



# Organizing for Action: A Licensing Guide

Things to keep in mind when  
considering licensure in your state

## Step One: Create a Taskforce

- ✓ Understand that this is a process that takes a lot of time, energy, and effort.
- ✓ Gather together a small group of committed individuals to create a taskforce.
- ✓ Are there any CATs who don't have licensure, but are interested in joining your efforts?
- ✓ Are there any CATS or groups that are not interested in joining your efforts?
- ✓ Contact the Government Affairs Committee as a member of the GAC will serve as a liaison between the taskforce and the NADTA board to provide information and recommendations as you move forward in this process.

## Step Two: Go on a Fact-Finding Mission

- ✓ What is the process for a bill to become a law in your state?
- ✓ How long does a bill typically take to get through this process from start to finish?
- ✓ What other creative arts therapies currently have licensure in your state?
- ✓ Do the following professional organizations have lobby groups in your state? If yes, have you developed relationships with these organizations? Are there any that might oppose your bill? If so, have you talked to the about our profession and how licensure would benefit all?

### In Canada:

- ✓ Canadian Association for Music Therapy
- ✓ Canadian Art Therapy Association
- ✓ Canadian Counseling and Psychotherapy Association
- ✓ Arts Health Network Canada
- ✓ Canadian Arts Coalition

### In US:

- ✓ American Art Therapy Association
- ✓ American Music Therapy Association
- ✓ American Dance Movement Therapy Association
- ✓ American Psychological Association
- ✓ National Association of Social Workers
- ✓ American Counseling Association

### **Step Three: Develop Professional and Political Relationships**

- ✓ What Board oversees licensure for mental health professionals in your state? How do you propose to structure the oversight of the license and representation on the licensing Board? Have you started developing a relationship with the oversight Board to talk about adding drama therapy?
- ✓ Have you talked to your legislators about drama therapy? Are there one or two who would potentially be willing to be sponsors – ideally a Democrat and a Republican from each legislative body?
- ✓ Does your governor or premier support drama therapy licensure? (S/He will need to sign the bill.)

### **Step Four: Create a Realistic Action Plan**

- ✓ Do you have an informed and professional team that is willing to help you write the bill?
- ✓ Have you talked with a member of the NY State Task Force about what we have learned from the LCAT that would be beneficial to know in crafting your bill?
- ✓ How many drama therapists are in your state or province?
- ✓ How many support or wish to pursue licensure?
- ✓ How many have time, energy, diplomacy skills, and writing skills to commit to this project?

*If you are interested in starting a movement towards licensure in your State or Province, contact the Government Affairs Chair at [governmentaffairs@nadta.org](mailto:governmentaffairs@nadta.org).*