

Texas Association for Play Therapy Newsletter



Nuture Our Children...Nuture Our Future

Spring 2007

The President's Corner

**Barbara Ann Hall, MA, LSSP, LPA, LPE,
PhD Intern
President 2006-07**

The 2007 TAPT Annual Conference led by Leah Miller in El Paso was an overwhelming success! Thank you to all of you who had part in making this such a memorable event. Conference keynote speakers, Eliana Gil Ph.D, and Linda Homeyer were inspirational. Conference sectional speakers provided a wide range of interesting and informative sessions.

This has been an exciting year for TAPT. TAPT has continued to grow. We have experienced a 2.9% growth in membership. Rio Grande Valley Chapter has reactivated. TAPT has developed a new and improved website and online newsletter. Website improvements include links to our conference brochure, online conference registration and credit card payment for conference fees, and member log in area. The TAPT Board of Directors has revised goals and objectives with a focus on measurable yearly performance indicators and distal goals for one, three and five years. I don't recall who said it but, "If we don't know where we have been, we don't know where we are going." Another focus of this year has been the development of a supplement to the Governance Manual that will provide information in subject areas relevant to the operation of the board based on the

experience of past and present board members. Examples include, "Things I learned in my role as..." and useful contact information.

It was a pleasure meeting chapter presidents at lunch on Saturday during the conference. Ways in which TAPT can encourage and support chapters were identified during discussions. I will be contacting chapter presidents during the following few months so that we might continue conversations.

Susan Lee was the recipient of the Nancy Guillory Award this year. She sent me the following message to share with TAPT members.

It is with humble pride that I accept the Nancy Guillory Award for substantial contribution to children and the promotion of play therapy in Texas. It has been ten years of growing my understanding of the play therapy modalities under the training of our many Texas greats: Mike and Ann Carns, Linda Homeyer, Garry Landreth, Sue Bratton, Dee Ray, Tom Hoeffner, Judi Haralsen, Emily De France, to name a few, that I have been given such a passion for the language and care of children. From the client-centered sessions with elementary grade school children to agency interventions with families and on to private practice, it has been my quest to embrace the needs of each with the resources and referrals for their healing and success.

It has been a privilege to mentor many school counselors, school psychologists, social workers, and professional counselors in play therapy language and relationship. It has been a joy to share with several universities the efficacy of play therapy interventions and the possibility of play therapy certification. The constant encouragement of our local chapters, state branch, and national association have given me the support system to network resources for our communities. I have used play therapy skills with local CPS workers, city juvenile court judges, city health workers, victim service groups, religious fellowships, and the local disaster intervention teams. Serving the state association over the last five years and assisting in TAPT conferences in the past, has taught me about our need for one another in being available to children and families. This award is a testimony to our sense of family!

Thank you, Susan B. Lee

In closing, I would like to recognize Linda M. Ramirez, Past President 2006-2007. Linda has been a member of the TAPT community for over ten years. Her dedication to TAPT and support of Play Therapy has contributed much to the success of TAPT and the advancement of Play Therapy.

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The President's Corner (cont)

She has served in many capacities over the years including (but not limited to) President-Elect, President, and current Past President. Linda has been the driving force behind the development of the TAPT Website and electronic newsletter. It has been an honor to serve on the TAPT board with Linda. Although Linda's term as Past President will end this summer, I know she will continue to be a vital member of our organization.

Hot Topics:

- o Future Conferences:
- o 2008 Dallas, Keynote: Scott Reviere, Look for information on the 2008 conference on our website.
- o 2009 San Antonio, Keynote: Paris Goodyear-Brown
- o 2010 Houston
- o 2011 Corpus Christi

Do you have a suggestion for future Keynotes? Let us know.

Barbara-Ann Hall,
President 2006-2007

TAPT Conference Photos



A wonderful presenter - Thank you to Eliana Gil



Hard at work each day at the 14th annual conference



Far West Chapter Conference Volunteers - Smiling faces is part of what the annual TAPT conference is all about

A Word from the Past-President

Linda M. Ramirez, RN, MEd, LPC-S,
RPT-S
Past-President 2006-07



We have just had our 14th annual conference in El Paso. This was a year of several new changes. It was the first time we held the

conference in El Paso. It was the first time we could register online and pay with credit cards. It was the first time we did not send out a paper conference brochure. These changes have brought with them

some good results and some problematic ones. Having our conference in a new place, doing the promotion and registration in a new way was a lot to do at once and posed several new challenges. I must say that our conference committee with Leah's direction did a great job. Everything at the conference was first rate. Thank you to the Far West Chapter, the Volunteers and to Leah for an enjoyable and informative conference.

The Nancy Guillory Award was given to Susan Lee this year for her contributions to TAPT in the promotion of play therapy and to her devotion to children and families. Congratulations to Susan for a much deserved award. The Nancy Guillory Award is given to a member who has shown

leadership in the promotion of play therapy.

Congratulations to our new board members elected in March. President-Elect is Yvonne Garza. Secretary is Mary Morrison. Treasurer is Pedro Gonzalez. Director-at-Large is Julie Merriman. Thanks to all who ran for a position on the board. To those who did not get elected, I hope you will consider running again.

Also, I am very proud of the Rio Grande Valley Chapter being re-activated. I started this chapter in 1997 and we went inactive in 2001. We have now re-activated the Chapter and received our new Charter Certificate at this conference.

TAPT Board of Directors

President

Barbara Ann Hall, MA, LSSP, LPA, LPE, Ph.D Intern
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President-Elect

Leah Miller, MA, LPC-S, LMFT, RPT
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Past President

Linda Ramirez, RN, MEd, LPC-S, RPT-S
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Treasurer

Pedro Gonzalez
pedroricardognz@aol.com

Secretary

Karen Linstrum, PhD
Karen.Linstrum@tamut.edu

Director-at-Large

position unfilled at present

Director-at-Large

Joey Achacoso, PhD, LPC

Student Director

position unfilled at present

Alamo Chapter Director

Cecilia Alvarez, LPCS, LMFTS, LPA, RPTS
calvarez@judson.k12.tx.us

Coastal Bend Chapter Director

Lauri Stroebel, LPC, RPT
onpoint@stx.rr.com

Far West Chapter Director

Mary Kaiser, MA, LPC, NCC, RPT-S

Hill Country Chapter Director

Denise Hall, MN, RN, CS, RPT-S
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North Texas Chapter Director

Kathy Eubanks

Sam Houston Chapter Director

Gabriel Lomas
glommas@hotmail.com

Rio Grande Valley Chapter

Alfred Crixell, Jr.
AlfredCrixell@sharyland.k12.tx.us

The Nancy Guillory Award

**Linda Manning Ramirez, RN,
MEd, LPC-S, RPT-S**

In the early days of the Texas Association for Play Therapy, Dr. Emily Oe taught a student at Sam Houston State University in her play therapy class. This student, Nancy Guillory, had an enthusiasm for play therapy and dreams to become a play therapist that

impressed her professor and her classmates. Tragically, her life was cut short and she did not realize her dream. In her honor the TAPT Board created the Nancy Guillory Award for an individual who shows dedication to children and to the promotion of play therapy.

Congratulations to the 2007 Nancy Guillory Award recipient:

Susan B. Lee

Previous Award recipients have been: Dee Ray, Sue Bratton, Emily DeFrance, Linda Homeyer, Emily Oe, Debbie Killough-McGuire, Garry Landreth, Lessie Perry and Judy Gilbert.

But He's Only Playing!!

**by Linda Manning Ramirez, RN,
LPC-S, RPT-S**
(from the Rio Grande Valley Chapter Newsletter, Summer 1999)

Parents, School officials, and teachers are often baffled when the counselor takes the child who has been acting out in class; aggressive towards other children and adults; unable to sit in his seat and follow directions, to the play room for counseling.

"How can you just allow him to play?" "Aren't you just rewarding him and reinforcing his "bad" behavior in class?" Teachers and parents are sometimes confused by this process called Play Therapy or counseling with toys. Adults expect children to be "talked to" and "straightened out" by a counselor talking to the child. It is expected that the counselor will teach, discipline, and moralize with the child in order to "fix" the child or gain "control" over him. If this is your attitude about what needs

to be done or if you have ever felt confused as to the wisdom of letting a child "just play" this article is for you.

How is play useful? How and why does it help children who are having emotional and behavioral difficulties? The question is often asked how play therapy can help when "all he's doing is playing"? Play is a natural process for children. Children do not have to be taught how to play. It is a child's way of expressing what is important to him and what is affecting him. The child's point of view of the world, himself, and others is communicated through the play in ways that verbal speech cannot facilitate. "Talking" is only one way to express ideas and feelings. And "Talk Therapy" is an adult realm where children are at a disadvantage.

Play utilizes metaphor, fantasy, and imagination to express feelings and ideas that are at the root

of the child's behavior. The child communicates through his play in many ways that speech cannot. Play will put a child at ease and cut through their resistance to reveal themselves. Revealing our inner selves to others is risky and frightening because we may fear judgment and rejection. Through play a child can reveal his inner thoughts, feelings, including doubts, conflicts, etc. in a less threatening, less anxiety-producing manner. Play also is a way for a child to "experience" and therefore "learn" a new behavior. Numerous books have been written on how play is important and facilitates growth.

A counselor skilled in play therapy techniques assists the child to change by providing a psychologically safe environment for the child to express and master those areas of conflict which are the source of the child's problematic behaviors. Play is a language in itself and is not used to get the

But He's Only Playing!! (cont)

child to "talk". Adults feel better when a problem is "talked out" - that is, discussed, thought out, solutions decided upon and action taken. Children feel better and behave better when they "play it out".

Adults are "cognitive and verbal". Children are "playful and nonverbal".

Chapter News

Alamo Chapter

Cecilia Alvarez

The Alamo Chapter has moved its meeting location to the Jewish Community Center on NW Military Highway. At the August 14 meeting new board members were installed and Nancy Franklin, LCSW, RPT-S, gave a presentation entitled "Getting Stuck With a Play Therapy Client: Tips for Getting Unstuck". The next meeting will be October 9, presenter to be announced. There will be a full day conference on September 23 titled "The Play Therapy Process: Lessons Learned From a Traumatized Boy" by Mary Morrison, PhD, LPC, NCC, RPT". For more information email actapt@yahoo.com.

Hill Country Chapter News

No report provided

North Texas Chapter

No report provided.

Sam Houston Chapter

Gabe Lomas

The Sam Houston Chapter of the Texas Association for Play Therapy had a wonderful and successful Winter Workshop. Dr. Theresa Kestley provided the training to over 100 play therapists from the Houston Area. Dr. Kestley addressed story telling in play therapy and talked about the impact of story telling on the brain. On March 23, we had a general meeting in which five seasoned play therapists presented a panel discussion on how to start a successful play therapy practice. Our final general meeting will be held on May 4 and will include training by Claire Marie Duffy, Ph.D. student at Sam Houston State University. Ms. Duffy will be presenting on activity play therapy with a self-mutilating child. We will host our annual dinner meeting in August of this year to announce the newly elected officers. Please check our website at www.shapt.org for details on meetings.

Finally, congratulations are in order for our director at-large, Dr. Yvonne Garza. The membership of the Texas Association for Play Therapy has recently elected Dr. Garza as President Elect. The Sam Houston Chapter is proud to have Dr. Garza serving as the incoming president.

Chapter News

Coastal Bend Chapter

Lauri Stroebel, M.S., L.P.C., R.P.T.

The Coastal Bend Play Therapy Association has monthly meetings at the First Baptist Church - 3115 Ocean Drive - Corpus Christi, Texas. We meet in the activity building at the back of the main church from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM on the third Wednesday of each month. We provide one hour continuing education units each month following the business meeting. These CEU's are free for members and apply to Licensed Professional Counselors and Registered Play Therapists. The trainings are educational and fun for everyone whether you need continuing education hours or not. These meetings also provide a place to share ideas, network and relax from our busy schedules. On February 10th Dennis Hall presented a training entitled, "Play Therapy: Tools for Successful Living with ADHD, Depression and Anxiety". Dennis Hall is the Chapter Director from the Hill Country Chapter and has an extensive knowledge and experience with topics she presented. We had a great turn out and our thanks to Dennis for a great hands on workshop. We look forward to continue to have people from outside our chapter to attend our various trainings throughout the year. We hosted a great week-end retreat in September 2006 with Linda Homeyer, and hope to continue a yearly retreat with other trainings in the future.

The Coastal Bend Chapter has gained several new members this year, as we maintain our goal to promote Play Therapy throughout South Texas. Several members are working to become a Registered Play Therapist. We provide the information needed to meet the criteria for this certification to our members. We have a limited number of RPT's in our area but hopefully these numbers will grow as currently agencies such as Child Protective Services are actually seeking Registered Play Therapist for their families. For more information: cbaplaytherapy@yahoo.com

Far West Texas Chapter

Leah Miller

FWTAPT Newly Elected Officers:

Ruth Fierro-Glover	President
Sylvia Ochoa	President Elect
Misty Duke	Immediate Past President
Misty Duke	Treasurer
Carlisle Navidomskis	Director at Large
Mary Kaiser	Chapter Representative
Mary Kaiser	Secretary

The 14th Annual TAPT Conference was a resounding success. Thank you to all those who pitched in to help! This is the first time the conference has been held in El Paso, and we hope we can build on our attendance in the future.

As always, FWTAPT meets four times a year, and has an annual conference every fall. Our next meeting will be held in June. CEU's are provided free of charge to our members. Credit can be given to RPTs, LPCs, and social workers. Check our website for the latest copy of our newsletter and information about upcoming presentations. <http://www.fwtapt.com/>

We are always in need of new faces to assume FWTAPT board positions. If you are interested please contact me at mkaiser@ccocea.com or (915) 490-1393.

Chapter News

Rio Grande Valley Chapter
Alfred Crixell, Jr.

The Rio Grande Valley Chapter is back! We have re-activated our Chapter after being inactive for 6 years. We were first chartered as a chapter in 1997 and went inactive in 2001. Now we are back and looking forward to building our membership and becoming a growing influence in our area for the promotion of play therapy.

We meet every other month at AXEL Medical & Oxygen Supply, 715 W. Pecan in McAllen. Our next meeting is May 3rd from 6 pm to 7:30 pm. We are beginning a membership drive which will end in a "New Member Reception" with prizes for the Chapter member to sign up the most new members. Linda Ramirez will provide a 4-hour workshop on play therapy. We will also have our election of officers at our May 3rd meeting. Our current election slate includes: Mary Garcia, President; Maribel Garza, President-Elect; Mayela Ortez, Treasurer; Joy Ramirez, Secretary; and Alfred Crixell, Jr. Chapter Director.

For more information contact Alfred Crixell, Jr
at AlfredCrixell@sharyland.k12.tx.us or acrixelljr@gmail.com

The Dan E. Homeyer Award of the Texas Association for Play Therapy

The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award of the Texas Association for Play Therapy (TAPT) bestows two \$500 research awards twice a year. The Spring 2007 Research Grant recipients are Dee Ray and April Brown. Congratulations on their research project being chosen as the

To qualify for the Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award, you must:

- Attend or teach at a Texas college or university
- Use play therapy in some aspect of your research
- Have approval of the Human Subjects Institutional Review Board (IRB) [attach copy of approval letter/document to the form linked below]

Once the research is completed:

- Write a short synopsis of the research findings which will

be published in the TAPT Newsletter (in such form that will not preclude your publishing the findings elsewhere)

- Present the findings at the next TAPT Annual Conference (held in April). The Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award Fund will pay for two nights at the conference hotel and TAPT will provide a gratis conference registration.

The TAPT Research Committee will do a blind review of your proposal. Please email the proposal, described in the document linked below, to lhomeyer@gvtc.com

- A description of the research project including the research design
- Maximum of three pages, double-spaced, 10-12 point font.
- Please do not have your name or other identifying information on the proposal pages

To open the application for the Dan E. Homeyer Play Therapy Research Award, click on this link.