

New Mission Statement & Diversity Statement

As the Association for Play Therapy (APT) continues to grow, the Board of Directors updated the Mission and Diversity Statement to reflect the organizational changes, advancements, and DEI efforts. These last few years, APT successfully continued to grow the play therapy community, reaching over 7,700 members in 2022; increased play therapy awareness efforts through outreach initiatives; and reached new demographics through the "Why Play Therapy?" brochure specific to pediatricians and school counselors. Additionally, new programs were created to strengthen and further DEI efforts, such as the Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, & Awareness Team (IDEA Team), Leadership Academy, Mentorship Program, and professional and educational scholarships.

As APT's new fiscal year goes into effect April 1, 2023, the APT Board of Directors marks this new beginning with the updated Mission Statement and Diversity Statement:

Mission Statement: To promote the value of play, play therapy, and credentialed play therapists by advancing the development of mental health of all people including emotional, psychological, and social well-being. As a diverse, equitable, and inclusive professional organization, we embrace:

- Increased appreciation of play and play therapy by the public
- Ethical practice of play therapy informed by research, education, and training
- Recognition of education grounded in seminal and historically significant play therapy theories

Diversity Statement: As an integral component of our organization, APT is committed to achieving and maintaining a culture of diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI). We are at our best when the principles of DEI are fully embedded in our governance, leadership, and organizational policies. Our unwavering goal is to generate programs and processes resulting in ongoing meaningful and sustainable organizational change toward DEI.

We look forward to furthering our mission, providing a community where all feel welcomed, and bringing awareness to the power of play and play therapists.

Sincerely,

APT Board of Directors 🧑

Call for Nominees

NOMINATE

SPECIAL SECTION

Call for Award of Excellence Nominations

Do you know a fellow APT member, colleague, or graduate student who has made considerable efforts to advance or promote the field of play therapy through service to the Association, involvement in play therapy trainings and outreaches, or publications of play therapy research? Nominate them for one of APT's Awards of Excellence! Each year, APT presents several prestigious awards at the Annual APT Conference to those members who have made exceptional contributions to the field of play therapy. Committee Chair Clair Mellenthin, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S encourages you to submit your nominations by the March 15, 2023 deadline.

Call for Board of Director Nominations

Leadership skills, play therapy expertise, and policy governance knowledge are key qualities of an APT Board of Director candidate. Professional members who wish to serve on the APT Board of Directors and demonstrate vital leadership and organizational skills are invited to submit director candidate questionnaires by March 31, 2023. Four eligible director candidates will be selected by the Nominations Committee, chaired by Robert J. Grant, EdD, LPC, ACAS, RPT-S. Director candidate biographies and online voting information will be published in the June 2023 issue of *Play Therapy™* Magazine. 🧑