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**NER-AMTA General Membership Meeting**  
American Music Therapy Association National Conference  
Zoom  
Monday, November 16, 2020

President Adrienne Flight called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Adrienne welcomed meeting attendees to the Zoom Webinar, thanking AMTA for graciously allowing us to use their Zoom account. This is the beginning of the AMTA National conference week.

Adonia Calhoun Coates, new Chief Executive Officer of the AMTA, was present and introduced herself. She recognized that there has been a lot of transition over the past few years and she hopes to bring stability to the association. She wants to learn from and with AMTA members.

Adrienne introduced the officers, delegates, and committee representatives. She invited members to consider running for office. We will have an election during the next general membership meeting at the spring NER Regional conference.

**2. Approval of Minutes**

Channing Shippen made a motion to approve the NER Regional Conference general membership minutes from June 6, 2020. Brian Jantz seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed and the minutes were approved.

**3. Strategic Plan**

Heather Wagner presented and gave history of the strategic planning, commenting on the challenges of strategic planning during the pandemic time. The board made the decision to keep the strategic plan in place from the previous year with small changes. She noted that strategic plans do not need to be met in one year and include our ongoing goals as a region.

**MEMBERSHIP**

1. The NER will continue to address improved engagement with members and the music therapy community by:
  - a. More fully integrating and utilizing the website, social media platforms, and email as a means of communicating with members and related communities.
  - b. Encouraging greater interest in service to the profession through board, committee, and task force membership.
2. The NER will continue to actively increase membership on both the professional and student levels.
3. The NER will more fully implement its member support programs, including conference scholarship, dues assistance, and educational opportunities.

**FINANCIAL**

1. The NER will continue to be financially solvent.

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- a. The NER will continue fundraising efforts.
- b. To continue to hold financially responsible regional conferences.
2. The NER will explore opportunities to receive community/foundation/organizational grants that promote the work of the NER
  - a. The NER will explore opportunities to offer clinical grants to members for program development and research.

### **PROFESSIONAL ISSUES**

1. The NER will support state task force efforts in each of its representative states.
2. The NER will provide leadership and guidance in promoting diversity and inclusion, *including board membership.*
3. The NER will develop a plan to provide disaster recovery check-in and practical support for music therapists who have been impacted by natural or human-made disasters.

If you have feedback or suggestions for our strategic plan, please contact Heather.

#### **4. Financial Update**

Adrienne presented the following information on behalf of treasurer Rebakah DiMieri:

NER Checking: \$11,427.04

NER Savings: \$52,356.15

NER-AMTAS Checking: \$1,933.79

Students are doing incredible work managing their finances!

#### **5. Bylaws Change**

Brian reviewed the current bylaws text and the proposed new text, offering explanations for the changes. The following bylaws changes were voted upon:

##### **Proposed Change Number 1**

###### *Proposed Change*

Change language from “Webmaster or Webmistress” to “Web Administrator.”

Editorial changes are being proposed for all sections where this title is found to ensure consistency throughout the bylaws document.

###### *Rationale*

To use inclusive, gender-neutral language throughout bylaws when referring to elected and appointed officers on the board including webmistress/webmaster (found in ARTICLE IV section 6, ARTICLE V section 2, ARTICLE V section 5, ARTICLE VI section 1).

###### *Motion*

Heather moved to approve, Jean Nemeth seconded. With no discussion and following a vote, the motion passed.

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### **6. Membership & NER Initiatives**

Brian reported on behalf of membership committee chair Mark Fuller, sharing information about the Pay-It-Forward initiative and COVID-19 response reminders.

The next steps will be connecting with the DEI committee to improve inclusivity within the NER community and reviewing strengths and challenges for the current Pay-It-Forward to improve future initiatives.

### **7. NER-AMTAS/SAAB Update**

Diana Cortes, President of NER-AMTAS and Toby Rodrigues, President-Elect, presented the following report:

#### 1. Annual Goal

- To create and share opportunities for students and interns in the region about transformative justice and related topics in the music therapy practice.

#### 2. 2019-20 Events

- Passages 2020: This tenure's Passages theme was "Passages 2020: Amplifying Unheard Voices for Transformative Justice". We were aiming to encourage students and new professionals to research and make their presentations dedicated to becoming co-conspirators for transformative justice and cultural progress, promoting anti-racism, making our practices anti-oppressive, unlearning homophobia and transphobia, interrogating ableism, and avoiding cultural appropriation and theft. The conference was scheduled for October 24, 2020, however, it was postponed due to insufficient submissions of presentation proposals. The board is currently working on designing this year's Passages to be integrated into the regional NER-AMTA conference next Spring.
- In lieu of Passages being postponed, the NER-AMTAS board is planning to host virtual paid guest speakers on transformative justice and related topics for the remainder of 2020 and the beginning of 2021. The board is aiming for one paid speaker a month starting at the end of November but will depend on speakers' availability. Members of the student board are in the process of contacting members of the Black Music Therapy Network, Asian Music Therapy Network, Latin American Music Therapy Network, and Team Rainbow.
- Spring Advocacy Event: MT Awareness Open Mic and Trivia Night: NER-AMTAS had confirmed a host location for our fourth annual spring advocacy event, scheduled for April 11, 2020. The event was to be a music therapy trivia and open mic night open to students and the public and was to take place at the Community Music Center of Boston. Sadly, this event had to be canceled due to the onset of the Coronavirus.
- NER-AMTAS Spring Virtual Panel: The purpose of this project is to gather different perspectives and experiences that would provide information for professional development on a specific subject of the music therapy field. A small survey was released on 11/11/2020 through social media platforms and email to the NER-AMTAS community to poll a topic of interest for a regional virtual panel. The board is aiming for a diverse group of panelists that include a

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graduating student, intern, new professional, veteran music therapist, and potentially a client/patient to talk in a virtual panel. All panelists will be given monetary compensation for their participation in the event. Our timeline projects the event to happen in late February 2021.

### 3. Fundraising

- As a consequence of postponing Passages and the ongoing impact of the pandemic on students and interns of the region, the board has been unable to perform fundraising efforts this Fall. The board will revisit making a fundraising plan for the Spring term.
- Fundraising efforts go towards supporting NER music therapy students through scholarships and educational and community events

### 4. Scholarships

- AMTA Membership Scholarships: Two at \$75 each.  
Awarded to AMC/Berklee. No Lesley University applicants.
- NER Conference Scholarships: \$0  
Three \$100 scholarships made available for Lesley University students.  
One student applicant. NER 2020 suspended.
- Total awarded: \$150

### 5. Communications/Social Media:

- Active re-posting: Area music therapy events, national music therapy posts, and information about scholarships regionally and nationally.
- NER-AMTA COVID-19 Resources: Sharing NER communication to student body since March 2020.
- NER-AMTAS Statement: With the help and support of the DEI Committee, the student board released a statement on 7/30/2020 through social media and email platforms to the NER-AMTAS community addressing our solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement.

### 6. Annual Student Business Meeting: May 16, 2020, via Zoom

Attendance: Due to NER 2020's suspension, the student board unanimously decided to meet virtually on May 16, 2020. 24 students from all three NER schools attended via Zoom: 13 from Anna Maria College, 8 from Berklee College of Music, and 3 from Lesley University. Kayla Daly, SAAB rep, was also present.

Bylaws updates: 13 bylaw changes were approved. Most significant was an edition to a section added last year about a Video Masterclass Committee. The new wording allows each board to decide their own engagement project: "The Executive Board shall be responsible for the development of any committees desired to encourage student involvement". Additionally, all "she/hers, he/his" pronouns were switched for "they/them" for inclusion purposes.

NER-AMTAS board elections: 9 out of 10 positions were filled. The position of Treasurer remains unfilled. School/student breakdown: Berklee, 3; Anna Maria, 5; and Lesley, 1. Toby Rodriguez from Anna Maria is the new President-Elect. The position of Treasurer was filled in a follow-up meeting on June 20, 2020.

## **8. Regional Conference Update**

Vice President Channing Shippen and Vice President-Elect Kathlyn Sell presented information regarding the upcoming spring regional conference. Channing talked about the

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challenges and decisions that have been made due to the ongoing pandemic. For the 2021 conference, we once again had to make the difficult decision to switch to a virtual platform to ensure that everyone remains safe. Channing and Kathlynn have come up with some creative solutions for the conference.

Kathlynn talked about the summer CMTE series from this past year. It included three presentations that would have been presented at the in-person conference. We had 93 registrants, including participants from all regions. Based on survey responses, the conference will be structured as a series of mini conferences. There will be a short series of presentations of related topics, another day for committee presentations, and another NER-AMTA community day to bring everyone together while we are all so far apart. They have sent an email to everyone who was selected to be a concurrent session presenter for 2020, offering presentation opportunities to them first.

We have moved our Stoweflake contract to 2022. We will have our next in-person conference on April 28-30, 2022 in Stowe, Vermont.

Channing reported that their priority for the 2021 conference is to make it affordable and accessible to everyone in the region. Costs will be kept as low as possible. If you have any feedback, questions, comments, or concerns, please contact [neramataconference@gmail.com](mailto:neramataconference@gmail.com).

### **9. Assembly, Standing Committee, and State Task Force Updates**

#### ***Academic Program Approval Committee***

There are no official talking points yet as the committee has not yet had its meeting. Heather shared that they are continuing the work of approving programs. They have submitted language to the assembly to work towards updated standards of education and clinical practice.

#### ***Association Internship Approval Committee***

Brian reported that committee will be meeting on Friday, so there are no formal talking points. He reported that this year the supervising national roster internship CMTE was recorded, and it will be available through the AMTA YouTube channel. Hopefully there will be more information soon. We still have five national roster sites in NER. Eve Montague commented that the good part of recording the CMTE is that it is current.

#### ***Clinical Practice Networking Committee***

Eva Vukich presented the following report:

##### **Main Order of Business**

The Clinical Practice Networking Committee (CPN) provides coordination of networking and mentoring opportunities for music therapists at the national and regional levels. This includes the facilitation of networking events at national and regional conferences. The committee also works to identify structures that support mentoring.

### Key Successes

- Our committee was able to fill all vacant positions for representatives of the Mid-Atlantic and Midwestern regions, as well as the AMTA student representative. During this reporting period, we were able to recruit Sarah Biedka (Mid-Atlantic Region), Kailey Campbell (Midwestern Region) and Christina O’Neil (AMTA Student Rep).
- Some regional representatives engaged in crowdsourcing topics for this year’s national conference networking event on social media. This helped to identify the need for an additional conference event that focused on topics relating to COVID and other sociocultural topics.

### Action Items

Regarding our primary task of coordinating a networking event at the national conference, we report the following:

- The CPN committee is creating two online networking events at national conference to meet the interests of AMTA members.
- One event, entitled “**Current Conversations**” will take place **Friday November 20, 4:30-6 PM EST**, and will focus on acknowledging and addressing the current sociocultural climate and its impacts on our clients, clinical work and our own identities as clinicians and individuals in the world. Topics will include, Coping with COVID, Telehealth, technology, stress and burnout, Allies for Social Justice, Cultural Reflexivity and Anti-Oppressive Practice, Black Lives Matter, community health, and re-envisioning AMTA.
- The second networking event entitled ‘**Clinical Populations**’ will occur **Sunday November 22 12:30-2 pm EST**, This event is fashioned after our more traditional events concerning settings such as Mental Health, Older Adults, Military, Medical, Neurodiversity, Hospice, Trauma, Early Childhood, Schools, and also business owners, MT Managers and Student supervision
- We warmly welcome NER membership and encourage you to join these networking opportunities at national conference!
- The committee will continue to assess arising needs of AMTA members. Following the events, please reach out to your CPNC regional representative with your comments and feedback.

### Future Issues

- The CPN committee is tasked to continually adjust its networking events at regional conferences in order to meet health and safety needs in response to COVID-19. We are tasked to create online platforms to encourage continued networking opportunities. We are continuing to gather best platforms for these events in this effort (i.e., zoom, webex, etc.).
- We continue to consider how mentor-mentee networking is best placed within this committee.

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- Mentoring is currently being developed in the MAR and GLR region. As such, representatives from those regions will be reporting on these networking efforts as we continue to develop this program on a more national level.

### ***Continuing Education***

Amanda Reopel reported that the committee meeting will be tomorrow night. Julie Andring was looking for a few more proctors for the national conference. Amanda will be here to support members when it comes to the CMTEs that we plan on offering during the conference.

### ***Ethics and Disaster Response***

Jen Sokira reported the disaster response task force will be meeting Friday. She will pass along any further updates.

There will be an ethics CMTE on Friday. If you are interested in serving on the ethics board, there is a link through Music Therapy Matters and the AMTA webpage. This is very important service to the music therapy community.

### ***Government Relations***

Nicole O'Malley reported that states have been impressively active. Vermont has had two virtual public hearings. New Hampshire had a bill that went through the house that was tabled because of COVID-19. This is exciting and unprecedented.

### ***International Relations***

Meg Capen shared the following report:

#### **Main Order of Business**

The International Relations Committee (IRC) is charged with facilitating awareness of international opportunities and events by AMTA members and with the inclusion of international perspectives of music therapy in AMTA. We assist international students, support international guests at the annual national conference, host the Global Perspectives session, and inform AMTA members of international opportunities and collaborations.

#### **Key Successes**

- Distributed the IRC-created International Students/Intern Corona Virus Needs Assessment Survey to our membership.
- Created a report on the outcomes of the Needs Assessment Survey and provided that information to the COVID-19 Task Force.
- Committee members personally followed up with survey respondents who volunteered their contact information on the survey
- Distributed the call for submission for the 2020 Global Perspectives Session at National Conference

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### Action Item

- IRC is in progress of scheduling the GPS presentation and communicating with presenters.

### Future Issues

- Recommend further contributions to the new committee around the ethics of international service learning.
- The IRC is looking to coordinate international meetings or panel discussion to allow for members to learn about current topics in International relations, as well as to share experiences, concerns, and initiatives.
- Possibly creating a Policy and Procedure Document for the IRC which includes names and contacts of various international organizations, groups, committees and timelines for projects (GPS, meetings/panels).

### Supporting Materials

- Link to the International Students/Intern Corona Virus Needs Assessment Survey: <https://forms.gle/NeMbKVL8q3P5Woz37>

### Committee Membership

- Austin Thorn will transition out of the position of Student Representative at the National Conference. He has been an incredible member of this committee and we greatly appreciate all of his hard work and dedication.
- Crystal Chu will transition to the position of Student Representative beginning at National Conference, November 2020.

### ***Interprofessional Collaborative Resources Committee***

Caitlin Hebb reported that the committee is moving forward with fact sheets. They have a three-month deadline for completion. They are brainstorming new ideas for potentially offering a continuing music therapy course or some sort of social media involvement for this committee.

### ***Professional Advocacy Committee***

Maggie Connors reported that this committee is meeting on Thursday and briefly again on Friday. She shared that they are working on best practice responses in responding to music-based apps. There is a private Facebook group that you can request to join that has advocacy resources, readings, recorded presentations, and a point of contact to reach out to the committee.

### ***Reimbursement Committee***

Tom Hayden reported that the committee is meeting tomorrow. He is hopeful that they will be continuing what they have done this past year. Committee initiatives went askew because of COVID. Something this year will happen with reimbursement and being out in the community more, even if it is in a virtual capacity.

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### ***Standards of Clinical Practice***

Wendy Krueger spoke about the multiple transitions that have taken place, commenting that the new CEO was not named last time this committee met. There is no update at this time as the committee is meeting this Wednesday evening.

### ***Workforce Development and Retention***

Sarah Gagnon presented the following report:

#### **Action Updates:**

**Goal 1 Task 1:** Ideas are welcome on how to reach out to potential high school students; working on a proposal on how to develop and promote short media recordings of students, professors and professionals in our region for our region.

**Goal 1 Task 4:** Saturday 11/21/2020 at 2pm online facebook live stream event “Insight Into The Music Therapy Profession Panel Presentation. Facebook links/flyer was posted today and added here: <https://www.facebook.com/events/721199208465836>

**Goal 2 Task 2:** Retention Survey submitted to BOD for review.

**Goal 3 Task 2:** Development of Eternal Google Forum: Where AMTA professionals may leave feedback about field and retention issues to be disseminated and reviewed by the WDR Committee to be open and offered during surveys and members.

All other goals and tasks are ongoing through the next cycle.

#### **Additional Information:**

Please reach out to [sarahg@musictherapynewengland.org](mailto:sarahg@musictherapynewengland.org) with any questions, ideas or preferences about how you'd like to help promote music therapy to our future!

For information about our committees:

Committee Handbook: [https://www.musictherapy.org/assets/1/7/com\\_handbook202.PDF](https://www.musictherapy.org/assets/1/7/com_handbook202.PDF)

### ***Assembly***

Eve Montague reported that it is always educational to sit in and take in the process of assembly. If you are interested, the meetings are taking place at Wednesday at 8:00 pm, Friday at 6:00 pm, Saturday at 1:30 pm. The general business meeting is Saturday evening at 6:00 pm. Consider attending if you are interested in the governance of the AMTA. It is important for all of us to be transparent and to know what is going on in the organization.

## **10. Good and Welfare**

Heather reminded everyone about the COVID-19 resources that are on the AMTA website.

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**11. Adjournment**

Kathlynn entertained a motion to adjourn the meeting, and Channing seconded the motion. With no discussion, the motion passed. The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Cecilia Burns, MMT, MT-BC  
Secretary, NER-AMTA