



2nd and 3rd
Quarters 2008



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NATSAP News

The National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs

NATSAP to Celebrate 10 Years!

It seems like yesterday – it seems so long ago! That snowy day (January 29, 1999) in Albuquerque, NM when the National Association of Therapeutic Schools and Programs (“NATSAP”) was officially founded.

We invite you – one and all -- to join us as we celebrate this very special anniversary at our 2009 National Conference in Austin, TX on --- are you ready for this????

Yep! January 29, 2009!!! (*how's that for planning?*)

Join us as we honor the past! As we share the memories! As we honor those who have contributed to our success! As we thank our members for their continued support and commitment!



NATSAP 2009 National Conference
Hilton Austin
January 29 - 31, 2008

Celebrate with us on Thursday evening with good eats and camaraderie! Sit back and listen or get up and dance as *Melanie Merchant* and *Firefly* entertain us.

And, while reminiscing will be fun, we will not forget the importance of creating the future! Quality presentations and sessions will help lead us there.

Mark your calendars! Join us in the Live Music Capital of the World and help us celebrate Texas style!

Conference registration materials will be mailed out November 3rd. To make sure you are placed on the mailing list, please contact Peg Orsua, peggy@natsap.org.

NATSAP Expands National Conference CEU Offering

In furthering NATSAP's commitment to providing continuing education opportunities to our members, the NATSAP Board of Directors voted at the May 2008 Board Meeting to expand NATSAP's CE offerings and grant a contract to the Institute for Continuing Education (ICE). Beginning with the NATSAP 2009 National Conference, ICE will sponsor the event and will now award CE's for the following disciplines*:

Discipline	Sponsor
Psychology	APA
Counseling	NBCC
Social Work	ASWB (<i>and various state boards</i>)
MFT	Texas Board of MFT (Prov. #177)
Drug-Alcohol Counseling	NAADAC
Nursing	California Board of Nursing

These additional CE offerings will be available to you at no additional charge above your registration rate.

*Please note - it will be attendees' responsibility to review current continuing education requirements for license renewal. NATSAP and ICE do not guarantee that sponsors will be accepted by all licensing boards.

Inside This Issue



NATSAP to Celebrate
10 Years.....Front Cover

NATSAP Expands
Conference CE Offerings
.....Front Cover

President's Corner..... Pg. 1

Update on H.R. 6358... Pg. 1

NE Program Tour..... Pg. 2

UT Regional Conference
..... Pg. 2

Rocky Mountain Regional
Conference..... Pg. 2

Upcoming Professional
Conferences..... Pg. 2

Research Highlight..... Pg. 3

Research Update..... Pg. 3

June Visit to D.C.
..... Inside Back Cover

New NATSAP Members
..... Inside Back Cover

2008 Directory Corrections
..... Back Cover

*2nd and 3rd
Quarters 2008*

President's Corner **Sharon Laney**



We will soon celebrate NATSAP's tenth year anniversary. Over the past ten years we developed the Principles of Good Practice, Ethical Principles, and through an evolution process incorporated educational and residential standards into existing standards. During these years both individuals and committees worked on developing standards that would provide resources for not just our member programs but for the overall Industry. As a result, we believe the level of care for children and young adults continues to improve.

As with any organization and with certain milestones, one should start a review process of what has been developed, what has changed and what can be improved upon. During the first part of 2008, the Board of Directors and Executive Director, with assistance from industry specialists, reviewed our forms, policies, documents, and web site. This has been an exhausting and exhaustive process yet a healthy one resulting in quality outcomes. Good housekeeping is essential in identifying what has indeed improved our resources and assisted our member's programs and other programs within the industry.

During this process, we identified a need to revise our general practice regarding the review of ethical concerns. The original intent of these reviews was to evaluate any concerns we received and work with programs to make improvements where needed. For many years this review process appeared to work very well. Recently, however, as we performed our policies review, we came to realize that we are not an investigative body nor do we have the resources or authority to provide an adequate investigation of concerns. Many concerns fell into a gray area, which increasingly made it difficult to determine the difference between an ethical concern and a customer service issue.

Even I, with experience in investigations and as a trained Council on Accreditation surveyor, felt that we could not adequately investigate for parents or for our members. Much of this was due to our limited authority under the Law and our limited resources. Given the realization that there are already agencies that have investigative

teams performing this task, we revised our practice of reviewing ethical concerns.

We have already started referring these calls and letters to licensing, accrediting or governmental agencies. Our purpose is to concentrate on the important responsibilities defined in our Mission Statement: to be an advocate and resource for innovative organizations.

Our Principles of Good Practice and our Ethical Principles remain important resources for our members and other programs/schools in this industry. We encourage each program/school to review and incorporate them into their own standards as they were developed utilizing specialists in our industry.

As always, we are open to your feedback and encourage you to voice your opinions and recommendations. Finally, I want to thank all of those individuals who worked tirelessly in the past to help create templates for others to follow. Your work has definitely made a difference for us all.

Update on H.R. 6358

The work of alumni of NATSAP programs, their families, and NATSAP members was critical in positively influencing changes to H.R. 6358, the Stop Child Abuse in Residential Programs for Teens Act of 2008, which passed by roll call vote in the U.S. House of Representatives on June 25, 2008. The Bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, Pensions on June 26, 2008. It is unclear at this time whether the House Bill, or a companion Senate version (which has not yet been introduced), will work its way through the Senate or if the House Bill will be attached to other legislation moving through the Senate.

Positive changes to the Bill that resulted from input by alumni of NATSAP programs, their families, and by NATSAP members included the following: (1) amending language that ended the exemption of state operated programs from the Bill's requirements – now the Bill would apply to all programs, whether private or state-operated, (2) maintaining exclusive state jurisdiction for inspections, and (3) deleting provisions that would allow for a additional access to federal courts (rather than state) and allowing unlimited punitive damages.

When we work together, we learn from each other, support one another and accomplish more.
NATSAP: A 10 Year Celebration (1999-2009)