



Music Therapists Advisory Committee Regular Meeting Minutes

August 22, 2025

**Location: Department of Health, TC1, Room 164 – 111 Isreal Road SE, Tumwater, WA 98501 and
Microsoft Teams**

Committee Members' Present:

Maria Meeds, MT-BC, NICU MT, Chair
David Knott, MM, MT-BC
Nancy Herber, OTR/L

Committee Members Absent:

Betsy Hartman, MT-BC, NMT-Fellow
Regulo Beltran, Public Member, Vice-Chair

Staff Members' Present:

Amber Freeberg, Executive Director
Shelbee Scrimo, Program Manager
Katie Graue, Administrative Assistant
Tara Mackemull, Assistant Program Manager
Luke Eaton, Assistant Attorney General (AAG)
Joshua Green, Credentialing Specialist
Joel Coleman, Credentialing Specialist
Haylie Kang, Policy Analyst
Kristopher Holiday, Director of OHP

Other Attendees Present:

John Heckel, Washington State Music Therapy Task Force
Jeremiah Nelson, MT-BC
Peter Diedrick, Washington State Music Therapy Task Force

1. Opening of Public Meeting – Maria Meeds, Chair

- 1.1. Call to Order at 9:02 am
- 1.2. Introductions – Committee members, agency staff, and public introduced themselves.

2. Consent Agenda – Maria Meeds, Chair

- 2.1. Approval of August 22, 2025, meeting agenda, motion was made to approve the August 22, 2025, agenda, motion seconded and approved unanimously.
- 2.2. Approval of April 25, 2025, meeting minutes, motion was made to approve the April 25, 2025, meeting minutes, motion seconded and approved unanimously.

3. Public Comment – Maria Meeds, Chair

- 3.1. John Heckel, Co-Chair of Washington State Music Therapy task force thanked the Committee and DOH staff for all their time and work with the committee. Mr. Heckel expressed frustration about the affordability of the Music Therapy License and disappointment in not receiving the additional money in this years approved state budget. Mr. Heckel also asked if there is any leeway to practicing Music Therapy before licensure but after completion of an internship.
- 3.2. Jeremiah Nelson commented on the gap between graduation and licensure. Mr. Nelson stated frustration about the unforeseen circumstance that you can't get licensed till you're certified and that you can't get certified till you finish your internship.

4. Executive Director Report – Amber Freeberg, Executive Director

Ms. Freeberg addressed the concerns from Mr. Heckel with clarification from RCW 18.233.050 License Required-Exemptions-Restrictions. She let the committee know that rulemaking cannot override the RCW and it has to go through legislation and that DOH can only enforce existing RCW's.

Ms. Freeberg stated the proviso and budget cuts were taken from Music Therapy at the request of the Governor. Ms. Freeberg explained that the final decision was made by the Governor's office, and that DOH was asked to identify any active provisos. .

Ms. Freeberg gave an update on HELMS. Ms. Freeberg shared that release 2.5 of HELMS will be happening from 5pm Friday August 22 to the morning of Tuesday August 26. During this time HELMS will be unavailable. Ms. Freeberg relayed that this change will make applying for a Music Therapy license available electronically. Ms. Freeberg addressed processing times and shared that there is a learning curve with HELMS and DOH anticipates that it will eventually increase processing times.

Mr. Knotts asked if future funding or if a new proviso could be developed in the next cycle to support Music Therapy's applications and renewals. Ms. Freeberg let the committee know that the deadline for DOH to propose new legislative items has already passed and that any new proposed provisos will need to go through legislation.

5. Program Manager Report – Shelbee Scrimo, Program Manager

Ms. Scrimo gave a credentialing update – 65 active Music Therapy licenses and 3 pending applications . Ms. Scrimo is hoping to have more credentialing stats and a budget report at the next committee meeting. Ms. Scrimo informed the committee that David Knotts term is ending in September, and Mr. Knott's will be leaving the committee at that time and Ms. Scrimo has opened

recruitment for that vacant spot. Mr. Knott stated that he is willing to stay on the committee if no applications are received.

6. Committee Bylaws – Shelbee Scrimo, Program Manager

Ms. Scrimo reviewed the Bylaws with the committee. Ms. Scrimo stated that this process is to be reviewed every two years. The bylaws were sent to the committee for any changes or updates they would like; there were no changes presented at this time.

There was a motion to approve the committee bylaws as presented, motion was seconded and approved unanimously.

7. Future Meeting Dates and Topics – Maria Meeds, Chair

The committee reviewed 2026 meetings date(s). The date is as follows: May 15, 2026, at 9:00 a.m. A motion was made to approve the proposed 2026 meeting date, motion seconded and approved unanimously.

8. Meeting Adjournment at 9:44 am.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made, motion seconded and approved unanimously.

Submitted by:

Shelbee Scrimo, Program Manager
Board of Nursing Home Administrators

Approved by:

Maria Meeds, Chair
Music Therapist Advisory Committee

On file

SIGNATURE

DATE

On file

SIGNATURE

DATE

