



ASHA

American
Speech-Language-Hearing
Association

Sent via email: simpson@musictherapy.org

February 18, 2020

Deborah Benkovitz Williams
President
American Music Therapy Association
8455 Colesville Road, Suite 1000
Silver Spring, MD 20910

Dear Ms. Williams:

On behalf of the American-Speech-Language Hearing Association (ASHA), I write to clarify that an agreement has not been reached between ASHA and the American Music Therapy Association (AMTA) on model language establishing licensure for music therapists.

It has come to ASHA's attention that music therapists have incorrectly claimed that ASHA and AMTA have reached an agreement on model language establishing licensure for music therapists. Furthermore, it is ASHA's understanding that music therapists in Virginia, Washington State, and perhaps elsewhere, have made this false claim to state legislators and ASHA-affiliated state speech-language-hearing associations.

Over the past two years, ASHA has engaged both AMTA and the Certification Board of Music Therapists on model language establishing licensure for music therapists. During the most recent meeting in November 2019, AMTA presented draft language to which ASHA responded with suggested edits. To date, ASHA has not received a response from AMTA concerning these proposed edits. Consequently, no agreement between ASHA and AMTA has been reached.

ASHA supports music therapists and other professionals working with individuals who have a communication disorder as a part of a collaborative team. However, ASHA maintains that only a certified audiologist or speech-language pathologist has the appropriate education and training necessary to treat a communication disorder effectively.

ASHA is currently notifying its members, affiliated state associations, and state legislators that no agreement between ASHA and AMTA has been reached on model language establishing licensure for music therapists. ASHA requests that AMTA do the same.

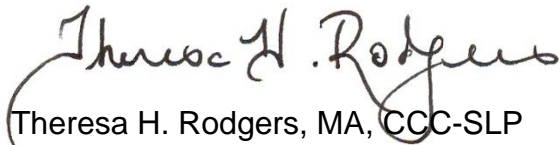
ASHA is also pleased to continue discussions and dialogue on this issue. Please contact Jeffrey P. Regan, ASHA's Director of Government Affairs and Public Policy, at jregan@asha.org.

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Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Theresa H. Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "T".

Theresa H. Rodgers, MA, CCC-SLP
2020 ASHA President

cc: Judy Simpson, AMTA