

## Script for Meeting with State Legislators

**1) INTRODUCTION:** Thank you for taking the time out of your busy schedule to meet with me. I want to talk with you about music therapy and our music therapy registration bill.

**2) DEFINE MUSIC THERAPY:** Music therapy = is the therapeutic use of music to help individuals reach their highest functioning levels.

**3) DESCRIBE YOUR EMPLOYMENT:** I'm in private practice in the metro area & work with people with autism, elderly, DD, CP, and mental illness.

**4) DESCRIBE OUR EDUCATION:** Qualified MTs have at least a bachelor's degree in music therapy; completed a 6 month internship and are board-certified. (show brochure) We are board-certified through a national exam conducted by the Certification Board for Music Therapists.

### **5) WHAT DO MT'S DO?**

Assess client's status thru musical responses

Design interventions or clients based on their needs

Evaluate and follow up

**6) CLIENT STORY:** One example: N. has severe autism, with limited verbal skills, aggressive and destructive behavior. Across 4.5 yrs., I've worked with him- 1-2x a week. MT has been the ONLY therapy he's adhered to. Thru MT, N. has increased communication, increased verbal skills, decreased destructive behavior, and attended for 3-6 minutes per intervention (ie-playing an instrument). MT has had a powerful impact on N's life.

**7) TASK FORCE:** We have a state task force that's working with our national association- American Music Therapy Assoc. and the Certification Board for Music Therapy- seeking state recognition thru registration. This would protect consumers (our clients), increase access to MT services, and increase funding, as well as protect the MT-BC title.

Currently, private insurance companies refuse to pay for MT based solely on the fact that we do not have state recognition. Also, there is language either in the Pediatric Hospice Medicaid Waiver or in Medicaid itself which says that MTs have to have a state license.

**8) CURRENT STATUS:** Senator Betty Boyd and Representative Nancy Todd will be sponsoring a bill to have music therapists licensed in the state of Colorado.

**This bill will be cost neutral for the state. (Music therapists will absorb all costs of regulation).**

**This bill is very important as it will protect Coloradoans from people who claim to be music therapists, but who are unqualified to deliver services.**

*The Bottom Line today—***Please vote for the music therapy registration bill**

