

# Charge to the New Jersey State Task Force on Occupational Regulation

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All MAR task forces are convened to accomplish specific goals set out by the MAR Executive Board. A formal recognition of the New Jersey State Task Force (NJSTF) by the MAR Executive Board is necessary in order for NJSTF to avail itself of the support (financial and otherwise) from the Region. All MAR state task forces on occupational regulation fall under the Government Relations Committee. The Chair of the NJSTF will report to the MAR Government Relations Chair. The NJSTF will also work collaboratively with AMTA and CBMT to implement the State Recognition Operational Plan (see attached) and to work to fulfill the AMTA mission of increasing awareness of the benefits of music therapy and increasing access to quality music therapy services within their state. The free flow of information between NJSTF, MAR, AMTA, and CBMT is expected and vital to these initiatives.

## **1) Task Force Membership, Scope, and Length of Term:**

- a. The Charge to the Task Force must be reaffirmed by the MAR Board every two years (in odd-numbered years) by the Summer MAR Executive Board Meeting.
- b. The NJSTF will be guided by the MAR Board's investment in anti-oppressive practices. As such, members of the NJSTF will commit to engaging in a process of humility and awareness of sociocultural identities, as well as contribute towards the goal of creating a more inclusive, equitable, and just environment for all music therapists and stakeholders of the MAR AMTA.
- c. Chair(s) of the NJSTF will be (re)approved by the MAR Board every two years (in odd-numbered years) by the Summer MAR Executive Board Meeting.
- d. Members of the NJSTF, including the Student Representative, will be selected by the voting members of the NJSTF by majority vote.
- e. Members of the NJSTF are asked to commit to two year terms, corresponding to the length of time of the current charge, but if vacancies arise, the NJSTF may select a new member to serve the remainder of the vacancy term.
- f. The professional members of NJSTF should represent the practice of music therapy in New Jersey both in clinical population and in geography.
- g. The NJSTF will include at least three and no more than six professional voting members. In addition, one Student Representative may be included in the task force without the right to vote. Additional task force members with the following titles will serve as ex-officio members without the right to vote: MARAMTS Student Government Relations Representative, MAR President, MAR Government Relations Chair, MAR Government Relations Chair-Elect, AMTA Director of Government Relations, AMTA Government Relations Specialist, CBMT Regulatory Affairs Advisor, and CBMT Regulatory Affairs Associate. Other non-voting members may be added as determined by voting members of the

task force. In the event of a voting tie, the MAR Government Relations Chair will vote to break the tie.

- h. The chair and voting members of NJSTF will be responsible for appointing sub-committees as necessary to accomplish goals set forth by the NJSTF, including provision of materials and other resources for specific assignments/requests of NJSTF.

**2) The Role of the NJSTF Chair Will Include the Following:**

- a. Coordinate the work of the NJSTF and facilitate communication between MAR Government Relations Chair, MAR Government Relations Chair-Elect, AMTA Director of Government Relations, AMTA Government Relations Specialist, CBMT Regulatory Affairs Advisor, and CBMT Regulatory Affairs Associate.
- b. Provide the MAR Government Relations Chair and the MAR Government Relations Chair-Elect with written summary reports of activity of the NJSTF at all regularly scheduled EB meetings and at other times as requested. The Chair should also submit reports to the MAR Government Relations Chair and MAR Government Relations Chair-Elect for the regional newsletter, *RX: Music*.
- c. Coordinate updates regarding NJSTF information on the MAR Website, by communicating with the MAR Government Relations Chair and MAR Government Relations Chair-Elect.
- d. Determine deadlines for feedback or votes. The Chair has the authority to take action on NJSTF business based on the feedback or votes received by the identified deadlines.
- e. Reach out to task force members as needed to offer assistance and provide clarification of NJSTF member roles.
- f. Communicate and/or coordinate efforts with legislators and other stakeholders as necessary.

**3) The Role of the Members Will Include the Following:**

- a. Participate in NJSTF meetings as scheduled.
- b. Fulfill the goals designed and set forth by the NJSTF in accordance with the MAR charge as well as the AMTA and CBMT State Recognition Operational Plan.
- c. Perform tasks designated by the Chair.
- d. Participate in round-table discussions and networking events regarding legislative issues at both regional and national conferences.

**4) The Role of the MAR Executive Board Will Include the Following:**

- a. Provide a Government Relations Chair to serve as a liaison between the MAR Executive Board, AMTA, CBMT, and MAR's state task forces.
- b. Provide support, financial and otherwise, as needed to the NJSTF. Such expenses may include mileage, tolls, lodging, meals, phone, printing, postage,

and other related expenses. All funding requests will go through the MAR Government Relations Chair who will approve and forward requests to the MAR Treasurer and/or Treasurer Elect. Any expenses over \$200.00 must go through the MAR Government Relations Chair and approved by the MAR President.

- c. Facilitate communication between the region's state task forces.
- d. The MAR Board will approve recommended state task force chair(s) during scheduled Executive Board meetings.

## **AMTA and CBMT State Recognition Operational Plan**

**Major Goal:** Achieve state recognition for the music therapy profession and the MT-BC credential required for competent practice.

**Outcome:** Appropriate state agencies will include music therapy and the MT-BC credential within their listings of recognized professions and providers.

**Objective:** Proceed systematically throughout all 50 states focusing first on the states where increased reports of issues related to access are requiring attention.

### **Tasks/Action Steps:**

- a) Prioritize order of states needing current attention, in groupings of 5-7 states at a time.
- b) Create state-based task forces to work together with AMTA and CBMT to facilitate and implement the operational plan of objectives and tasks.
- c) Identify the state agency(s) and system(s) that regulate related professions.
- d) Identify the state agency(s) which list or recognizes professions for service inclusion. The list includes but is not limited to the Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Aging, Medicaid, etc.
- e) Identify where, if listed, music therapy is currently located in state statutes, regulations and agency documents.
- f) Analyze data and investigate methods required to enact changes in state statutes, regulations, and agency documents.
  1. Consider the need for exemption language in existing state statutes, regulations and agency documents.
  2. Consider the process required for inclusion of specific music therapy listing within state agency regulations.
  3. Consider the feasibility of and the process required to create official state recognition (i.e., certification, registration, or licensure).
- g) Determine legislative or regulatory actions to be recommended.
- h) Collect data on music therapy practice and create state-specific fact sheets for use in advocacy.
- i) Implement state advocacy plan, which includes communication with state legislators, state agencies, professional and consumer advocates.
- j) Utilize state music therapy representatives to assist with implementation.