



## *American Music Therapy Association Mid-Atlantic Regional Chapter*

*Delaware • D.C. • Maryland • New Jersey • New York • Pennsylvania • Virginia • West Virginia*

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3/12/09

Dear NJ Music Therapists,

The NJ Task Force on Occupational Regulation has been working to gain official state recognition of music therapy in NJ. Over the course of the last 2 years, great progress has been made educating legislators, department commissioners, and division directors about music therapy and the impact it has on NJ's most vulnerable citizens. Over the past year, there were several new jobs created, and in 2009 there have been 3 new positions created.

Despite this, there are still regulatory hurdles that music therapists face in order to work. For example, music therapists who work in school settings must get a NJ Teaching license. This is not the case for our colleagues in occupational therapy, physical therapy and speech therapy. A recent change in the early intervention regulations will allow for music therapy to be included in the IFSP if the team deems it necessary, yet music therapists are unqualified to provide those services. The Division of Child Behavioral Health Services has proposed regulatory changes that allow for the provision of music therapy services to at-risk children in their homes, but are requiring that those services be provided by a licensed music therapist.

The recommendation that has been made by legislators, department commissioners and division directors is that we seek state licensure for music therapy. This is a really important decision and the task force would like to seek your input before moving forward with this process. At this point, no decision has been made in response to the recommendation.

The task force will be holding the first of several informational meetings at the MAR conference in Richmond. The meeting is scheduled for Friday, March 27, 2009 in James River C from 1:45 pm to 3:25 pm.

We look forward to hearing your thoughts and concerns as we move forward in our efforts to gain official recognition in NJ and increase access to music therapy services for those who would benefit.

In the spirit of service,

The NJ Task Force on Occupational Regulation.