

Music Therapy in Colorado **Updated January 2016**

What is Music Therapy?

Music Therapy is the clinical and evidence-based use of music interventions to accomplish individualized goals within a therapeutic relationship by a credentialed professional who has completed an approved music therapy program. (American Music Therapy Association definition, 2015)

Music therapists are independently certified through the Certification Board for Music Therapists (www.cbmt.org) after completing a bachelor's or master's degree, 1200+ hours of clinical training, a six-month clinical training internship, and passing a national board exam. A qualified music therapist holds the credential "MT-BC."

Board Certified Music Therapists (MT-BC's) use music and music-based experiences to improve the quality of life for Coloradans.

- Currently there are 153 MT-BC's in Colorado as of January 2016.
- It is estimated that 141 Colorado music therapists treated over 22,000 people in 2015! Unfortunately, many more people who could benefit from music therapy have no access to services due to the lack of state recognition.
- Populations served in Colorado include: Individuals with intellectual/developmental disabilities, autism spectrum disorder, physical and sensory impairments, mental health, and seniors with Alzheimer's or dementia.
- Where do MT-BC's work? In residential care facilities for persons with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses, schools, general medical hospitals, rehabilitation hospitals, hospices, behavioral and mental health agencies, geriatric facilities, group homes, child development centers, outpatient clinics, other health and educational facilities, and private practice.

What is the Music Therapy State Task Force?

The state task force is a group of Board Certified Music Therapists striving to increase recognition of the MT-BC credential in our state. In March 2016, the task force will be introducing a title protection bill, to ensure that qualified professionals provide music therapy to consumers. Official state recognition will increase access to music therapy services for Coloradans.

State Recognition Across the U.S.

Currently, 7 states have legislation, recognizing the MT-BC credential. This includes licensure, registration, and certification. This spring, 11 additional states have active MT legislation filed too!

Alarming Fact

16% of Colorado music therapists have been made aware of cases where potential or real harm has been done to a consumer of services by a non-credentialed service provider claiming to be providing "music therapy."

For more information, visit: www.musictherapycolorado.org (Click on State Task Force-Advocacy)