

Texas Association for Play Therapy Newsletter



Nuture Our Children...Nuture Our Future

Summer 2007

The President's Corner

I am very excited to be writing my first column as the new President of TAPT. My first order of business is to thank Barbara Ann Hall for her years of dedicated and selfless service to our association. The positive changes that have occurred within TAPT over the past five years have been wonderful to experience. We have seen our newsletter go from paper to email and our brochure from snail mail to online. Members of TAPT can now register on our website for our annual conference and pay with a credit card. Our website provides membership an immediate avenue to the Board through message forums. We continue to move forward towards becoming a fully functional and vibrant virtual community.

Our new year began August 1st. We will be welcoming eight new members to our fifteen member board, creating a new era in leadership. We will be exploring the creation of new leadership practices to synergize the rich history of TAPT with the present challenges we face as an organization.

TAPT provides many opportunities to play therapists to learn and grow professionally. It also provides each of us the ability to cultivate relationships with other therapists that are not only beneficial professionally, but enhance our personal lives as well. As you are called on by board members to help with the essential work of TAPT, remember our history was built on relationships and our future as an association depends upon continuing to strengthen them. So please, volunteer when you can.

In closing, I want to leave you with a story. I was in the playroom with a six year old boy not so long ago who stopped his play, appeared to be in deep thought, looked me straight in the eye and asked, "Who was your play therapist when you were my age?" My mind started racing as it does when I am amazed by a comment in the playroom. Before responding with a classic play therapy comment, I reached an internal understanding. At that moment, it came to me clearly how much I really love my job. Hopefully some of our clients will become play therapists themselves, and when they do, they will have an answer to that question.

Yours in service to TAPT,

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

TAPT President

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Drawings for TAPT Dallas Conference 2008

The winner of the New Member Drawing for TAPT Conference Day (one day) Dallas 2008 is:

Isela L. Ramirez
LPC, LMFT, School Psychologist (NM)
El Paso, Texas

The winner for the El Paso Conference Attendee Drawing for TAPT Conference Day (one day) Dallas 2008 is:

Norma Rosado
El Paso, Texas

Secretary's Report

My name is Karen Linstrum, and I am so glad to have had the opportunity to be the Secretary of TAPT for the last two years.

My journey with Play Therapy began in 1981 when I took Dr. Landreth's Play Therapy course at North Texas State University (now UNT). I remember being fascinated by Dr. Landreth's firm belief in the Child-Centered approach to Play Therapy. I also remember being very embarrassed from earning a D+ on a written assignment about Play Therapy. I had not yet mastered the APA writing style therefore, my paper was not correctly cited. Twenty-seven years later, I teach a Play Therapy course during the fall semester and I teach the APA style of writing all year long!

From my participation as secretary in TAPT my respect has deepened for those who came before me. As secretary, I was able to read documents dating back to the early 1990's. These documents described the efforts involved in "growing" an organization. Many of these documents, I believe, to be of historical value and I hope that the future officers of TAPT honor their importance.

From my participation as secretary in TAPT I had fun! After honing both my laptop skills and my listening skills (listening for motions made and seconded can be taxing), I had fun. I enjoyed handing out baby chicks, friendship bracelets, and bunny money. From handing out these fun items, I got to meet and know YOU, the members of TAPT. The members of TAPT are the greatest! Thank you for allowing me to be your secretary and for all the fun I had. I plan to continue having fun with all of you. See you in Dallas 2008!

Karen S. Linstrum, Ph.D., LPC, CRC



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A Word from the Past-President

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

The focus of this newsletter is research. As an organization, TAPT has the distinction of having an impressive body of researchers within its membership who have done much to advance the theory and practice of play therapy. An important area of investigation that has recently received attention in the literature on intervention is deployment. One question for researchers in this area is the effectiveness of evidence based interventions in terms of meaningful outcomes in applied settings. This is an area of investigation in which play therapy leads the way. Research on

play therapy in naturalistic settings has demonstrated the effectiveness of play therapy interventions in multiple naturalistic settings.

Meaningful outcomes defined as measurable progress is as important to an organization as it is to investigations of interventions. One of the areas of focus during this past year has been to revise TAPT goals and objectives in a way that allows for measurable indicators of progress. Goals and objectives will be posted on the TAPT website following the Executive Board meeting, July 28th.

The TAPT website has recently been completed. There are several new additions including a forum discussion area. The President's message has

opportunities for discussions.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve as the 2005-2006 TAPT President. I look forward to serving as Past President.

Barbara-Ann Hall

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Child Teacher Relationship Therapy: A Filial Therapy Model

Mary Morrison, PhD, LPC, NCC, RPT,
Texas State University

Sue Bratton, PhD, LPC, RPT-S
University of North Texas

Dr. Mary Morrison is an Assistant Professor in the Professional Counseling Program at Texas State University. Dr. Sue Bratton is an Associate Professor and Director of the Center for Play Therapy at the University of North Texas. This research was partially funded by a grant from the Association for Play Therapy and the Dan Homeyer Research Grant.

The most recent U.S. Surgeon General's report on the status of children's mental health described the lack of appropriate mental health services for children, especially for the most disadvantaged families, as a national "crisis" (United States Public Health Service, 2001). Head Start, the nation's largest early intervention and prevention program for disadvantaged families, was designed not only to address the cognitive development of at-risk children, but was also intended to provide early identification and intervention for children exhibiting emotional and behavioral difficulties (Serna, Nielsen, Mattern, & Forness, 2003). Unfortunately, most families involved in Head Start are the least likely to seek out mental health services. Therefore, it is critical that programs like Head Start provide such services as part of the school day. Leading authorities have argued that while Head Start teachers play a significant caregiving role in the lives of young children---a

role that is particularly vital to the healthy emotional, social, and cognitive development of children identified as at risk---they lack the necessary training to respond effectively to the considerable emotional and behavioral needs of these children (Donahue, 2002; Yoshikawa & Knitzer, 1997). Early research by the Guerney's and their protégées demonstrated that parents were capable of learning essential Child-Centered Play Therapy (CCPT) skills and were effective therapeutic agents with their children (B. Guerney & Stover, 1971; Stover & Guerney, 1967; Oxman, 1972). Based on a similar premise of teachers' emotional significance to children, Andronico and Guerney (1969) first suggested training teachers in filial therapy methods. B. G. Guerney & Flumen (1970) further researched this premise and found that teachers were capable of learning the skills and implementing them in play sessions with their students. Based on the Guerneys' philosophy of filial therapy, Landreth (2002) developed a more time-limited and structured 10-session filial therapy model. Landreth and Bratton (2006) formalized this model with a textbook, *Child Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT): A 10-Session Filial Therapy Model*. The CPRT protocol was manualized by Bratton, Landreth, Kellam, and Blackard (2006), allowing for replication of the model. The CPRT model has been widely researched and adapted for a variety of populations (Landreth & Bratton, 2006). This study examined the effectiveness of training Head Start teachers and aides in

Child Teacher Relationship Training (CTRT). CTRT is based on Child Parent Relationship Therapy (CPRT) (Landreth & Bratton, 2006), and was adapted for the classroom. In this quasi-experimental design, 12 teacher/aide pairs ($n = 24$) were assigned to the experimental ($n = 12$) or active control group ($n = 12$). Children who scored in the Borderline or Clinical range on at least one scale of the Child Behavior Checklist-Caregiver/Teacher Report Form (C-TRF) (Achenbach & Rescorla, 2000) at pretest qualified for the study ($n = 52$).

Teachers chose a child of focus, to practice CTRT skills in individual 30-minute play sessions for 7 weeks. Weekly 1-hour supervision meetings focused on didactic instruction and supervision of CTRT skills as adapted from the *Child Parent Relationship Therapy Manual* (Bratton, Landreth, Kellam, and Blackard, 2006). The second phase of training included generalizing CTRT skills into the classroom. Researchers provided modeling of CTRT skills in the classroom for 30-minutes, 3 times a week for 10-weeks. Weekly 1-hour supervision meetings focused on more advanced skills for use with small groups in the classroom. Nine hypotheses were analyzed using a two factor repeated measures multivariate analysis to determine if the CTRT group and the active control group performed differently across time according to pre-, mid-, and posttest results of the C-TRF.

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Child Teacher Relationship Therapy: A Filial Therapy Model

Additionally, effect sizes were calculated to determine practical significance. Five hypotheses were retained at the .05 level of significance. Post hoc analysis was conducted to analyze the effects of the two phases of treatment. Results indicated that children in the experimental group made statistically significant improvements in externalizing behavior problems ($p = .002$). Children of focus made statistically significant improvements in externalizing ($p = .004$) and total behavior ($p = .017$) problems. Results are particularly significant for the non-children of focus, who only received the in-classroom intervention. The non-children of focus made statistically significant improvements in externalizing behavior problems ($p = .04$) and practical significance was large. Results of this study indicate that a school based intervention such as CTRT is a viable treatment option for many children with externalizing behavior problems. Based upon the results of this study, recommendations for future research include, replicating the study with a larger sample size which would increase the power of the statistical measures. A follow-up study to determine if the students maintained the behavioral improvements and if the teachers continued using the skills in the classroom would be beneficial to future use of this model. The results of this model show strong promise for CTRT to effectively provide an early intervention for children with behavioral problems in an early childhood setting.

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Chapter News



Cecilia Alvarez

The Alamo chapter is growing; we currently have 60 paid members! We are an active group that has had a great year with having provided a Fall Conference(9/23/06) with Dr. Mary Morrison awarding 7 CE hours at St. Mary's University and currently planning for a Spring conference with 6 CE hours again at St. Mary's University with Leah Miller(5/5/07). We meet every other month for 1.5 CE hours, for a total of 7.5 training hours toward play therapy certification. We switched our meeting place from the SAMM's Shelter to The Jewish Community Center on 12500 N.W. Military who have a larger room to accommodate our membership. We have a great group of board members who are great working together and helping us expand our membership! Many of our board members mentor and supervised other licensed professionals who are interest in the field of play therapy.



HCC-TAPT Board Members 2007-2008

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Chapter News



Connie B. Moulder
Keller

Meetings

The chapter meets the second Saturday of every September, November, January, March and May. A general meeting is held from 9:30 to 10:00 AM. A speaker will be scheduled to present on play therapy topics from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM. CEU's approved by APT are available. NTCTAPT also offers supervision for play therapy by Registered Play Therapy- Supervisors on the second Saturday of October, December, February, and April from 10 AM to 1 PM preceded by a general meeting at 9:30 AM. No meeting is planned for April 2008 because we are hosting state conference. We will have officer elections and planning for our new membership year in June. Officers are installed in August.

We are approved provider of CEU's for APT, LPC, MFT. Individual Professional-dues are \$35.00. Individual Retiree-dues are \$25.00. Student-dues are \$25.00.

Location

Coppell YMCA
146 Town Center Blvd.
Coppell, TX 75019.

Contact

Connie B. Moulder , LPC
Registered Play Therapist
Cbm1439@hotmail.com
See our website <http://www.texasplaytherapy.org/>

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Chapter News



Gabe Lomas

The Sam Houston Chapter met on May 4, 2007 and had a presentation by Claire Marie Duffy on activity play therapy with a self-mutilating boy. Duffy, a doctoral student at Texas A & M University, presented to about 25 play therapists. The Sam Houston Chapter recesses during the summer and begins the new fiscal year with a dinner meeting on August 24, 2007. The outgoing past-president, Mary Elijah, will present on resiliency in play therapy. Dinner, expected to be catered by a barbecue restaurant, will begin at 6:00 p.m. followed by the presentation at 7:00 p.m. We have also scheduled an exciting year of presentations for our members. The proposed calendar is below but is always updated at www.shapt.org.

August 24, 2007: Board Meeting at 5:00 p.m.; Annual Dinner Meeting at 6:00 p.m.; Mary Elijah to present on resiliency at 7:00 p.m.

September 28, 2007: Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.; General Meeting at 7:00 P.M.. Michelle Lees, M.A., ADTR, LPC will present on using the sandtray in play therapy.

November 9, 2007: Board meeting at 5:30 p.m.; General meeting at 7:00 p.m. Phylis Thomlinson, M.A., LPC, LMFT will present on using art in play therapy.

February 2, 2008: Annual Winter Workshop: Loretta Gallo-Lopez will be our presenter and will speak on Dramatic Play Therapy (a.m.) and Play Therapy with Adolescents (p.m.). This workshop will be held at the Berry Center, 8877 Barker Cypress, Cypress, TX 77429. We held it at this location last year. As it is a true conference center, it worked quite well for members.

March 7, 2008: Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.; General Meeting at 7:00 P.M. Karen Sullivan, LCSW, RPT, children's therapist for the Children's Assessment Center (CAC) in Fort Bend, will present on play therapy with sexually abused children. Sullivan was awarded the Emily Oe Development Grant and funds were provided to the CAC to assist them in purchasing toys for their play therapy room.

May 9, 2008: Board Meeting at 5:30 P.M.; General Meeting at 7:00 P.M. We will once again have a panel discussion for our meeting to close our fiscal year. The panel members and the topic will be announced in forthcoming publications.

The Sam Houston Chapter is looking forward to another playful year of training and collaboration. With the exception of our winter workshop, all meetings are held at the Instructional Support Center of the Cypress-Fairbanks ISD. Their address is 10300 Jones Rd. TAPT members, college students, and guests are always welcome to our meetings. Please contact Gabriel Lomas, chapter director at lomasg@uhcl.edu or see the website at www.shapt.org for more information.

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Chapter News



The Coastal Bend Play Therapy Association meets every month, and provides FREE CEUs to all members on various topics related to Play Therapy. (CEUs 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 network, share ideas, and relax from our busy schedules. Guests are welcome!

JOIN US:

WHEN: 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM on the 3rd Wednesday of every month

WHERE: First Baptist Church - 3115 Ocean Drive - Corpus Christi, Texas
(In the activity building at the back of the main church,
lunch is available at the café for those interested)

In June, we hosted our 5th annual Summer Workshop! Gabriel Lomas, PhD Candidate, LPC-S of the Houston

Chapter presented an informative and valuable look at utilizing play therapy with children with disabilities. Cheryl Jones, MA, LPC-Intern, of the Alamo chapter offered a fun-filled hands on program about puppets in play therapy. We had a wonderful time, sharing and learning together, and of course had fun! Thanks to our presenters and all the participants for making it a success.

The Coastal Bend Chapter has been busy! We continue to grow as members of the professional community and students from the university show their interest in Play Therapy. We have recently updated our By-laws and inducted new officers for the 2007-2008 year. They are:

President: Bill Middleton, LPC, RPT-S

Pres. - Elect: Amanda Foy, MA, LPC

Secretary: Lorena Mendez, MS, LPC- Intern

Treasurer: Catherine Russell, BA

Member at Large: Melinda Gossit, BS

Student Liaison: Kayla Devora, BS

Coastal Bend Chapter Director: Julie Thigpen, LPC-S, RPT

We continue to have monthly meetings and programs that provide excellent education and support to our members. Twice a year we provide workshops on Saturday to allow those outside the Corpus area to further their training and gain CEUs. Look for these events in June & January. Most years we offer over 20 CEUs of Play Therapy training!!!

For more information contact Julie Thigpen, LPC-S, RPT
Call (361) 334-1161 ext 3 or Email: familyplay@gmail.com

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Chapter News



Mary Kaiser, MA, LPC, NCC, RPT

Far West Chapter Events:
Past Presentations:

Far West has not had any presentations yet this year due to the time that was devoted to the preparation and hosting of the Annual TAPT conference in March.

Future Presentations:

September 14, 2007	Misty Duke	"Ethic in Play Therapy"
December 6th - 8th, 2007	To Be Announced	

Far West Chapter 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

FWTAPT is currently working to find creative ways to increase our membership and fill vacant board positions for next year. At our last meeting we discussed the possibility of holding promotional presentations to target school counselors and hosting promotional receptions.

FWTAPT meets four times a year, and has an annual conference every fall. Our next meeting will be held in September. 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. www.fwtapt.com

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Chapter News



Alfred V. Crixell, Jr., M.Ed., LPC

Rio Grande Valley chapter (RGV) continues to gain membership and re-build its foundation. New members joined the chapter at our May 3rd meeting. Linda M. Ramirez provided one hour of CEU's at the meeting to entice interest in the field in our area. RGV chapter will work towards promoting play therapy among university students and professionals throughout the region. September 22, 2007.

For more information about RGV chapter contact our chapter director Alfred Crixell, Jr.
acrixelljr@gmail.com