



American Art Therapy Association Participates in Arts Advocacy Day 2012 Planning

December 15, 2011

Americans for the Arts held its second Legislative Planning Committee meeting for Arts Advocacy Day 2012 the afternoon of December 14, 2011, in Washington, D.C. The first meeting was mainly discussion of the need for more states to be represented in that Committee, to ensure broad coverage of legislative priorities across the nation. At the second meeting, the list of potential legislative issues was discussed briefly and members volunteered for subcommittees to create short “Briefs” on identified issues of concern. One new topic set forth for consideration under Arts in Healthcare this year was the use of arts in treating military members and veterans. Since 2009, the American Art Therapy Association has completed several initiatives, with more underway, that address the use of art therapy with military-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injury (TBI). The Association’s Director of Public Policy, Angela Foehl, JD, MPH, attended both Legislative Planning Committee meetings and joined the Subcommittee for Arts in Healthcare, as was done last year.

Organizational representatives on this subcommittee include Judy Simpson, MHP, MT-BC, Director of Government Relations and Rebecca Smith, Government Relations Associate (American Music Therapy Association); Robyne Davis and Myrna Mandlawitz, ADTA Policy Consultant (American Dance Therapy Association); Randy Mulder, RDT, Government Affairs Chair (National Association for Drama Therapy); Betsy Loikow (National Dance Education Organization); Anita Boles, Executive Director, Cara Scharf, Membership Manager, and Hannah Jacobson, Administrative Assistant (Society for the Arts in Healthcare). The initial draft of the Arts in Healthcare “Brief” is targeted for production by January 9th, followed by the next Legislative Planning Committee meeting on January 11th.

2011 Issue Briefs online:

http://artsusa.org/get_involved/advocacy/aad/issue_briefs/2011.asp