

Dear Arizona Music Therapists,

SB 1376 was signed into law Monday April 26, 2010

That's right, after a long season of advocacy the work has finally paid off. The finalized bill reads as follows:

Music therapists; minimum qualifications; definition

A. THE DIVISION SHALL REQUIRE QUALIFICATIONS FOR PERSONS WHO PROVIDE MUSIC THERAPY SERVICES THROUGH A CONTRACT TO PERSONS WITH DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES. AT A MINIMUM THESE QUALIFICATIONS SHALL REQUIRE CURRENT CERTIFICATION BY A NATIONAL CERTIFICATION BOARD FOR MUSIC THERAPISTS. THE DIVISION SHALL IDENTIFY THE SERVICES PROVIDED BY MUSIC THERAPISTS WHO MEET THESE QUALIFICATIONS AS MUSIC THERAPY.

B. FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION, "MUSIC THERAPY" MEANS IMPLEMENTING HABILITATION GOALS THROUGH CLINICAL AND EVIDENCE-BASED MUSIC THERAPY INTERVENTIONS TO ACCOMPLISH INDIVIDUALIZED GOALS AND THE SERVICES THAT ARE CONSISTENT WITH THE OVERALL INDIVIDUAL PROGRAM PLAN ESTABLISHED BY THE PLANNING TEAM.

This bill, and the effort behind it, accomplishes several aims. It establishes the ground work for continued advocacy work in the state legislature and among important state agencies. Second, it names music therapy specifically in DES/DDD. It is hoped that this will favorably affect future classifications so that our clients may be well served. This law has been the result of many hours of advocating for Music Therapy down at the Capitol over the past year, and we are very grateful for your assistance. At times, we needed a core group working with policy writers, interns, research assistants, Senators, Representatives, stakeholders, etc. Other times, we needed a mass email writing/phone calling campaign to come from the entire MT work force. Thanks to everyone who helped in any and every position possible to help SB 1376 along it's journey to becoming a law.

Take a moment to send your senator and representatives a thank you note, pat yourself on the back, and congratulate another music therapist on a job well done.

Your involvement through contacting your Legislators was extremely helpful to the AZ MT Task Force in the goal of passing SB1376 through the AZ Legislative and Executive Offices. This process would have never happened without each and every person that advocated for music therapy and SB 1376. As we went through the process it was even brought up in one meeting by a legislator about music therapists that were in a Veterans Hospital and how he saw music therapy make a difference in the lives of people there. It was his only experience with music therapy but it really stuck with him. So please be encouraged that every time someone watches a session or you answer questions about music therapy that you are impacting the future of music therapy. Thank you again and congratulations!!!

Please stay tuned as there is already talk of the next step in this journey for overall state recognition of music therapy and the MT-BC credential.

Respectfully,

Arizona Task Force

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