The Board meets in Norman, OK for a full day of Strategic Planning.....

Joan Phillips, ATCB President, and Anita Mester, ATCB Director

The Art Therapy Credentials Board met with consultant Anthony Ciotola on Thursday, April 19, 2001 for a full day of strategic planning prior to the Spring 2001 Board Meeting. The meeting was held this year in Norman, Oklahoma, home of the ATCB President, Joan Phillips, who arranged the use of an artist’s studio out in the country for our day of “thinking outside the box”. The setting proved both comfortable and creatively stimulating as we engaged in both structured activities and discussions that involved developing strategies for the ATCB in the years to come. After crawling through semantic tunnels and jumping through legalistic hoops, we emerged from the strategic planning session with clear vision.

We were reminded of why we are important to the AATA membership and why it is important to us. Our revised mission statement reflects the simplicity of our purpose: “The mission of the ATCB is to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy.” Much consensus was found within the diversity and depth of the opinions represented by our Board. The ATCB identified projected areas of development that included clarifying, improving, and marketing the credential we offer, exploring international issues regarding credentials, and strengthening the profession of art therapy overall as a way to promote the “competent and ethical practice” of art therapy as stated in our mission.
It has been ten years since the AATA membership voted to adopt a national certification process and a report on the current status of exam development would seem to be due.

**How did it all start?**

The AATA Certification Committee held its first meeting in Chicago in 1992 and, a year later at the National Conference in Las Vegas, the AATA board agreed that a separate corporation be established to oversee the registration and certification process. The Art Therapy Credentials Board was created so that management and legal counsel could be independent of the membership body. This step was crucial for credibility with examinees, the public, and employers.

**How is the content of the exam determined?**

A job analysis is conducted to determine the responsibilities and knowledge areas required of a professional art therapist. Respondents to the survey are asked to weight items in each area based on importance and frequency. The test blueprint is therefore based on the feedback provided by ATRs and ATR-BCs, a process that seeks to ensure that the exam is current, job-related, and legally defensible.

**Who is responsible for writing the exam?**

The practice of inviting Board-Certified Art Therapists to submit items for the exam was discontinued two years ago. The material received was extremely useful but it was determined that committee members, who have been trained in writing multiple-choice items, should be responsible for this process.

The committee is comprised of registered and board-certified art therapists from various theoretical backgrounds and geographical locations, who are dedicated to representing the diversity of the examinees. Because the exam seeks to test the *practice* of art therapy and not just what is being *taught*, both clinicians and educators are recruited, as well as those who have a level of expertise similar to those taking the exam.

**How is the exam written?**

Since 1992, testing consultants have been used to advise on the design and implementation of the certification process, following procedures consistent with the 1985 *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. Over time, the exam has undergone the changes that are expected in the development of any testing process, and, consequently, the product has been improved. In this, the ATCB has particularly benefited from the guidance of the late Dr. Richard Jaeger, a respected and nationally known expert, and his colleague, Dr. Daniel Collins, who serves as our current consultant.

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**Developing National Standards for Art Therapists: A Progress Report**

*Brenda Barthell, MA, ATR-BC*

**ATCB Certification Committee Chair**

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Although I live in Washington, DC, my days are usually focused more upon paints and pastels than politics. This summer, however, three events ushered in the opportunity to engage in some old-fashioned, Washington-style lobbying on behalf of our profession.

Thanks to the efforts of AATA Governmental Affairs Committee Chair Jenna Michalik, ATR, and members Donna Betts, ATR and Megan Robb, I was invited to present testimony on art therapy training and credentialing to the members of the White House Commission on Complementary and Alternative Medicine Policy. The meeting, which took place May 14-16, focused primarily upon understanding coverage and reimbursement and research challenges. The Commissioners are Presidential appointees who have been charged with developing policy recommendations that will maximize the benefits of complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) practices and products to the general public. Art therapy has been listed as one of these health practices. (More information about the Commission may be obtained through accessing its website: www.whccamp.hhs.gov)

The Commission must present a report to President Bush via the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Tommy Thompson by March, 2002. Indeed, the Commission seemed to be supportive of art therapy. In fact, its Chair, James S. Gordon, M.D., Director of The Center for Mind-Body Medicine, suggested that art therapists who are interested in obtaining information about support for research projects contact Nancy Pearson, Ph.D. and Neal West, Ph.D. They are both Program Officers at the National Center for Complementary and Alternative Medicine in Bethesda, MD. The Center supports a number of NIH National Research Service Awards (NRSA) as well as specific NCCAM-related training grant mechanisms. The latter include NRSA individual predoctoral, postdoctoral, and senior fellowships, and fellowship awards to minorities and individuals with disabilities. NCCAM also offers several types of career development awards (called “K” awards) and curriculum awards (R25 and K30).

Art therapists are encouraged to consult the following websites. After doing so, questions about NRSA awards should be directed to pearsonn@mail.nih.gov.

Questions regarding career development awards and curriculum awards should be directed to westn@mail.nih.gov.

http://nccam.nih.gov/nccam/fi/concepts/pa/pa-00-023.htm (NRSA predoctoral fellowship award)

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-069.html (NRSA predoctoral fellowship award for minority students)

http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-068.html (NRSA predoctoral fellowship award for students with disabilities)


http://grants.nih.gov/grants/guide/pa-files/PA-00-103.html (NRSA Institutional Training Grant Award)

http://grants.nih.gov/training/extramural.htm (NIH Training site listing “K” awards)

http://nccam.nih.gov/fi/concepts/pa/pa-00-027.htm (R25 Education Grant)

June 10-12, fellow ATCB Board member, Gwendolyn Short, ATR-BC and I attended the Annual Creative Arts Therapies Capital Hill Day Conference sponsored by the American Art Therapy Association and the American Music Therapy Association. A symposium on the process of reimbursement for arts therapies services was followed by aday devoted to learning efficacious ways in which to present recommendations to members of Congress. The Washington contingent of art therapists spent the third day visiting the offices of the delegates of American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These territories, like the District of Columbia, have no note in Congress but their delegates work valiantly to represent the interests of their constituents. A highlight was a visit that Gwen, Kimberly Hanrahan-Havern (Governmental Affairs Committee Chair of the Potomac Art Therapy Association) and I had with DC Delegate, Eleanor Holmes Norton, who was asked to consider delivering a proposed floor statement regarding the benefits of art therapy.

On June 14,during a reception at their office, Secretary Tommy Thompson and Deputy Secretary Claude A. Allen of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
honored the children of Paul Robeson School for Growth and Development. The school, were I have served as art therapist for almost 25 years, is operated by the DC Department of Mental Health. The Director of DMH, Martha Knisley, and the Director of Child/Youth Services, Kemba Maish, Ph.D., were special guests for the unveiling of “Growing up Healthy in the Nation’s Capital”. This was an art therapy project created with the assistance of GWU art therapy graduate students, Berre Burch and Jennifer Dipasupil. It consists of a 14’-wide diorama that depicts the Mall, from the Capitol to the Washington Monument, and 45 clay figures - shown jogging, jumping rope, playing soccer, flying kites, and picnicking. A 5”-high likeness of Secretary Thompson, created by a 6 year old, is shown riding his motorcycle to work. The second glass case in the Secretary’s office displays photographs of the children of Paul Robeson School painting the figures.

The children of Paul Robeson School have become welcomed visitors at the Department of Health and Human Services. During each of the eight years that Donna Shalala served as Secretary, the children were invited to create ornaments for the Christmas tree in her office. The themes, chosen by the Secretary, ranged from “Health” and “Education” to “Medieval Times” and Renaissance Carnival.” In the early 1980s, Secretary Richard Schweiker hosted an exhibit of art work created by patients of St. Elizabeths Hospital in Washington, DC and coordinated by art therapist Elaine Kramer Goldberg, ATR. Art therapy has been part of the treatment program at “St. E.’s”, the first federally-funded public mental institution in the country, since 1940. (Readers might be interested in reviewing Kramer, E. (1982). The history of art therapy in a large mental hospital. American Journal of Art Therapy, 21, 75-84.)
Health Professions Network Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio
Gayle Sutch, ATCB Ethics Officer

I was invited to be a co-speaker at the Health Professions Network Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio on March 15-March 17, 2001.

HPN is a group of volunteers representing health professionals interested in interdisciplinary communication, discussion and collaboration. Participants meet at least annually to engage in discussion regarding preparation for future health care delivery.

Some of the 45 associates represented at this year’s March conference were from the following associations:
- American Art Therapy Association
- American Academy of Neurology
- American Academy of Anesthesiologists
- American Society of Clinical Pathologists
- American Society of Radiologic Technologists
- National Society of Allied Health Professionals
- Society of Nuclear Medicine
- US Public Health Service

I was asked to speak about the enforcement of Ethics policies and procedures - specifically how ATCB enforces the ATCB Code of Professional Practice. Many small non-profit credentialing agencies are facing the challenges of enforcing codes of ethics in the new millennium - with the internet impacting upon delivery of services and professional development issues such as providing supervision via the world wide web and advertising of services. These issues all relate to associations’ standards of practice and enforcement issues. HPN hoped that by addressing ethics issues at the conference, a dialogue of sharing might ensue and solutions for these shared challenges might be found.

My co-presenter was Mr. Tom Kraker of the American Registry of Radiologic Technologists. (Tom is ARRT’s enforcement person.) The title of our presentation was “Ethics Review Process for the Health Professions - who should be responsible?” This presentation touched upon the following points:

- Enforcing standards requires the following of Fair Policies and Procedures. The details of what constitutes fair policies and procedures were outlined.
- The standard of Fundamental Fairness was explained.
- The importance of understanding your association’s members’ rights
- What constitutes due process?
- Understanding and working within federal, state, or local laws, if applicable to your organization.

For me, this was a very informative conference that provided me with an opportunity to share information with various healthcare organizations regarding the enforcement of ethics policies and procedures. Many of the associations represented at the conference had memberships that numbered in the thousands. Many of the larger associations had dedicated, paid staff that handled ethical matters. One common theme emerged from my conversation with other association ethics chairs: the number of ethics related complaints received annually continues to grow at an alarming rate. Due to the increasing volume of complaints in some associations, resources are being stretched.

I am glad that the ATCB Board of Directors had the foresight to plan for this eventuality by creating the ATCB Code of Professional Practice. This planning should minimize the impact of increasing ethics complaints and help preserve ATCB’s resources while focusing on the mission of protecting the public.

I hope that ATCB’s involvement with the HPN will continue. This organization, with over 200 allied health professionals represented, provides a much needed lobbying voice for Board Certified Art Therapists!
The committee meets yearly to review items that need to be rewritten, to write new items, and to decide which items should be rejected. Each member is required to take the current exam, independently, in order to become familiar with the content. Statistical evidence on how items performed is analyzed but, before general consensus is reached, the committee examines and critiques them at length from a subjective perspective. A checklist asks such questions as whether an item measures knowledge or skills needed for safe and effective practice, and whether it relates to the test blueprint. Is only one option either absolutely correct or clearly the best answer? Are all distractors plausible? Is the question fair and not overly complicated or “tricky”? Does it consider gender, ethnicity, language differences and learning disabilities? Does the question refer to a law that is peculiar to only one state? Options are checked for irrelevant difficulty and absolute terms (always, never) and “none of the above” options have been eliminated.

How is the pass/fail score decided?
After the exam has been given in November, the psychometrician conducts an item analysis to determine how psychometrically sound each item is. After the items have been arranged in increasing order of difficulty (measured by how examinees responded), a standard setting panel of approximately 14 Board-Certified Art Therapists (past and present members of ATCB committees) determine the “cut score” or the pass/fail score, using a 3-part procedure known as the “Bookmark Method”. The committee’s task, at that time, is to determine the minimum cut score required to show that an art therapist has the knowledge and skills to practice safely and effectively.

How reliable is the exam?
The ATCB examination is reliable and statistically sound, and it gets even stronger with each examination cycle. With the November 2000 Exam, 77 examinees passed and 25 failed. The highest scorer answered 135 out of 165 scored items correctly and the lowest score was 56. For the first time, this year examinees were given the 6 sub-scores. It is not possible, of course, to provide specific information on questions answered incorrectly because those items may still be in the item bank pool.

How will the certification process develop in the future, or is this all there is?
The goal is to increase the item bank so that the exam can eventually be offered more often at more sites. At that point, more items would be made available in the study guide. Accreditation of the ATCB by NCCA (the National Commission for Certifying Agencies) will provide increased credibility, particularly for licensure purposes, and we are now eligible to start the application process. Two states already use the exam for licensing purposes and developing the exam to a point where it can be accepted by more states is a priority. Computerized testing and the ability to offer the exam in other countries is also being considered but both are costly endeavors needing careful research and an extensive item bank. At this stage of exam development, we are where we need to be. As professional art therapists, however, we know that this is not all there is. It might be as well to remember Richard Carolan’s words (AATA Newsletter, Summer, 1999):

“There is no written exam in this or any other field that can measure the effectiveness of one being in the presence of another. There is no written exam that can measure the “art” of art therapy. These areas are addressed through the mentoring process which is allowed through the structure of apprenticeship, through the classroom and studio setting, and through internship in the field. There are many aspects of the practice of art therapy, or the experience of creating and being in conscious relationship with images, that are not the privy of the certification exam. The certification exam is but one part of the evaluative process of establishing the identity of the art therapy community.”
November 2001 Board Certification Examination!

With Fall steadily approaching, ATCB is “gearing up” for this year’s Board Certification Examination. The ATCB National Office is currently taking applications for the exam, so.......

For all Registered Art Therapists (ATR) interested in becoming Board Certified (ATR-BC), please visit ATCB’s website, www.atcb.org, to receive the latest information on exam site locations, time, etc. You can download an exam application as well as the study guide. Of course, you can also have the exam application and study guide mailed directly to you by calling the ATCB National Office at 1-877-213-2822.

The deadline for submitting your exam application is September 30, 2001, so don’t wait - it’s as easy as..

1. Logging on to WWW.ATCB.ORG
2. Downloading the BC Exam Application
3. Filling out all required information
4. Mailing the exam application/fee to the address indicated.

Remember: In order to take the BC Examination, you must be a current ATR and meet the current ATR standards.

S. Christian Smith  
ATCB Management Director

Michael Cotten  
ATCB Project Coordinator

A Message from the American Art Therapy Association (AATA)....

Strength in Numbers
Marcia L. Rosal, Ph.D., ATR-BC, AATA President

As AATA moves into the new millennium, we need each and every art therapist to make our professional association strong and progressive. Many art therapists have chosen to let their membership in AATA slip away. Yet, AATA would be able to do more for the profession and all art therapists if we had strength in numbers. This is where you come in. By joining AATA, not only will you receive the wonderful benefits noted in the ad next to this article, but you will also benefit through all the work we are doing for you in public policy and governmental affairs.

Also by being an AATA member, you are eligible for our group insurance polices: malpractice, health, and life. Our insurance offers low rates to AATA members only. The educational opportunities offered by AATA are exciting and cutting edge. Through attendance at AATA conferences and symposia, you are eligible for continuing education credits (CECs). As you know you need CECs for your ATCB certification, but AATA’s CECs may be used for other certification and licensees because the National Board for Certified Counselors approves our continuing education programs. We have a great conference planned in November that will be held in Albuquerque on November 7-11, 2001. By becoming a member of AATA, you can save money on the registration fee. Join AATA today and connect with your colleagues to celebrate the wonder of art therapy and the beauty of New Mexico.

I welcome any of you to call the AATA office at our toll free number in the ad to discuss membership issues or contact me at mrosal@garnet.acns.fsu.edu.

Thanks!

The American Art Therapy Association is looking for ATCB credential holders!

Perhaps you have forgotten just how many benefits AATA membership affords an art therapist. Here are just a few:

• Art Therapy: Journal of the American Art Therapy Association
• the quarterly AATA Newsletter
• reductions in malpractice and life insurance
• member rates for conference and regional symposia

Join today!

Contact the AATA National Office today at 1-888-290-0878 (toll free) for more information and a membership application.

American Art Therapy Association, Inc. (AATA)  
1202 Allanson Road  
Mundelein, Illinois 60060-3808  
1-888-290-0878  
Fax: 847-566-4580  
E-mail: arttherapy@ntr.net  
Web Site: www.arttherapy.org
2000 Recertified Certificants

Debra Aldredge
Andrea Barlas
Larry Barnfield
Andrea Bass-Brawer
Stephanie Brandt
Allison Brooks
Ann Bussard
Richard Carolan
Janet Carr
Linda Chapman
Carol Cockrum
Barry Cohen
Marcia Cohen-Liebman
Renee Conrad
Janet Couch
Mary Dennis
Patrick Deprey
Audrey Di Maria
Cathy Donnenwirth
Lissa Douglas
Manon Dulude
Kathleen Duval
Melinda Emery
Lorraine Ferguson
Judith Finer
Lani Gerity
Shirley Gerstenberger
Andrea Gollub
Elizabeth Gonzalez-Dolginko
Carol Greenlaw
Margaret Gulshen
David Gussak
Kristeen Haas
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Jamie Hanna
Noah Hass-Cohen
Roberta Hauser
Anna Hiscox
Janice Hoshino
Paula Jeppson
Lauri Joseph
Joyce Kafoury
Frances Kaplan
Lisa Kay
Charlene Kelzer
Carolyn Knox
June Kroll
Luanne Lee
Linda Lepape-Eck
Madeline Liebling
Debra Linesch
Judith Locher
Janet Long
Suzanne Lovell
Catheryn Luna
Sherry Lyons
Rose Marano-Geiser
Naomi Marks
June Miller
Anne Mills
Elizabeth Montella-Mott
Dottie Oatman
Donna Ochipa
Susan Orr
Lauren Paquette
Barbara Parker-Bell
Elaine Parks
Moe Peck
Phylis Penland
Renuka Raghuraman
Claudia Ronaldson
Julie Rose
Karissa Rumsey
Anne Sabo
Sally Sapunor
Tea Schiano
Annette Shore
Gwendolyn Short
Krista Soste
Ellen Spiegel-Wackwitz
Janet Steinberg
Diane Strnad
Eugenia Sutcliffe
Carol Sutor
Nora Swan-Foster
Dana Tittle
Marian Towne
Christine Turner
Cynthia Upchurch
Robin Vance
Wendy Vernon
Patricia Wallace
Margaret Watkins
Marcia Weisbrot
Judy White
Sandra White
Patrice Will
Katherine Williams
Vicki Williams
Marie Wilson
Joann Yam
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Elizabeth Davis
Anne Donovan
Tama Dumlao
Virginia Dupre
Frederick Feldhaus
Jennifer Frisbie
Amy Fuller
RobinLee Garber
Barbara Giguere
Alayne Gosson
Amani Grow
Jill Hanna
Maureen Harvey
Allison Hurwitz
Jacqueline Kahn
Sue Kaplan-Rocke
Kirsten Kempfer
Sarah Klasskin
Colleen Kunz
Susie Kuszmar
Nancy Landau
D. LaQuay
Heidi Larew
Theresa Lauciuss
Lisa Linden
Straja Linder King
Kay Loraine
Lenia Maropakis
Linda Mathews
Pamela Matiosian
Kristen Maus
Guylaine Mazure
Alexandra McCabe
Margaret McGuinness
Betty Mellen
Alexandra Mitchell
Richard Munn
Victoria Mycue
Brian Myers
Janet Natale
Rebecca Neumann
Beth Newman
Marla Nicolo
Christa Occhiogrosso
Cynthia O’Flynn
Kerry Olin
Carla Palumbo
Michelle Perlman
Suzanne Peroutka
Theresa Pifalo
Andrea Pistone
Amy Ponteri
E. Powers
Erin Rafferty
Asha Ragin
Heather Randazzo
Diane Ranger
Anne Ream
Susan Reed
Wanda Rieman
Terese Rogers
Michelle Saint-Loth
Francisco Saldana
Marilyn Schroeder
Amy Schultz
Patricia Scott
Jennifer Shapiro
Sybil Sheffield
Elaine Shor
Sara Slack
Heidi Sliter
Gina Speirs
Carrie Steward
Madoka Takada
Mineko Takada-Dill
Courtney Taylor
Ellen Themes
Karen Turner
Victoria von Brauchitsch
Patricia Walters
Roberta Wentzel-Walter
Stephanie Werba
Jeanne Zilske

New ATRs

(03/2001-07/2001)

Karen Abato
Anda Andersson
Elizabeth Angeline
Andrea Atherton-Nollet
Yasmine Awais
Linda Balloqui-Smith
Kate Barrett
Lesley Barton
Michelle Bethune
Patricia Bishop
Linda Blasdel
Valerie Bostory
Elaine Bowers
Andrea Brandner
Nicole Brandstrup
Diane Cesta
Gabrielle Cordella-Chew
Evelyn Cunningham
Jeanne D’Archer

Cynthia O’Flynn
Kerry Olin
Carla Palumbo
Michelle Perlman
Suzanne Peroutka
Theresa Pifalo
Andrea Pistone
Amy Ponteri
E. Powers
Erin Rafferty
Asha Ragin
Heather Randazzo
Diane Ranger
Anne Ream
Susan Reed
Wanda Rieman
Terese Rogers
Michelle Saint-Loth
Francisco Saldana
Marilyn Schroeder
Amy Schultz
Patricia Scott
Jennifer Shapiro
Sybil Sheffield
Elaine Shor
Sara Slack
Heidi Sliter
Gina Speirs
Carrie Steward
Madoka Takada
Mineko Takada-Dill
Courtney Taylor
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Stephanie Werba
Jeanne Zilske