



September 18th, 2020

To our members, patients, clients, and friends,

As an organization, UAMT has been negligent to make a statement in solidarity and alliance with the social justice and human rights movements our nation faces. We apologize for our silence over the past months, and for the harm this silence may have caused those we represent, interact with, and serve.

We acknowledge our privilege as an organization. UAMT is made up of primarily white, heterosexual, cisgender women, and while we do have a handful of members who fall outside this demographic, that is the lens most of us see the world through. Because of this fact, we are the ones responsible for ending the white superiority social system within the field of music therapy, within our state organization, and our country as a whole. We know that this movement is not about us, but rather Black Lives Matter.

We are here. We are ready. We stand in solidarity. UAMT has started the discussion on how we can better serve our music therapists, so they might better serve their patients, clients, families, and friends. Additionally, we will seek to create opportunities to amplify BIPOC voices. This is more than not being a racist organization. We are boldly stating that we are anti-racist and will actively contribute to an anti-racist society.

We are going forward with open minds and open hearts. We echo The American Music Therapy Association, and declare "We uphold kindness, social responsibility, dignity and respect, equality, accountability, excellence, integrity, and courage as our core values and recognize that we have a responsibility to uphold these values." (AMTA Code of Ethics, 2019)

We desire to provide UAMT-hosted and sponsored events, including anti-racism continuing education opportunities and discussions. We hope that all those in the UAMT organization will find a place and feel welcome in these events. UAMT will look to create fundraisers and grant opportunities to better provide our local marginalized communities with music therapy services. We will advocate for anti-racism education in our local music therapy-accredited university, Utah State University, as well as for the student music therapists who are training in our state.

We commit to dedicating our time individually and collectively as an organization. We will practice empathy and respect as we educate our members and the public. We will acknowledge our own biases, provide and defend the equal treatment of people, and elevate our daily actions to magnify the voices of BIPOC as we stand together in unity.

The Executive Board of Utah Association of Music Therapists,

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