expensive”, when speaking from a place where we are practicing an unprotected profession, so we are not paid alot. If licensure will help elevate our field so people make a little more money, will the perspective of “ additional license is expensive” still hold up? If you make more than enough to cover the expenses, would it still be a problem? I think what's expensive is relative to the value. Right now, ATR/ATR-BC is not offering a ton of monetary value for us professionally in the state.
- I am growing the “find an art therapist” page on our website. It's slow, however it's a good pace because people need a lot of technical help with their submission.
- I am offering to teach the LPC/ATR workshop for July 22 via IATA. My intention is to help IATA engage more people and grow our membership. I have chose not to be paid for this workshop to help IATA raise money for the potential of IL AT license expenses.
- Our membership is growing continuously.

Cassie - Treasurer

- Organization has a new address. It is our own PO Box with East Bank Storage at the Bridgeport Art Center. Address: #363 1200 W 35th Street, Chicago IL 60609
- NBCC Provider Application completed and cost paid