



Scope of Practice Definition for Dance/Movement Therapy

The practice of Professional Dance/Movement Therapy shall mean the application of fundamental dance/movement therapy principles and mental health, psychological, and developmental principles in order to: 1) facilitate human development and adjustment throughout the lifespan; 2) prevent, diagnose, and treat persons with mental, emotional, or behavioral disorders and associated distresses and interfere with mental health *or adequate functioning*; 3) conduct assessments and determine diagnoses for the purposes of evaluation and establishing treatment goals and objectives; 4) plan, implement, and evaluate treatment interventions; 5) to develop an understanding of personal problems, define goals, and plan actions reflecting the client's interests, abilities, aptitudes, and mental health needs as these are related to personal-social-emotional concerns, progress, and career development. Dance/Movement Therapy interventions shall mean the application of affective, behavioral, *motoric*, cognitive, and systemic strategies which include principles of development, wellness, and pathology that reflect a pluralistic society. Such interventions are specifically implemented in a context of a professional helping relationship and may be primary, parallel, or adjunctive.

- A. The practice of Professional Dance/Movement Therapy includes but is not limited to:
 - 1. Individual (*including infants and children*), group, couple, and family dance/movement therapy and dance/movement psychotherapy;
 - 2. Assessment *that includes movement analysis*;
 - 3. Crisis intervention;
 - 4. Diagnosis and treatment of persons with mental, emotional, and behavioral disorders *and appropriate application of diagnostic information provided by other health care providers*;
 - 5. Intervention and consultation to facilitate normal growth and development including educational and career development;
 - 6. Utilization of functional assessment and dance/movement therapy for persons requesting assistance in adjustment to a disability, *disorder*, or handicapping condition;
 - 7. Consultation;
 - 8. Research;
 - 9. Referral.
- B. The use of specific methods, techniques, modalities, and *verbal interventions* within the practice of Professional Dance/Movement Therapy is restricted to professional dance/movement therapists appropriately trained in the use of such methods, techniques, or modalities.
- C. Dance/Movement Therapy is practiced by those who have completed a program of graduate education from an accredited degree giving institution or equivalent providing coursework leading to the practice of dance/movement therapy as specified. Such practice is also governed by requirements of continuing education.
- D. A dance/movement therapist must be accountable to any agency wherein he/she works and must adhere to any state regulations if such exist.

Definitions of Terms

ASSESSMENT means a) selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting assessment of nonverbal behaviors and instruments designed to assess an individual's movement repertoire, functional movement, personality traits, personal characteristics, disabilities, and mental, emotional, *physical*, and behavioral disorders, and the use of dance/movement therapy methods and techniques for understanding human behavior in relation to coping with or adapting to changing life situations; b) selecting, administering, scoring, and interpreting psychological and educational instruments designed to assess an individual's attitudes,

abilities, achievements, interests, personal characteristics, disabilities, and mental, emotional, *physical*, and behavioral disorders for which the professional dance/movement therapists is appropriately educated and trained.

SUPERVISION for professional dance/movement therapists includes two types: a) general supervision means supervision in which the supervisor is available to the supervisee either in person or by a communication device; b) clinical supervision means the supervisor is physically present with the supervisee and either discussing or observing the supervisee's practice.

SUPERVISOR means *any Board Certified Dance/Movement Therapist (BC-DMT) or other licensed/credentialed allied mental health professional possessing a minimum of five years of professional experience and is a Registered Dance/Movement Therapist (R-DMT).*

CONSULTING means the application of scientific principles and procedures in dance/movement therapy and personnel services to provide assistance in understanding and solving current or potential problems that the consultee may have in relation to a third party, be it an individual, group, or organization.

REFERRAL means evaluating and identifying the needs of a client to determine the advisability of referral to other specialists, informing the client of such judgment, and communicating as requested or deemed appropriate to such referral sources.

RESEARCH means systematic efforts to collect, analyze, and interpret quantitative and or qualitative data that describes the way social characteristics, behavior, *movement*, emotion, cognition, and interpersonal transactions among individuals, groups, families and organizations interact *and/or are affected by each other and interventions.*