

New Jersey Association for Music Therapy

NJAMT Fact Sheet

MUSIC THERAPY: Music Therapy is the clinical use of music in the accomplishment of these therapeutic aims:
The restoration, maintenance, and improvement of mental and physical health. Music therapists work with individuals of all ages who require special services because of behavioral, social, emotional, learning, or physical disabilities.

Purpose: The Purpose of the New Jersey Association for Music Therapy is to further the development of Music Therapy as a profession within the state of New Jersey.

Objectives: To promote understanding, recognition, and implementation of music therapy services throughout the state of New Jersey.

To coordinate the interests of the music therapy profession with those of related professionals, for the purpose of improving public relations and professional exchange.

Issues Statements:

As Citizens of the State of New Jersey, we look to our government officials to:

- Make the best use of taxpayers' dollars to maintain quality music therapy services both within the state and the not-for profit sector; and
- Begin to effectively address the growing populations of citizens with disabilities, enabling them to achieve full and productive lives.

We seek to:

- Utilize music therapy to assist in the transition of people moving from developmental centers into the community.
- Network and communicate with the Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Department of Veterans Affairs, Department of Corrections, and Department of Community Affairs as to the benefits of the treatment options in music therapy within a variety of settings.
- Encourage the Department of Education to revise regulations relating to certification in Special Education to include Board Certified Music Therapists.
- Increase the utilization of music therapy services in Human Services' Early Intervention Programs.
- Encourage the Division of Mental Health to better utilize music therapists already in their service.
- Continue to educate our lawmakers and state agencies about the profession of music therapy.
- Encourage the New Jersey State healthcare employers to require at least a bachelor's degree in music therapy and board certification for eligibility of employment as a music therapist.

Demographics: There are approximately 150 New Jersey music therapists providing music therapy services in at least 50 different settings throughout New Jersey for approximately 5,000 citizens each week. Employment may be in hospitals, clinics, day care facilities, schools, community mental health centers, substance abuse facilities, nursing homes, hospices, rehabilitation centers, correctional facilities, and private practice.