

I am Ann Wingate, Dance therapist nationally board certified and licensed as a DT to practice psychotherapy in the state of WI. 1. It is imperative to maintain the dance therapy registration and license. A director of a Behavioral Health agency which refers many clients with chronic mental health issues and complex trauma for DT services has stated the importance of licensing to: "safeguard the public by providing a differentiation between trained dance therapists and the many other dancers who believe that they can do what you do".

Another constituent Rosalie Migas wrote in her testimony "As a licensed clinical social worker I am aghast at the thought of what eliminating the credentials of dance therapists would do to our most vulnerable children"

Dance therapists work with highly vulnerable people including those with developmental disabilities autism chronic mental health needs dementia, complex trauma and addictions through government funded programs including CLTS, IRIS, and CCS. Our state registration and license are required for contracts with these entities.

2. A Wisconsin licensed psychologist says: "We are in the midst of a mental health crisis in our state, with not nearly enough qualified therapists to meet the need for services. I am writing to implore that you not eliminate the WI state Dance therapist registration and license."

3. Dance therapists are trained to form therapeutic relationship with those who have limited language ability to engage in verbal therapy whether due to age, developmental disability or trauma. Dance therapists work directly with all clients to access and integrate unspoken feelings. DT helps people to use their physiology to regulate emotions for optimal ability to successfully relate in the community. A client I work with had been on prescription opioids for over a decade for chronic physical pain and emotional distress. This client was concerned about becoming another opioid statistic. Client was able to use the skills she learned in DT to help her completely withdraw from opioids and has lived free of them for over a year. DT helps keep people from potential institutionalization and even death.

4. the specific dance therapy registration and license in WI is Important for the employment of WI DTs. We have young people who have completed a DT graduate program, which are all out of state, and who choose to return to their home state of WI to meet the mental health needs of WI residents. Without the specific DT license they may not be able to remain in WI to do their work.

5. I have worked in WI as a DT for 34 years, since 1988. If the DT license is eliminated I will no longer be able to be gainfully employed to provide the psychotherapy services I have extensive experience to do and so will not be able help meet the mental health needs of Wisconsinites.

I am Meg Chang, a licensed Board-Certified Dance/Movement Therapist and the National Representative for the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA), I teach in the Dance/Movement Therapy Master's Program at Lesley University, Cambridge, MA. In addition to teaching graduate level students, I served on the Education Committee of the ADTA.

Dance/Movement Therapy is the psychotherapeutic use of dance and movement to promote emotional, social, cognitive and physical integration of the individual. It is an established MH profession* (is listed in the US Dept of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles CODE: 076.127-018 as a **medical service**). It is practiced worldwide, & in the US since 1940s.

Dance/Movement Therapy is a mental health discipline that is based on evidence-based research, consisting of *randomized controlled trials* and *syntheses of research*. Studies document that DMT is useful to treat serious mental illnesses (schizophrenia, depression, mood disorders), eating disorders, medical illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, trauma, addiction, and dementia. [have bibliography handy]

Dance/movement therapists are educated in nonverbal communication to engage and help alleviate the emotional pain of such clients and are specifically trained to treat consumers who are in the most vulnerable situations.

The educational requirements of the ADTA for dance therapists are comprehensive. Training is conducted at an advanced practitioners' level. No additional training other than what has been vetted by ADTA and the DMT Certifying Board is needed.

The need is great. One employer of Dance/Movement Therapists is the Hancock Center, in Madison. They hire exclusively credentialed and licensed dance therapists. The Center served an average of 1,490 consumers per year from 2008-2017. Please note, the accurate count of consumers served during this period is 12,000 as cited in our previous written testimony.

Untrained persons can and do use dance in nursing homes, special schools, and hospitals, but without a comprehensive formal education they may inadvertently harm the clients or put themselves in danger. **To conclude: The state does not need to add educational**

requirements; keeping the Wisconsin registry/license will continue to protect the public as it has over the decades. [find # years]

BACKGROUND INFORMATION-IF TIME OR INTEREST

For example, an extremely respected psychologist/psychoanalyst (the late Diane Shainberg) told a story about her early attempts to use dance on a psychiatric ward before she had other formal training. She had a great deal of dance experience and liked the idea of using dance with psychiatric patients. She took a drum onto the unit and began beating out a rhythm. The residents became overstimulated and she was not able to modulate the mood. She recounted having to resort to standing on a table because she did not know what else to do.

423 words

US Dept of Labor Dictionary of Occupational Titles

* CODE: **076.127-018**

TITLE(s): **DANCE THERAPIST (medical ser.)**

Plans, organizes, and leads dance and body movement activities to improve patients' mental outlooks and physical well-beings: Observes and evaluates patient's mental and physical disabilities to determine dance and body movement treatment. Confers with patient and medical personnel to develop dance therapy program. Conducts individual and group dance sessions to improve patient's mental and physical well-being. Makes changes in patient's program based on observation and evaluation of progress. Attends and participates in professional conferences and workshops to enhance efficiency and knowledge.

GOE: 10.02.02 STRENGTH: L GED: R5 M3 L5 SVP: 8 DLU: 86

Dance/Movement Therapy Testimony to State of WI Legislative Study Committee

Executive Summary

Dance/Movement Therapy is a form of psychotherapy developed in the U.S. in the 1940s and 1950s and professionalized in 1966 by the incorporation of the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA) to oversee the development of training and education. It remains the only organization in the U.S. that supports the profession, and its purpose is to establish and maintain the highest standards of professional competence for the practice of dance therapy and Dance Therapists. In 1970 a registry of those meeting requirements to practice dance therapy and a Credentials Committee were established.

In 2009, a separate organization, the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB) was incorporated to separate the credentialing function from ADTA. It is the only organization in the U.S. that credentials Dance Therapists. The organizations effectively keep the functions of education and the approval of Master's degree programs in dance/movement therapy and credentialing apart for the profession.

For over 50 years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served untold thousands of citizens in local communities for example, providing movement-based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders. Those with challenges such as survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with post-traumatic stress disorder, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression have all benefitted by regaining health and the ability to contribute to society. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - assisting public welfare. Since 1998, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served the public via the Wisconsin Registry for Music, Art and Dance Therapists. Sections below will outline the benefits to the Wisconsin legislature of continuing to support this Registry showing the same support as 32 other states that currently license or allow licensing access to Dance Therapists. Federal recognition in the form of the Federal Civil Service Classification for art, music, and dance therapists was instituted in 1979. As should be evident in this testimony, Dance Therapists require no additional training or examining board to be administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA)

Dance/Movement Therapy is an evidence-based practice demonstrated via randomized controlled trials and meta-analyses of research studies to be useful in the treatment of schizophrenia, depression, mood disorders, eating disorders, medical illnesses such as Parkinson's disease, trauma, addiction, and dementia. Over 56 years, ADTA has continued to develop specific educational curricula taught in Master's degree programs. The ADTA Standards for Education and Training were most recently updated in 2016 and again in 2021. The ADTA Committee on Approval actively oversees education and clinical training, reviewing all educational programs for adherence to standards annually and on 3- and 6-year re-review cycles. The number of Dance Therapists nationally is small relative to

art therapy and music therapy. However, this allows for greater oversight than other larger professions. The maintenance of educational standards specific to the discipline of dance therapy fulfills an important role in consumer protection. It also guarantees that Dance Therapists in Wisconsin who show proof of the Dance Therapy Master's Degree have been designated by ADTA to have been educated in specific practices.

The consumer in Wisconsin is protected through the State registration/license (WDTR/DTRL) that verifies the applicant has met the educational standards for dance therapy set by the ADTA and the credentialing standards of the DMTCB.

Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB)

The DMTCB, an independent organization is an affiliate of ADTA, with bylaws dictating organization and incorporated in Maryland. It creates independence and separation of the board certification process and credential from education and training guidelines and approval of education programs overseen by ADTA. This separation is considered vital to professions such as dance/movement therapy. DMTCB uses the ADTA Code of Ethics which clearly delineates the scope of practice for dance therapy.

DMTCB awards qualified applicants, the Registered Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT) and the advanced Board Certified Dance/Movement Therapist (BC-DMT) service marks. These federally registered service marks (listed with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office) tell the public that a dance therapist has received the necessary education and training to practice. Applicants' records are reviewed and a portfolio examination process is used including documented supervised internship and work hours. Applicants for the second level BC-DMT submit written responses to practice questions. DMTCB requires continuing education hours for re-certification. An online searchable database open to the public can be used by consumers to verify that a dance therapist currently holds DMTCB certification.

Again, the consumer in Wisconsin is protected through the State registration/license (WDTR/DTRL) that verifies the applicant has met the ADTA's educational standards for dance therapy and the DMTCB's credentialing standards.

Dance Therapy in Wisconsin

Dance Therapy is a relatively small profession even when considered internationally so it is impressive that in Wisconsin alone, practitioners have served approximately 12,000 individuals in the past year. Wisconsin is gifted to be home of the Hancock Center for Dance/Movement Therapy in Madison since 1983, where countless adults and children have received services over the past 39 years. M. arrived at Hancock dance therapy due to problems throwing things, kicking, and yelling verbal threats in class and at home. He experienced abuse in his birth home, and by age 8 had lived with many foster families. Dance/movement therapy provided body-based tools for controlling his body, which in turn created a sense of safety to allow him to focus on his confusing mix of feelings – from anger to pain to fear to excitement. Ultimately within a school semester, he was able to connect his feelings with his experiences, and to begin to leave the past behind and become more emotionally stable. Second grader L. arrived at dance therapy group with no extreme behaviors, instead, she displayed no emotion at all. She observed closely as the group moved together and other children

shared their feelings with and through their movement. After 6 weeks, she shared her feelings and how homelessness had separated her from her mother and put her foster care. The safe space and developmentally appropriate nonverbal approach supported her in sharing and expressing her emotions to deal with her situation of trauma, grief, and loss.

Other dance therapists in Wisconsin, for example, in Milwaukee, work with a range of children and adults with conditions that range from trauma to addiction, to severe mental illness. These therapists' ability to begin nonverbally with movement and body-based tools for recognizing emotional dysregulation and help individuals gain improvements in functioning as a result, mirrors the stories above. Dance Therapy is the only psychotherapy to bring this focus on the body to consumers around the world and in Wisconsin.

Respectfully submitted by
The Wisconsin Dance Therapy WDTR/DTRL Working Group

Consultants to Working Group:

Meg Chang, Ed.D., BC-DMT, Licensed Creative Arts Therapist (NY)
National Board for Certified Counselors
National Spokesperson ADTA
Past Treasurer, ADTA
Founding Member Multicultural & Diversity Committee, ADTA

Robyn Flaum Cruz, Ph.D., BC-DMT, Licensed Professional Counselor (PA)
National Board for Certified Counselors
Past President, ADTA
Past Vice President, ADTA
Founding Member Multicultural & Diversity Committee, ADTA

Addendum: Letters of Testimony in Support of the Dance Therapist Registration and License

From: **Liz Laufenberg** <llaufenberg@uwalumni.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 5, 2022 at 11:47 AM
Subject: KEEP Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required credentialing process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on National Registry with the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the educational requirements, standards and ethics, and required clinical supervision set by the ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

At the time of the 2018 WI Department of Safety and Professional Services report, New York state Dance Therapists had licensure, and they still do today. Since then, Dance Therapists in Connecticut, New Jersey, and other states have also been working toward licensure.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Liz Preston

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

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Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Van Rossum, MA, LPC

Psychotherapist + Educator + Consultant

613 Milwaukee Street Delafield, WI 53018

Phone: 262-372-1309

Email: jenvanrossum@5peakslife.com

From: **Nikki Li** <nli@antioch.edu>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 12:45 AM
Subject: Wisconsin needs Licensed Dance Therapists

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

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Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

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The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Respectfully,
Nikki Li*

From: **Rosalie Migas** <romigas@sbcglobal.net>

Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 5:51 AM

Dear Members of the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

Re: Regarding eliminating The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license

As a licensed clinical social worker, I can attest to the need for requiring dance therapists to be duly licensed. I am aghast at the thought of what eliminating the credentials of dance therapists would do to our most vulnerable children and traumatized adults.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

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Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Rosalie Migas MSSW, LCSW
5913 South Hill Drive
Madison, WI 53705

From: **Donna Martelli** <john316min@yahoo.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 7:14 AM
Subject: Dance Therapist Registration and License

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

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Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

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Thank you for your consideration.

*Respectfully,
Donna Martelli
Vice President John 3:16 Ministries, Inc.
Indianapolis, IN
317-514-3689*

From: **Nicole Bickham** <wholeheartedbodymind@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 7:47 AM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

As a Wisconsin licensed psychologist, I am writing to implore that you NOT eliminate the Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license. We are in the middle of mental health crisis in our state, with not nearly enough qualified therapists to meet the demand for services.

Currently, licensing is the gatekeeper for insurance reimbursement, and insurance reimbursement allows services to be available to the widest range of residents, including those with the least financial means. Therapists with full caseloads are struggling to find other therapists who take insurance to whom we can refer the scores of people who contact us every month seeking care.

Increasingly, Wisconsin citizens in dire need of support struggle to find an affordable therapist who can see them within a reasonable amount of time. Wealthier citizens can turn to providers (including unregulated "coaches") who don't take insurance. But the rest are left with few options. One result of this is that by the time someone does get care, their mental health has often deteriorated further. They may experience crises that thrust them into settings, like emergency rooms and law enforcement, that aren't well resourced to address mental health needs. This increases medical care utilization, erodes the wellbeing of families and communities, reduces job productivity, and so on.

We need more, not fewer, therapists, as well as more preventative care. If this requires the state allocating more resources to the DSPS, then this is well justified and should be done.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

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As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Please do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Nicole L. Bickham, PhD

From: **Phylis Flores** <phylis.flores@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 8:02 AM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

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Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

There is such a great call for more therapists, please don't make it more difficult for those seeking help to receive it. Preserve the license for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Phylis N. Flores
phylis.flores@gmail.com

From: <sharonchaiklin@comcast.net>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 11:59 AM

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Having been intense therapist since 1964 I am well aware of all the positive aspects of this as a profession. I have also visited the work being done in Wisconsin over the years and have been impressed with the quality of work and the outreach to the community. It would be a tragedy to not continue a licensing possibility for them.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Respectfully,
Sharon Chaiklin PC – DMT*

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses: 9/12/2022

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated. Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners. In addition, the elimination of this license could lead to more mental health consumers going without the mental health services they so desperately need.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Robyn Lending Halsten, MA, LPC, BC-DMT, DTRL

robyn@hancockcenter.net

From: **Ann Dettwiler** <thedettwilers@gmail.com>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 4:26 PM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

I know personally the benefits of occupational therapy services as a family member with Lewey Body Dementia (at 74 years of age) benefitted tremendously from a licensed therapist coming into the home on at least a weekly basis. The therapist was able to calm our family member, get her to hum with her on some days, change her mood, and give her dignity. We were working with a hospice facility and they would be unable to use such therapists if they weren't licensed. It would be too risky for their business.

*DO NOT eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which **protect the integrity of the professional services** provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.*

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Ann Dettwiler
2674 County Road P
Mount Horeb, WI 53572
608-437-2674

From: **Georgia Corner** <gcorner@earthlink.net>
Date: Sun, Sep 11, 2022 at 8:38 PM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Georgia Corner, DPT
gcorner@earthlink.net

From: **A.E. Tree** <a.e2473@gmail.com>
Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 8:02 AM
Subject: Testimony to Support Dance Therapy Registry and License in the State of Wisconsin

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. The pandemic has led to a mental health crisis with rates of anxiety and depression sky-rocketing especially amongst young adults. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, and family members on coordinated treatment teams, and in community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey both license Dance/Movement Therapists. Other states including Connecticut are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of potentially obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

As a dance/movement therapist in the Madison area I have practiced my discipline for over 30 years serving a wide range of people from pre-school age to older adults. I work with people both individually and in groups, at a community based Center and in the greater Madison community in schools and senior meal/residential sites. I daily witness the calm, joy and empowerment that people experience through dance/movement therapy. And, many of these are people who had spent years in verbal therapy before discovering dance/movement therapy. Our discipline helps people to "come home" to bodies and develop a comfort within themselves even when they have experienced the sometimes extreme manifestation of trauma, anxiety and depression on their physical bodies which has often led to chronic illnesses and decreased function in their home and as workers. Dance/movement therapy literally helps clients to reclaim their lives. At the end of a recent session one of my clients who experienced a childhood of trauma and ritual abuse exclaimed "I did it! I am enough!" This person had psychologically believed it was because she was not good enough that all the bad in her life had happened to her. She is becoming more vibrant and engaged with the world around her through her experience of dance/movement therapy.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

*Respectfully,
Ann Wingate, MA, BC-DMT, DTRL
Madison, WI 608 405 -0488*

From: **Rebecca Alberts** <rebeccalberts@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 8:05 AM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support. In my experience as a provider of psychotherapy for nearly 40 years, qualified therapists who can work on a body level are needed now more than ever. There is a distinct lack of qualified therapists in the Madison area and people are waiting for up to 9 and 10 months to see a provider. This is a public health risk as the suicide rates climb. Please do all that you can to make needed therapy services available to more people in our state!

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Rebecca Alberts, LPC

From: **Kate Hewson** <k8hewson@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 8:13 AM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

It is critical that the state continue to support the safe and professional provision of a healing modality that has proven so powerful. Traditional talk therapy and psychiatry do not work for everyone, and Dance Movement Therapy, as well as art and music therapy, are able to heal in ways that other modalities cannot. Especially in this time of increased stress and crisis in so many aspects of our lives, the professional therapeutic services of Dance Movement Therapists must remain available, and state licensure is a critical way to meet this need.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Kate Hewson, 3837 Dennett Drive, Madison WI 53714

k8hewson@gmail.com

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy. I went for my Master's in Dance/Movement Therapy and Counseling at Drexel University in Pennsylvania and graduated in June 2019. I applied for my LPC-IT, but several courses were denied in addition to my internship & practicum experiences. As requested by DSPS, I submitted a letter from the chair of my department to reconsider the practicum and internship experiences. I have also followed up with several phone calls and emails and have not received a response. The state of Wisconsin has made it very difficult to get my counseling training license, and the Dance Therapy license is all I have that can support me in my professional career at this time. Without the DTR, I have no opportunity to practice my discipline and help those in need.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, older adults with Dementia, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required credentialing process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on National Registry with the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the educational requirements, standards and ethics, and required clinical supervision set by the ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

At the time of the 2018 WI Department of Safety and Professional Services report, New York state Dance Therapists had licensure, and they still do today. Since then, Dance Therapists in Connecticut, New Jersey, and other states have also been working toward licensure.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jacklyn Kostichka MA, R-DMT, DTR
jackie.kostichka@gmail.com

From: Jeanine Kiss <jrk114@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 10:56 AM

URGENT - PLEASE READ THIS TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF CREATIVE ARTS LICENSES

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

I have been a registered and licensed Dance/Movement Therapist for over 30 years, just recently retiring from a profession that serviced clients that find that movement, paying attention to the wisdom of their bodies and embracing a larger means of expressing emotions felt healing to them. I have worked with children who without appropriate verbal skills to express their trauma, use movement to physically express themselves to further their healing process.

To The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated. To abolish a therapy that is research supported and established is quite frankly a step backwards in supporting people's mental health and healing. We are presently facing a challenging time for everyone and need to support every option of therapy and support.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much-needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of Registered – Dance Movement Therapist (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the WI Dept of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey have Dance Therapy licensure laws. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jeanine R. Kiss, BC-DMT, DTRL

[Jrk114@gmail.com](mailto:jrk114@gmail.com)

From: Alan Irgang <ajirgang@earthlink.net>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 11:14 AM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

I am writing in support of maintaining licensure in Wisconsin for Dance/Movement Therapists. As a mental health provider, I recognize and endorse the legitimacy of licensing for these professionals who provide an invaluable treatment modality for so many that don't benefit from other more traditional forms of therapy. The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Alan Irgang, LCSW
Psychotherapist
Madison, WI

From: Jane Wilson Cathcart <janecathcart@earthlink.net>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 3:17 PM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin State Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Dance Therapy provides psychotherapy for people who often have no voice to engage in their own healing via only verbal means. These children and adults might be challenged by expressive or attachment disorders, trauma, PTSD, autism, to name only a few.

Additionally, the COVID crisis has seen further erosion of these expressive opportunities for all people who have been dealing with the shrinking possibilities of connection, being seen, heard, understood and valued.

For many, many reasons this certainly is not the time to reduce or eliminate resources to the marginalized, underrepresented, nor indeed to anyone in need, especially when the need for such specialized clinical skills is increasing exponentially daily.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey have Dance Therapy licensure laws. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Jane Wilson Cathcart, BC-DMT, LCSW, CMA

From: Heartstone <heartstone@uwalumni.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 3:20 PM

To the 2022 Legislative Council Study Committee on Occupational Licenses:

The Wisconsin state Dance Therapist registration and license should not be eliminated.

Elimination of these credentials would jeopardize the safety of Wisconsin consumers, restrain trade, prohibit the ethical and evidenced-based practice of a much needed mental health discipline, and further erode job protections needed to support the livelihood and development of an almost century long professional discipline and its practitioners.

Currently, as stated in Statute Chapter 455, no person may engage in the practice of psychology or psychotherapy without holding a license, permit, registration, certificate or certification granted by this state, under threat of prosecution. Therefore, the Dance Therapist Registered (DTR) and Dance Therapist Registered and Licensed (DTRL) credentials as described in Statute 440 and Administrative Codes 140-141 are required in order for a clinician to practice Dance Therapy.

The public needs the services of the mental health trade now more than ever. For over fifty years, Dance Therapists in Wisconsin have served thousands of citizens in local communities - providing movement based psychotherapy and psychotherapeutic education to school children learning to regulate their emotions in order to become stronger and healthier leaders, survivors of domestic violence, adults and children with PTSD, individuals with autism and other disabilities, and the general public with anxiety and depression - especially as a result of the collective trauma of living in a pandemic. Dance Therapists work closely with other mental health professionals, social workers, family members on coordinated treatment teams, and community agencies and schools promoting psychological health - a matter of public welfare.

The required registration process for Dance Therapists in Wisconsin is based on obtaining the service mark of "Registered – Dance Movement Therapist" (R-DMT) from the Dance Movement Therapy Certification Board (DMTCB), which entails the attainment of a master's degree from a program approved by the American Dance Therapy Association (ADTA). Wisconsin registered Dance Therapists can further obtain a license to practice psychotherapy through completion of 3000 supervised hours from a person licensed to practice psychotherapy. State licensing provides legal protection to consumers and ensures adherence to the continuing education requirements and Code of Ethics set by the DMTCB and ADTA. There is no additional required training or examining board administered by the Wisconsin Department of Safety and Professional Services. This results in a lower cost burden to the State.

As of 2022, besides Wisconsin and New York, Dance/Movement Therapists in other states such as Connecticut and New Jersey are working toward licensure. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

Do not eliminate the Wisconsin State laws which protect the integrity of the professional services provided by dance therapists and provide citizens with alternative and accessible mental health support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Wendy Kaplan

608.770.9255

Heartstone@uwalumni.com

From: Pamela Kul-Berg <pamterryberg@gmail.com>

Date: Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 11:00 PM

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Pam Kul-Berg

[Pamterryberg@gmail.com](mailto:pamterryberg@gmail.com)

608-604-5605

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The Dance Therapy License can protect the public from individuals who are not adequately trained in this field, thus, providing the public with access to safe dance therapy mental health care. Immediately following the Sandy Hook Elementary School tragedy in Connecticut,, there was significant need for trauma-informed art therapy treatment in Newtown and surrounding communities. There are evidenced-based healing benefits with the application of dance/movement therapy and documented findings on its efficacy in trauma work with individuals and groups. Having licensed dance/movement therapists available for the community can expand treatment modalities during these times of collective trauma, i.e. the global pandemic, and increased rates of mental health issues among youth and adults.

The danger in non-dance/movement therapy trained individuals purporting to provide dance/movement therapy services is that they are not trained to recognize mental illness symptoms and features. Indicators in body movement help dance/movement therapists to assess, create interventions and treat individuals. Dance and movement are wonderful expressive and clinical tools, and trained dance/movement therapists know how to appropriately respond to a client’s movement repertoire, which is assessed beyond basic “body language.”

As of 2022, Wisconsin, New York and New Jersey have Dance Therapy licensure laws. At least thirty other states provide a means of obtaining different counseling licenses for Dance/Movement Therapists.

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Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Ellyson, MA, R-DMT
Dance/Movement Therapist/Mental Health Clinician

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Respectfully,

Kristin Pollock, BC-DMT, LPC, ACS