

ATCB

REVIEW

Official Newsletter
of the Art Therapy
Credentials Board

Summer 2006

Mission: To protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy

Message from the ATCB President:

Gayle M. Sutch, ATR-BC

The ATCB is using a variety of forums to roll-out the credentials upgrade opportunity called the "BC Initiative." I realize that many of you were made aware of the initiative via the last issue of our newsletter and have seen references to it on our Web site. However, you may still have some questions about this time-limited opportunity. In an effort to answer some of these questions much of this current issue of the ATCB Review is devoted to issues related to the "BC Initiative."

The following history about the development of the initiative may help some of you better understand the rationale and conceptual platform upon which the "BC Initiative" was constructed.



In a joint meeting between representatives from the leadership of The American Art Therapy Association and the Art Therapy Credential Board held in August 2005, both organizations agreed to partner in support of an important AATA Governmental Affairs Committee agenda item – seeking statutory regulations for the protection of the practice of art

therapy on a state-by-state basis. Both organizations agreed that the credential preferred for this legislative push would be the ATR-BC (Board Certified Art Therapist). Further, both organizations recognized that, in order to attract legislators to this effort, it would require greater numbers of credentialed art therapy practitioners. The Art Therapy Credentials Board currently maintains 2315 Registered Art Therapists (ATRs) but only 1519 Board Certified Art Therapists (ATR-BCs). In order to advance the profession of art therapy it will be necessary to increase the number of ATR-BCs. AATA and ATCB hope that at least 1000 ATRs will become Board Certified before April of 2007.

Between August 2005 and January 2006, the Boards of AATA and the ATCB worked to construct a viable plan to encourage a greater number of art therapists to attain the BC credential. Utilizing the personnel and financial resources of both Boards, the BC Initiative was unveiled in April with the goal of strengthening the perception of the profession of art therapy. The BC Initiative is a time limited opportunity for all art therapists to attain the BC credential. AATA members have an additional incentive because they can apply for the credential at a substantially reduced rate. The initiative provides three application options and the ATCB has arranged for the BC Examination to be offered at multiple sites and dates

throughout the initiative period that will end in April 2007.

To learn more about the BC Initiative please go to our Web site www.atcb.org where you will find additional information and downloadable applications.

By obtaining Board Certification during the BC Initiative you will be contributing to the overall advancement of the profession of art therapy.

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**Visit www.atcb.org
for the latest
information about
the 2006 Board
Certification
Examination dates.**

Facts about the BC Initiative

1. What are the benefits of becoming an ATR-BC?

- Board Certification signifies that you have achieved the highest credential you can earn as an art therapist;
- Board Certification assures employers, clients and the public that you have achieved and adhere to the highest standards set by a professional credentialing organization;
- Board Certification acknowledges that you adhere to a Code of Professional Practice standards and are accountable to an oversight entity;
- Board Certification requires that you receive continuing professional education to remain current in trends, theory, and practice;
- Board Certification gives you recognition within your profession and with related professional organizations;

2. Does board certification affect my status to practice or collect insurance?

Your status to practice will depend on the licensing laws in your state. In many states certification may not by itself be enough to allow you to practice. AATA's legislative goals and efforts are aimed at achieving statutory recognition and protection of art therapists in all states with the ATR-BC as the benchmark criteria for such recognition.

Your ability to secure third party (insurance) payment is dependent on the law of the state in which you practice and the payment policies of the insurers in that state. A stated benefit of the legislative goals is to achieve wider and better insurance payment for art therapists.

3. What happens if I have trouble getting my state board to complete the verification form for Option II?

Most Boards are in the practice of completing verification of licensure forms. Some Boards do charge a nominal fee. Check with your Board to find out about their process. ATCB will accept a print out from a Board Web site if it comes directly from the Board and if it contains the required information outlined on the verification form.

4. I am nationally certified but do not hold state licensure or certification, will this qualify for Option II?

In order to be eligible to apply under Option II, the applicant must be licensed or certified by their state licensing authority in a mental health related field. The license or certification must authorize the individual to practice independently in the state. ATCB recognizes the following fields as mental health related: Art Therapy, Counseling, Marriage and Family Therapy, Social Work, Psychology, Addictions Counseling, Psychiatric Nursing, Psychiatry;

5. Option II – If I am licensed in more than one state, do I need to obtain verification from all states?

You only need verification from one state. Your licensure must be current and active.

6. How many CECs are required to maintain the ATR-BC?

ATR-BCs must document 100 continuing education credits in a five-year period. Specific information about recertification and continuing education can be found on our Web site at www.atcb.org.

7. Who will review the Option III applications and why will it take 6 months to receive a response?

The Option III application is a special application process for those who have significant

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Documenting Professional Supervision: A Practice Improvement Tip

Whether you are a recent graduate, beginning to collect hours towards the ATR, or a more seasoned professional, making use of supervision or consultation to strengthen your competencies, the ATCB recommends careful documentation of all professional supervision.

Documenting professional supervision doesn't need to be a hassle or a chore. The creation of a supervision log form (that can then be placed in a notebook or binder) can simplify the task and keep your records in order. A typical log form would indicate the date and length of the supervisory session, the general nature of the topic(s) discussed, the name and credentials/license of the supervisor, and his/her signature. Obviously, when noting the topic(s) discussed you will want to avoid break-

ing the confidentiality of your client(s) by making sure that no identifying information is included.

Keep in mind that the ATCB always recommends face-to-face supervision particularly when it is being conducted to fulfill requirements of the ATR. However, if the supervision/consultation is other than a face-to-face contact, as in the case of a professional using telephone communication to consult with a colleague. We recommend that you inform the supervisor/consultant that you will be sending them a form to sign – it's a nice touch to include a self-addressed, stamped envelope for return purposes.

Documenting professional supervision also makes good sense from a number of perspectives. It will serve

as a personal record of the number of contacts that you make to improve your practice competencies – thus ensuring that you are making your best efforts to provide ethical treatment to your client(s). Keeping a record of supervision can be useful after the ATR credential has been attained if you later elect to apply for a license. Also, a supervision log will serve as a permanent record of your professional oversight should you lose contact with a supervisor due to their relocation or death.

If you have a practice improvement tip to share, please send it to the ATCB office, attention ATCB Review Editor.

ATCB Unveils Strategic Plan

At its spring meeting in Greensboro, NC, the Board of Directors (BOD) gave unanimous approval to the ATCB Strategic Plan. The Plan, resulting from a year's worth of careful scrutiny by all members of the ATCB BOD, was developed out of strategic planning session led by then consultant to the ATCB, Bill More, ATR-BC. During the initial phase of the planning session, the Board was divided up into teams to identify the organization's strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities. This exercise was followed by an active period of brainstorming about how to maximize our strengths and opportunities while considering how to overcome our weaknesses and the external/environmental threats. By the end of the session, the Board had articulated four strategic goals. They are as follows:

- I. Improve awareness of the ATCB credentials
- II. Use the ATCB's financial resources to support the ATCB mission
- III. Improve external and internal communication
- IV. Evaluate the ATCB credentials in order to fulfill the ATCB mission and vision

The next step in the process was to flesh out each of the four goals by developing strategic objectives, suggested actions to be taken, the designating of responsible parties, and a timeline for completion. Terry Towne, ATR-BC, volunteered to organize this task using e-mail communication with the rest of the BOD. Over the past twelve months the plan has steadily taken shape so that, with minor adjustments, it was approved in May 2006.

The current ATCB Strategic Plan will be in effect between 2006-2008 and will be evaluated at each meeting of the Board of Directors. Each member of the BOD will be responsible for semi-annual reporting on how his/her activities specifically support the plan. The ATCB BOD believes strongly that the Strategic Plan will serve to provide focus to our work in fulfilling our mission; "to protect the public by promoting the competent and ethical practice of art therapy."

We invite you to review the plan in its entirety by visiting our Web site, www.atcb.org. Updates on our progress will be published regularly in the ATCB Review.

Call for Nominations

The ATCB Nominating Committee seeks interested and qualified nominees for the ATCB Board of Directors for a two-year term (beginning in odd-numbered years). Applicants will be considered for two positions on the board.

The deadline for nominations is June 30th .

You may submit your own or a colleague's name for consideration as a nominee. The following instructions and guidelines are provided to help you with your submission:

1. When submitting the name of a colleague (or your own name):
 - a. obtain the nominee's consent to run.
 - b. fill out bottom of this letter and mail to the National Office. A Nomination Application will be sent to each nominee.
 - c. be sure the nomination form arrives at the national office by June 30, 2006

2. Keep the following criteria in mind when considering well-qualified individuals for nomination:
 - a. Only ATCB credentialed individuals may be considered.
 - b. Nominees must be available and willing to serve for two-years.
 - c. Nominees must have prior experience on an ATCB or AATA board, committee, or special project preferred.

Nominee's Name: _____ ATR-BC# (if known): _____

Nominated by: _____ ATR/ATR-BC#: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip _____ Phone# _____

**I am nominating this individual because _____

(**optional)

Please submit completed nomination forms to:

Art Therapy Credentials Board, Inc.
3 Terrace Way, Suite B
Greensboro, NC 27403-3660

