

# In-School Art Therapy To Drive Excellence in Education, Public Health & Safety:

The Economic Benefits for Lowering Suspension and Expulsion Rates In Public Oklahoma Schools



Presentation by: Ebony Easley  
Presenters: Shannon Hawkins, Kris Newlin, Tuesdai Johnson, Ebony Easley

# SCOPE OF THE STUDY

## Art Therapy

A regulated, integrative mental health and human services profession.

Uniquely promotes the ability to unlock emotional expression by facilitating non-verbal as well as verbal communication.

Art therapists use art-making, the creative process, psychological theory, and knowledge of human experience when working with clients.

## Art Therapy

State licensure will attract and incentive art therapists to move to Oklahoma.

Without separate licensure of art therapists, there will be fewer qualified and licensed practitioners to meet the public's growing need for mental health services, less diversity and innovation in mental health practice.

## Art Therapy In

A National reports say high school suspensions cost the country 35 billion dollars.

Oklahoma State Department of Public Education reported 40,797 suspensions for the 2021 - 2022 school year. TPS has 33,873 (80% are reported as economically disadvantaged) students enrolled.

Increase employment, payment of taxes, new fee revenue for state, improve economic landscape.

# ART THERAPY IN ACTION

**Art therapists work with individuals, families, and communities and enhance clients' mental, emotional, and physical well-being.**

People may seek art therapy services to address a variety of challenges, including: mood disorders such as anxiety and depression; communication and/or learning disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) or Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD); neurological disorders such as Parkinson's or cerebral palsy; neurocognitive disorders such as dementia or Alzheimer's Disease (AD); PostTraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and/or Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI); as well as difficulties related to medical treatment; domestic abuse, natural disasters or other collective trauma; navigating identity or sexual orientation; displacement from home or country; and major life transitions.

"How to give voice to things that may be unspeakable for one reason or another" - Dr. Bruce Moon



This video was created for the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) 2018 National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Event, themed "Partnering for Health and Hope Following Trauma."

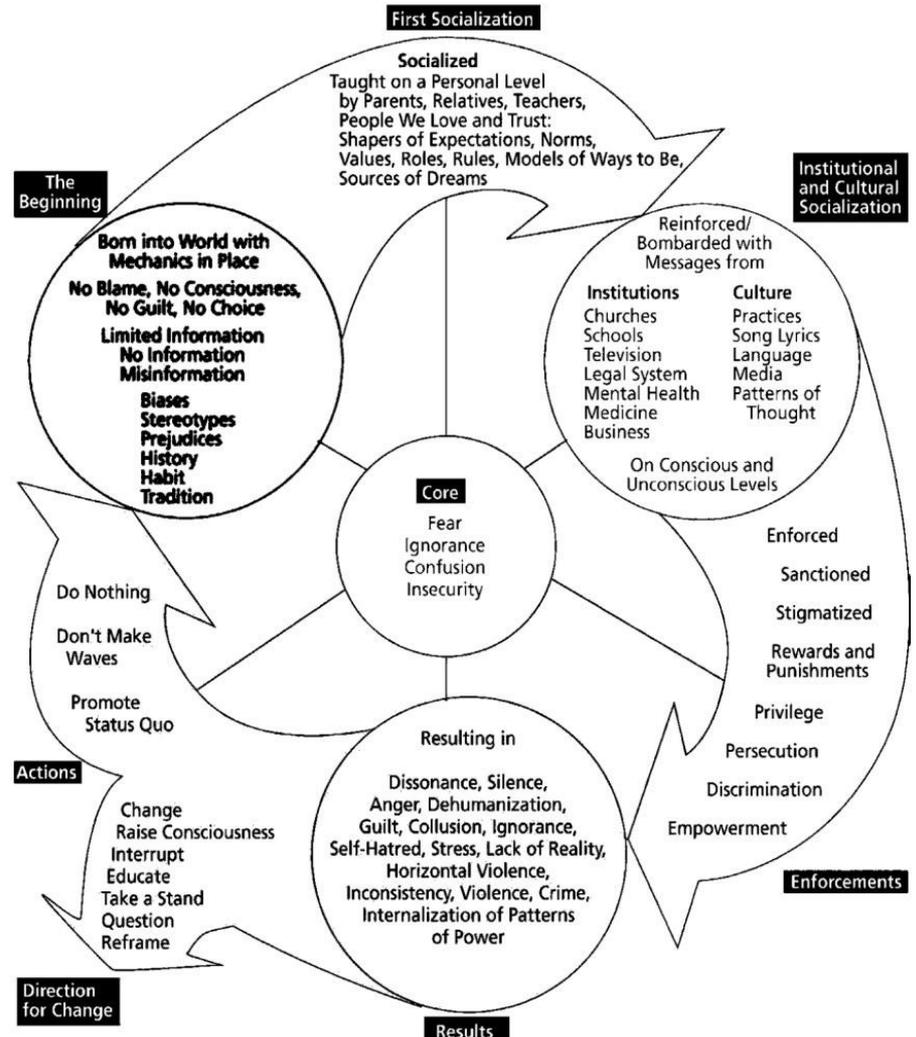
# ART THERAPY IS A PREVENTATIVE & STRATEGIC APPROACH

More importantly, this therapeutic approach is not nearly as invasive as other mental health care settings. Even among children who aren't having difficulties, having access to these services can prove beneficial. This is because students whose education includes regular arts programs — even without a therapeutic focus — **see both social and academic benefits** in the long term.

**Art therapy is now a regulated mental health profession in 15 states and the District of Columbia. Art therapists are recognized for purposes of state hiring and/or title protection in Arizona, Louisiana, and New Hampshire.**

---

# CYCLE OF SOCIALIZATION



# ART THERAPY IN OKLAHOMA

Art therapy recognizes the power of art and art-making to stimulate memories and reveal emotions. Understanding how art interacts with a client's psychological disposition, and how to safely manage and interpret the reactions different art processes may evoke, are competencies that must be gained through substantial experiential learning that is unique to art therapy master's degree training.

“Oklahoma is ranked 38th in economic well-being, 37th in health, 43rd in family and community, and 49th in the country for education (45th in 2022), ahead of only New Mexico.” - Tulsa World Article

---

# ART THERAPY NATIONALLY

## Where Art Therapists Work:

Schools, Hospitals, Veterans' clinics,  
Private practice, Psychiatric and  
rehabilitation facilities, Community  
clinics, Crisis centers, Forensic  
institutions, Senior communities,  
Museums.

Nearly 5,000 professional art therapists now hold ATCB credentials, over half achieving national Board Certification. Increasing numbers of qualified graduates receive degrees from the thirty-nine AATA-approved art therapy master's degree programs in twenty states and the District of Columbia. They are well equipped for what the U.S. Department of Labor's O\*NET Online occupation database describes as a "bright outlook" occupation that will experience rapid employment growth in coming years.



# OKLAHOMA CALL TO ACTION

## STATE LICENSURE

**Oklahoma recognize Art Therapy as a mental health profession.**

**Protecting art therapist professional identity & public**

## STATE FUNDING

**Decrease suspension rates, starting with Tulsa Public Schools 5 year assessment period.**

**Attract art therapist to stay & move to Oklahoma.**

## STATE BENEFITS

**Lower state costs: Decrease government spending on health, social services and the justice system.**

**Produce new fee revenue for the state.**

The background is a solid dark blue color. In the top right corner, there are several overlapping triangles in various shades of blue, including a medium blue and a very light blue, creating a geometric pattern.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME  
& CONSIDERATION