

IATA board meeting
Sunday, January 15, 2023

Board Members in attendance:
Amber Przybyla , President
Julie Ludwick, Secretary
Shan Ru Lin, Communications Chair
Cassandra Krcmrc, Treasurer

Tyler Kirby, AATA licensure liaison

Pennsylvania AATA chapter members in attendance:
Kachina Mooney
Liz Micciulla
Meredith

Amber calls meeting called to order at 11:02 AM central standard time
Julie seconds.

Licensure

Tyler is here and talking about national changes happening that are putting pressure on art therapists to make state licenses.

In 39 of the 50 states art therapists are currently licensed as counselors, MFT, LPC, LCPC, etc.

There is an interstate counseling compact happening in the legislature right now. They are trying to create the ability to have interstate reciprocity within the compact. States that want to do this have to change their licensure/be in line with one another. So this will coalesce around stricter licensure requirements in the country. Looking that there will be no alternative for those not from a CACREP accredited association.

ACA (American Counseling Association) goal by 2024 is to get all states signed up for the compact that want to be in the compact. The vast majority of states will be in this and will no longer be able to have art therapists be counselors, have counselor licensure, IF their school is not CACREP accredited, currently only 2 art therapy grad programs in the country are.

There is also change happening within CACREP. These CACREP institutions need professors with PHDs. We currently have 2 CACREP accredited art therapy programs in the USA..

In IL, we are trying to avoid this potential issue in the near future. Currently legislature in IL has not been planned yet. Tyler Kirby, AATA licensure liaison, is thinking IL will most likely join this compact and by 2024 art therapists from non-CACREP approved schools will no longer be able to practice as counselors.

The counseling compact map is available at <https://counselingcompact.org/map/?location=PA>

This counseling compact plan was first announced in 2016, and ACA plans to have it all done by 2024.

Is there a correlation between art therapy licensure and legislation that has passed with CACREP? Yes - Florida, Georgia, and Louisiana. PA has pending legislation.

NJ has newly passed art therapy licensure.

The states where we have art therapy licensure this year will start to see some funkiness starting to happen. As new states get put up for recognition, we will start to run into pain points. Art therapists that are newly graduated will lose their ability to practice with their current licenses if they do not have an art therapy license option and CACREP has come into IL and IL has joined the CACREP counseling compact.

AATA does not advocate for a license like art therapists in NY have, they have an expressive therapy license. AATA (Tyler) recommends a model crafted like MD and TN, TN included insurance reimbursement requirements.

MD license – it produced a very clear standard for licensure that reduces cost for art therapists. Tyler was saying it reduces costs because they only pay for their state license, and do not need to also pay for an ATR-P, ATR, or ATR-BC. The MD license requires passage of the board certification exam and then maintenance of the art therapy license, not the credential.

Tyler is saying we can get an art therapy license AND we could also keep our LPC and LCPC license if we end up not being impacted by CACREP in IL. This would give new graduate and seasoned therapists options and protections in case LPC or LCPC licensure requirements change in the future and make it so art therapy graduates do not qualify.

Tyler thinks we could pass robust legislation in IL with backing of the schools.

Basic process is:

Education of government officials (state representatives and senate members and governor) is the first step.

Make a list of all art therapists in the state and who their representatives are then start working with those representatives. Tyler can help us draft the request for meeting emails, art therapists send that into their state representatives to request meetings. See if any of them would be interested in supporting that legislation. Once we know who will support the legislation, we can span out and create a more robust support system of schools and anyone who employs art therapists. Effectively, once we have an idea of what legislation support looks like we build out a system of support from there of people who are willing to advocate for us and build that coalition out. Reach out to IATA members and ask if they have connections. Senate, gov, or house of representatives. We need to get on board the people who have veto ability. HHS committee for example

Liz from PA AATA chapter is co-chair of GAC, monthly meetings with where we are at with licensure, the co-chairs are spending 15-20 hours a month of volunteer time on this licensure process. Tyler will help with meetings and planning, draft documents, Tyler is here to help with the technical know how. PA is inviting IATA to their licensure meetings to help us understand their process and model off of them.

What is the typical time line for states who have already gotten art therapy licensure or are in the process? We can have a large range between states, ex) 18 months in KY on the short side to 15 plus years. Those states that took many many years was due to a lack of support in government. Tyler does not see this being an issue for us.

Additional notes on states that have expressive therapy or art therapy licenses/licensure they are trying to push forward in the legislature and thoughts on IL licensure.

Notes about NY Licensure

- New York's license - not the model Tyler is using
- NY has a creative arts therapy license with sub specialities
- Very complicated
- NY art therapists have been left out of legislation

Notes about Maryland Licensure

- Maryland is the gold standard for AT licensure
- Maryland does have insurance reimbursement
- Comprehensive
- First license passed with the model that is important in reducing costs to AT
- Two things Maryland did exceptionally well: clear standard for licensure, reduces costs to the therapist, maintenance is through the state instead of AATA, maintaining only the license which saves money
- Included that AT has to be reimbursed by insurance
- Had gubernatorial support

Notes about Pennsylvania Licensure

- Pennsylvania has 2 board chairs for licensure
- Amount of time a month - 15-20 hours a month, might increase depending on what happens
- Work falls on the board
- How do you manage turnover with the board?
- Florida and New Jersey has been helpful
- paataorggac@gmail.com - Liz and Kachina's email

If CACREP is not a threat for IL

- Licensure could still be a benefit
- Licensure does provide coverage (legally) over a Board Certification
- IL joining the Compact is a flag that CACREP might have a heavier influence
- According to Tyler - 2024 is the goal with the Compact

Other Notes

- Tyler feels IL could potentially have good support since we have multiple educational institutions
- Advocacy for licensure is about education about what art therapy is and benefits
 - If the representatives don't understand the legislation then we have not done our job
- Requesting meetings with representatives
- Tyler can help draft requesting meeting emails - something standard that can be reused
- Tyler can help write legislations

- Once we know who will support the legislation then branch out to build a larger support system such as hospitals and schools
- Tyler could attend meetings if needed (legislators or others)
- In his experience, legislators are more receptive to constituents

Common Barriers

- Sunrise Review

In IL we have 177 legislators - how many would we need to connect with?

- Health and human services committee - would want to connect with them
- IDFPR

A Next Step: Ask AATA members if they know anyone in government

Other thoughts: Karen Jordan and her husband are advocates of creative arts therapies and music therapists in IL have experience with legislation so we may be able to connect and ask who they have been speaking with

Terms:

Legislative Cycle - 2 year period

Sunrise Review: process where state evaluates the need for new occupational regulations

Amber called meeting to end at 12:15pm

Julie seconds.