

The Expressive Arts Therapist honours the essential connection between art and life by striving to promote health, well being and empowerment in those we serve. In doing so, we are guided by the intermodal creative process rooted in the theory of Expressive Arts Therapy. The Expressive Arts Therapist respects the clients' inherent creativity. The EXAT models and facilitates aesthetic responsibility to the images which emerge through our co-creative therapeutic relationship. The EXAT supports individuals, groups and communities to recognize, access, develop and exercise their capacity to creatively express and respond to their lives.

Outlined here are our Code of Ethics and our Standards of Practice.

The Ontario Expressive Arts Therapy Association (OEATA) strives to honour the trust given to us by those whom we serve by setting standards and measures of accountability for the everyday conduct of our members and the ethical practice of our profession. The Code of Ethics expresses the core values and principles which define our profession. The Standards of Practice clarify best practices in ethical behaviour for the purposes of education and consistency, and to provide a reference for the EXAT when resolving ethical dilemmas.

The OEATA Code of Ethics is a statement of eight ethical values which represent a unified expression of our fundamental principles. These are: care and respect for the rights and dignity of persons; continuing education, autonomy, confidentiality, integrity in relationships, aesthetic responsibility, accountability, and social justice. This statement of ethical values is followed by the Standards of Practice with regards to: professional conduct, extended responsibility, professional competence, records, remuneration, leadership, research, and publications.

Professional members are committed to abide by the OEATA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, and thereby to meet the expectations established therein. The Expressive Arts Therapist is aware of the increasingly complex social dynamics which challenge and potentially enrich the therapeutic relationship. Members are encouraged to continue to develop the skills of attunement in

relation to the needs of those we serve, and to exercise the highest level of ethical and professional judgement.

As professional Expressive Arts Therapeutic practice responds to experience and social change, so too will EXAT ethical principles and standards. The Code of Ethics will be reviewed periodically in response to emerging ethical dilemmas. Open and lively discussion is a welcome and necessary part of this process.

The Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice outlined here define professional expectations at this time.

Professional members will be held accountable by the Ethics Committee in order to bring learning and, when necessary, restorative justice for the sake of all involved.

Scope of Practice

The Expressive Arts Therapist has specialized training and experienced in using a variety of artistic forms and processes in the assessment and treatment of the emotional, cognitive, somatic and social functioning of individuals. The Expressive Arts Therapist may practice within the fields of health, education, community service and private practice settings. The Expressive Arts Therapist takes into account a person's life experiences which includes their social, cultural and spiritual background.

Within the therapeutic relationship, the Expressive Arts Therapist helps the client to access and stimulate their imagination by shifting from one art form to another. This concept of "intermodal transfer" (Paolo Knill, 1978) distinguishes Expressive Arts Therapy from disciplines that specialize in one art form such as Art Therapy, Music Therapy, Dance Therapy, or Psychodrama. Expressive Arts Therapists support clients to move between different art forms such as visual arts, movement, poetry, music, and drama to enrich the

imaginative process and gain greater self-awareness. Reflection on the art making process within the therapeutic relationship is essential in helping clients to gain insight, resolve conflicts, solve problems, and formulate new perceptions that may lead to change, growth and healing.

Education

As a minimum, the Expressive Arts Therapist is a professional with qualifications from an OEATA recognized arts-based psychotherapy program which adheres to standards set forth by Ontario regulating bodies such as the Ontario Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities (MCTU) or the equivalent. Other graduate and post-graduate degrees from recognized college and university programs will also be open to review as qualifications.

Competency

Following the OEATA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, the member may only practice in those areas of the profession's scope for which they have the necessary education, training, and experience. Through continuing education members can develop and maintain their skills in accordance with the best practices of their profession. It is the member's responsibility to understand through self-reflection and supervision what they can and cannot competently do.

Practice Settings

The Expressive Arts Therapist can be in private practice and/or part of the care team working in health care organizations such as hospitals, chronic care facilities, rehabilitation centers, or hospices. In addition, the Expressive Arts Therapist can be found working in schools, social and community agencies, institutions, and corporations.

The OEATA Code of Ethics define the professional expectations at this time. Professional members will be held accountable by the Ethics Committee in order to bring learning and, when necessary, restorative justice for the sake of all involved.

Ontario Expressive Arts Therapy Association Code of Ethics

Care and Respect for the Rights and Dignity of Persons

In view of the growing complexity and intersectionality of modern lives, the Expressive Arts Therapist (EXAT) is against all forms of discrimination, bias or prejudice and believes in the practice of equity. This includes discrimination based on race, class, size, gender, sex, orientation, age, ability, religion and legal status. The EXAT proactively considers the needs of those we serve by supporting clients and their best interests, by honouring our commitments to them, and by refraining from any actions which risk harm. We recognize our individual and collective responsibilities to society, to the Expressive Arts Therapy field and, especially, to those we serve.

Continuing Education

The EXAT is committed to providing service of the highest quality. To this end the EXAT continues to engage in satisfying the professional requirements of competency through ongoing therapy, supervision, contribution to the field, studio and clinical practice. We continually inform ourselves and expand our skills in therapy, the arts, and community service. We practice in accordance with the best practices of our profession, and continually expand our professional competence through professional development.

Autonomy

The EXAT provides the client or legal decision-maker, accurate and thorough information upon which they can make informed decisions according to their own needs, beliefs and values with regard to our

services, processes, and interventions. Inherent benefits and risks are communicated clearly, as well as options and alternatives. We respect client choices and decisions.

Confidentiality

The EXAT believes that clients have the right to confidentiality. The Expressive Arts Therapist safeguards and maintains confidential personal, family and community information obtained in the context of the professional-client contract and relationship in compliance with the Ontario Privacy Act.

Integrity in Relationships

We believe that therapeutic relationships and their benefits rely on trust and empathy. Trust is dependent on the demonstrated integrity of the Expressive Arts Therapist. The EXAT is self-aware and truthful. The EXAT maintains an implicit and explicit commitment to the client and client groups, to themselves, to each other, to our profession, to other professionals and to the larger world. We exercise healthy boundaries and evaluate all contact and relationships with clients for their risk or benefit to client health and well-being according to the highest standards of ethical behaviour as outlined in the code of ethics and standards of practice.

Aesthetic Responsibility

Aesthetic responsibility is the ability to use self-awareness of bodily sensory experience and imagination as vehicles for creativity, inter-modal artistic expression and phenomenological exploration of the insights offered by images and the shaping thereof. The EXAT believes that attunement to sensory experience and the imagination are ways to access creative capacity and a way to understand relationships with the worlds we inhabit. The EXAT does not reduce artistic expressions to expressions of self that can be analyzed for psychological content. Rather, the EXAT views artistic expressions as expressing worlds and relationships. We explore these worlds

and relationships through a specialization termed “aesthetic responsibility”.

Accountability

The Expressive Arts Therapist recognizes that as a member of a self-regulated profession, we have a responsibility to hold our selves, and each other, accountable for our actions, accountable to the people we serve and to the larger community. The EXAT exercises her, or his, best professional judgement as guided by the values and responsibilities outlined in the OEATA Code of Ethics and Standards of Practice, as well as being bound by law and the regulations of the Ontario College of Psychotherapists. The Expressive Arts Therapist makes every reasonable effort to resolve ethical dilemmas through self-reflection and consultation. Where there is breach of ethics, the EXAT makes every effort to repair loss of trust and accept responsibility for errors in judgement.

Social Justice

The EXAT believes that as health care professionals, (and educators, researchers etc.), we have an extended responsibility to advocate for the individual and collective rights and social determinants of health of our clients and communities. The EXAT believes in the basic human capacity to shape and create our worlds according to our individual and collective needs which necessitates that we empower clients to identify and access their resources with regard to self-advocacy.

The OEATA Standards of Practice

1.0 Professional Conduct

2.0 Extended Responsibility

3.0 Professional Competence

4.0 Records

4.5 Clinical Records

4.6 Financial Records

4.7 Retention of Records

5.0 Remuneration

5.1 Fees

5.2 Promotion

6.0 Responsible Leadership

6.1 Directors

6.7 Supervisors

6.14 Educators

7.0 Research

8.0 Publication and Credit

1.0 Professional Conduct

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

1.1 Acknowledges the rights of the client to self-determination and autonomy, and the right to participate in decisions that affect them. The EXAT demonstrates respect for the dignity, worth, experience and knowledge of all people.

1.2 Respects the confidentiality of information that is relevant to the treatment of a client, supervisee or student in the course of their professional activities.

1.3 In a case of disclosure of intention to cause serious physical harm to self, or others, is obligated to report to the authorities or intended victim. This is done even when a confidential relationship is involved. Clients are entitled to know the limits of confidentiality.

1.4 Keeps an updated referral list.

1.5 Respects the right of the client to unimpaired treatment, the right of the community to protect its own welfare and the right of the profession to preserve its ethical standards.

1.6 Is sensitive to the multiplicity of responses that images evoke, and does not reduce or pathologize them.

1.7 Provides adequate provisions to ensure client safety and well-being as they enter and exit non-ordinary states.

1.8 Uses language that conveys respect for the dignity of others

(e.g., gender-neutral terms) in all written or verbal communication.

1.9 Does not practice, condone, facilitate, or collaborate with any form of discrimination, oppression or inequity.

1.10 Obtains appropriate informed consent to therapy or related procedures as early as feasible in the therapeutic relationship, and use language that is reasonably understandable to clients. The content of informed consent may vary depending upon the client and treatment plan; however, informed consent generally necessitates that the client:

.1 Has the capacity to consent

.2 Has been adequately informed of significant information concerning treatment processes and procedures;

.3 Has been adequately informed of potential risks and benefits of treatments for which

generally recognized standards do not yet exist;

.4 Has freely and without undue influence expressed consent; and

.5 Has provided consent that is appropriately documented. When persons, due to age or mental status, are legally incapable of giving informed consent, the Expressive Arts Therapist acquires informed permission from a legally authorized person, if such substitute consent is legally permissible.

1.11 Does not engage publicly (e.g. in public statements, presentations, research reports) in demeaning descriptions of others, including jokes based on culture, nationality, ethnicity, colour, race, religion, gender, sexual orientation, health status, etc., or other remarks which impact adversely on the dignity of others.

1.12 Does not engage in relationships that are exploitative in effect, or oppressive in nature, with clients, students, trainees, supervisees, employees, colleagues or research subjects. EXATs do not use their professional relationships with clients to further their own interests.

1.13 Does not engage in inappropriate relations (eg. physical, psychological or sexual) with the client. Nor does the EXAT engage in any form of harassment of clients, students, trainees, supervisees, employees, colleagues or research subjects.

1.14 Makes every effort to avoid conditions of multiple relationships with clients that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation. Such relationships include, but are not limited to, business or close personal relationships with a client or the client's immediate family or personal relationships. When the risk of harm exists due to conditions, or multiple roles, The EXAT takes appropriate action by first consulting their supervisors. If no clear resolution results the EXAT takes the situation to the Ethics Committee.

1.15 Uses physical contact only with client consent, and only when it serves a therapeutic end for the client. Contact is performed only in a safe, consensual and respectful way.

1.16 Does not insist or demand that a client make physical contact, and it is the obligation of the EXAT to make clear to the client that the client has the right to deny physical contact.

1.17 Only accepts from the client gifts of minimal monetary value, or gifts that do not risk harm to the integrity and efficacy of the therapeutic relationship. The EXAT carefully considers the ramifications of accepting, or refusing, a gift according to the principles of Respect for the Dignity and Rights of Persons. When refusing a gift the Expressive Arts Therapist explains the decision.

1.18 Remains accountable to the standards of the profession when acting as a member or employee of an organization. If the mandates

of an organization with which an EXAT is affiliated, through employment, contract or otherwise, conflict with the OEATA Code of Ethics, the EXAT makes known to the organization their commitment to the OEATA Code of Ethics and attempts to resolve the conflict in a way that allows the fullest adherence to said Code of Ethics.

1.19 Minimizes harm by taking appropriate steps to avoid harming others, including ensuring that service is provided in a place that protects the security and privacy of the client. The EXAT does not abandon or neglect a client in treatment without making reasonable arrangements for the continuation of such treatment.

1.20 Terminates an activity when it is clear the activity is more harmful than beneficial, or when the activity is no longer needed.

1.21 Seeks an independent and adequate ethical review of human rights issues and protections for any service or research involving vulnerable groups and/or persons of diminished capacity.

1.22 Treats grievants and respondents with dignity and respect. The EXAT does not make decisions based on having made a complaint themselves, nor for having been the subject of sexual harassment.

1.23 Is in violation of this Code of Ethics when he or she:

.1 Is convicted of any felony or engages in conduct which could lead to conviction of a felony

.2 Is convicted of a misdemeanour related to their qualifications or function

.3 Is expelled from or disciplined by other professional organizations

.4 Has their licenses or certificates suspended or revoked or are otherwise disciplined by regulatory bodies

.5 Continues to practice EXAT while no longer competent to do so because they are impaired by physical or mental causes or the abuse of alcohol or other substances

.6 Fails to cooperate with the Association at any point from the inception of an ethical complaint through the completion of all proceedings regarding that complaint.

2.0 Extended Responsibility

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

2.1 Has an extended responsibility to promote ethical practice by addressing unethical and/or harmful activities of colleagues, co-workers, students and employees. This may include talking about the activity with the individual, the client who is being harmed and/or the relevant professional, OEATA Ethics Committee or legal body.

2.2 Reports violations of this code by others to the Ethics Committee of the Ontario Expressive Arts Therapy Association. The EXAT engages in regular self-monitoring, assessment and reporting of their practice.

2.3 Develops, promotes and participates in accountability processes and procedures related to their work.

2.4 Participates in and contributes to, the professional growth of self and colleagues through continuous self-evaluation, mentoring, supervision and continuing education.

2.5 Accurately represents the profession in all formal and informal public statements.

3.0 Professional Competence

a) Regarding Behaviour towards the Clients

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

3.1 Abides by the law and adheres to the Code of Ethics.

3.2 Practices with honesty, integrity, fairness and respect for others.

3.3 Describes their qualifications, techniques and professional affiliations accurately.

3.4 Uses initials to which they are legally entitled, eg. degrees from an accredited institution, or certification from training programs or registration with applicable professional associations.

a) EXATs use the initials EXAT(Certified) after their name only with official recognition from OEATA or IEATA.

b) Student members must refer to themselves as 'Students in the field of Expressive Arts Therapy'.

c) Supporting members, support the Association in its vision, mission and goals and uses initials to which they are legally entitled.

3.5 Shall maintain professional competence through ongoing self-evaluation, peer support, consultation, research, supervision, personal therapy and education to evaluate, improve and expand their quality of work with clients, areas of expertise and emotional health.

3.6 Offers services that are within the scope of practice for which they have qualified. EXATs do not attempt to diagnose, treat, or advise on problems outside the recognized scope of practice and areas of competence.

3.7 Is obligated to refer clients to other professionals in the event that the client needs service that is outside the area of competence of the service provider.

3.8 The therapist informs the client and obtains client consent when a new therapeutic approach is introduced. The therapist must have sufficient education and training accompanied by qualified supervision in the new area.

3.9 An EXAT seeks assistance from professionals (i.e. supervisor, psychotherapist, lawyer) when experiencing conflicts of interest or personal problems. Examples are: health or stress problems, feelings of personal prejudice, bias or discrimination, insufficient experience in dealing with the client's situation that may negatively impact the therapeutic relationship. This may result in the client being referred to another therapist from an updated referral list.

3.10 Does not provide services which create a conflict of interest that may impair work performance or clinical judgements, (e.g. where the client feels coerced into purchasing items or services that are outside the scope of the contract between the therapist and client)

3.11 Respect the rights of others to hold values, attitudes and opinions that differ from their own by recognizing that there may be differences among people, associated with age, race, size, ethnicity, legal status, class, ability, sexual orientation, gender, or religious belief. When necessary, therapists research, seek training, obtain experience, or council to assure competent service.

a) Behaviour with employers

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

3.12 Does not solicit the clients of other therapists, nor from agencies or institutions with whom they work. Should a client request continuing services in private practice, the Expressive Arts Therapist obtains consent and referral from the agency or institution before fulfilling the request of the client.

3.13 Who is employed by another person, or agency, suggests clients of the employer or agency leave to come to their private practice only when there is a mutual agreement between the EXAT and the employer or agency. Change is made only in the best interest of the client.

Regarding behaviour in the broader community

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

3.14 Who is not covered for Professional Liability through an employer or agency as in the case of an EXAT working in private practice, said EXAT must obtain and maintain at all times, adequate Professional Liability as well as Business/Property Liability Insurance as required.

3.15 Be they a trainer, an educator, a supervisor, a consultant or a researcher abides by high standards of scholarship, presents accurate information and discloses potential conflicts of interest.

3.16 Continually tracks and assesses the outcomes of the therapeutic services offered.

3.17 Stays informed about clinical developments in related fields, continues to develop their professional skills and knowledge, and maintains their credentials through ongoing professional development.

3.18 Is expected to contribute to the professional field of knowledge through inter-disciplinary conference participation, research &

publishing.

3.19 Assists the public in finding competent and qualified EXATs and discourages the misuse and incompetent practice of Expressive Arts Therapy.

3.20 Understands that, because of their ability to influence and alter the lives of others, they must use due diligence when making their professional recommendations and opinions public.

4.0 RECORDS

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

4.1 Keeps standard-sized records (Financial or written clinical notes, digital media, recordings, photos, any form of art etc.) in a locked file cabinet. Over-sized records such as art work will be kept in a safe place. Computer files are accessible only to the therapist or those who have a legitimate need to know the information contained. Records could include: written records, photographs, DVDs, audio and video media, e-mails, digital media, any form of art.

4.2 Maintains a clear record of all therapy having to do with the client. This record must be maintained for continuity of treatment, clarity of thinking, analysis of process and content, presentation for supervision, communication with colleagues and for clarity in the case of litigation.

4.3 Records relevant themes that entered into the therapy session. Client files should not include abbreviations, jargon, irrelevant speculation or offensive statements. The EXAT records pertinent information from telephone communications with clients into the client file.

4.4 Maintains precise and adequate clinical records that include:

.1 Name of client, address, telephone numbers, date of birth, e-mail.

.2 Name and address of any referring agent or other service provider.

.3 Emergency contact name, telephone numbers, address

.4 Date, time, duration of each contract and subsequent session with the client

.5 History of the client and a description of the presenting problem

.6 Particulars and results of all interventions, including advice; and when the intervention is given to a person other than the client, a record of the name and address of the person to whom it was given.

.7 Particulars of every fee or other amount charged

.8 Any reasons a client may give for cancelling an appointment

.9 A copy of every written consent

.10 A copy of each report that is prepared with respect to the client.

4.5 Provides the client with relevant information detailing their qualifications and registration, areas of expertise and experience and the name of their supervisor.

4.6 Forms that Expressive Arts Therapists (EXATs) have on the premises for client perusal and when needed:

.1 Relevant degrees and Certificates of training.

.2 Contracts clearly outline the nature and form of the proposed therapy. Client must read, agree to and sign once the interview is complete and has decided to contract with the EXAT. Contracts must be reviewed regularly to make sure that the clients needs and well-being are placed first. The contract describes the philosophy of the work, the risks involved and what the client can hope to gain from the process. Fees are stated clearly. Expectations around financial arrangements for cancelled or missed appointments are also included. Once services have been contracted, EXAT provides reasonable notice of any changes in fees or other changes.

.3 A copy of the Privacy Policy that each client can read and sign.

.4 A copy of the Privacy act.

.5 The OEATA Code of Ethics

.6 Consent to share information forms

.7 Consent to participate in research forms

.8 Consent to record form

Optional: Access to Health Records Act 1990...client right to manual health records made after 1 Nov. 1991. (
<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1990/23/contents>)

Data Protection Act 1984...client right to computer records. Also regulates storage and protection.

Retention of records and data

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

4.7 Makes plans to safeguard confidentiality of records and data in

the event of death, incapacity or withdrawal from the position of practice. Client records retention as in accordance with legal obligation is seven years past termination of service; for minors, seven years past the age of majority.

4.8 In cases where there is the possibility of the client's eventually raising an issue of sexual abuse, records shall be kept indefinitely.

4.9 When working with children, makes sure the child understands and contributes to their joint contract for the work. Non-verbal means of sharing contractual agreement may be used when appropriate, for instance with people who can not read or write or speak. Working with a minor requires the written consent of the legal guardian.

4.10 Holds closure as mandatory for ending therapy. Ending will be done with enough care and time.

Follow up arrangements should be clear.

4.12 Allows clients reasonable opportunities to review their case records. Access could be restricted if there were more than one client involved in the therapy, that would jeopardize the confidentiality of another client. When the notes are about a group, the client is allowed to read the notes about themselves.

4.13 At the end of retention period makes certain all files are appropriately destroyed and shredded. Records for a client who began therapy after the age of consent (18 in Ontario) are retained for 7 years after cessation of therapy. In the case of a minor, notes should be retained until the clients' 24th birthday or 25th if the young person was 17 at conclusion of treatment, or 7 years after death if death occurred before the 18th birthday.

4.14 Destroys all files, notes, artefacts, and electronic data in a manner that maintains confidentiality.

4.15 Responds to client requests for access to files (notes, artefacts, digital media etc.) as soon as possible but no longer than 30 days. A copy of the information is provided to the client or legal guardian, including clients under the age of majority who have consented to treatment and who are capable of understanding the subject matter of the record; the client is given access to parts of the file that exclude information about any third party. The EXAT must provide written reasons for the refusal of access to the information in the client's file. In some cases, information can be withheld from a client. [See Guide to the Access to Health Records Act 1990 published by Government of Canada Health Departments.]

Retention of records varies according to current legislation and health services policy statement.

A retention period of seven years after termination of therapy can be a guide.]

Recording sessions

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

4.16 Needs informed consent prior to commencement of service. A formal recording contract must be drawn up and signed by all participants. Consent may be withdrawn at any time.

4.17 Makes clear the therapeutic intention to the client. When a client is unable to give informed consent, seek consent from the legal guardian of the client.

4.18 Ensure that clients understand the option to request that material relating to themselves, is edited, modified or deleted.

Recording Sessions for Public Viewing

The Expressive Arts Therapist:

4.19 Carefully examines the intention to record sessions for non-therapeutic purposes with regard to risk to client and therapeutic process. Risks and benefits of participation must be conveyed to participants. Therapists must assess the effect on the client before proceeding with consent.

4.20 Recruits the client specifically for the purpose of public viewing.

4.21 Are careful to assess the individual's emotional and psychological suitability to be involved before seeking their consent.

4.22 In the event that broadcasters or production companies are involved, it must be established whether a withdrawal of consent could constitute a breach of contract. Legal advice should be sought before business contracts are signed. The intent of the broadcast must be made clear to the client.

4.23 Pay careful attention to the potential effect on third parties and all participants must understand the possibility of litigation.

4.24 Before using private information, obtains written consent from the person, or persons, involved and must adequately disguise all identifying information. Confidential information can only be released by written consent, unless there is imminent danger to the client or the community. **5.0 Remuneration**

The Expressive Arts Therapist, regarding fees:

5.1 Discusses fee schedule and payment method at the commencement of sessions.

5.2 Asks for reasonable remuneration according to level of experience and competence, nature of service, amount of time and can use a sliding fee scale according to the ability of the client to pay.

5.3 Accepts remuneration only for services actually rendered by themselves or under their supervision and only in accordance with professional standards that safeguard the best interest of the client and the profession.

5.4 Will not take financial advantage of a client and will take in to account the ability for the client to pay.

5.5 May not accept or charge private fees for services when the therapist receives remuneration for these services by an agency.

5.6 Does not accept gratuities, gifts or favours from clients that could interfere with any decisions of or judgements by the client.

5.7 Will not engage in commercial activities that conflict with responsibilities to clients or colleagues.

5.8 Will respect the client's right to accept or refuse supplementary resources such as articles, books, art materials etc.

5.9 Will not profit from the sale of equipment/materials to the client within the therapeutic relationship

5.10 Charges for any not for profit sales of materials will be separate from the bill for therapeutic services.

5.11 Accurately represents their competencies, education, training and experience relevant to their practice.

5.12 Does not give commissions, fees or privilege's to anyone making a referral, and refrains from asking for a fee for referrals made to other therapists.

5.13 Does not offer the client fees or privileges for agreeing to participate in research, publications or other representation of their

case material.

5.14 Refrains from sharing workload or salary with other therapists except with written agreement and only with fully informed consent of client or employer. When work is sub-contracted to another Expressive Arts Therapist, the fee remains commensurate with the service provided.

5.15 Does not use information received in their relationships with clients for personal gain.

5.16 Uses extra sensitivity around issues of their own privilege with regard to equity should a client request bartering for services.

5.17 Makes all reasonable efforts to obtain payment before seeking legal action. In the event that the therapist does seek legal action, they must inform the client of the impending action to provide the opportunity for immediate payment of monies owed.

5.18 In the event of litigation for fees, does not disclose any client information to anyone other than the client and does not withhold information when it is needed and requested for treatment of client.

The Expressive Arts Therapists regarding promotion:

5.19 Makes sure that advertising and publications in any media displays information necessary for the public to select a therapist. Information could include: office information such as name, address, telephone numbers, credit card acceptability, fees, languages spoken and hours; qualifying certificate, other earned degrees and the nature of services offered.

5.20 Does not use names that could mislead the public concerning the identity, responsibility, source or status of those practicing under that name, and does not convey themselves as being partners or associates of a firm if they are not affiliated with them.

5.21 Corrects, wherever possible, false information.

5.22 Avoids the following in announcing services: misleading or deceptive advertising, misrepresentation of specialty, guarantees or false expectations, and the use of the OEATA logo.

5.23 Uses the following materials in announcing services, all of which must be dignified in appearance and content: announcement cards, brochures, letterhead, business cards, web-page, website, social media. It is acceptable to announce services through the mail, by listings in directories, or by internet and other related digital media.

6.0 Responsible Leadership

The Directors of OEATA show leadership to the profession by:

6.1 Promoting ethical practice by upholding the highest standards of practice.

6.2 Delivering continuing education opportunities and resources relating to ethical issues and practice to OEATA members and to the public.

6.3 Making themselves available to the public and society at large for consultation on ethical matters.

6.4 Mentoring new EXAT graduates by reviewing and discussing the Code of Ethics with them. Directors foster a complete understanding of the ethics, responsibilities, and essential core competencies of their chosen areas including an understanding and critical analysis of the uses and potential misuses of practice and research.

6.5 Regularly evaluating the established ethical standards.

6.6 Addressing unethical practices by members of the association in accordance to the procedures laid out in the OEATA Policy and Procedures Manual.

Expressive Arts Therapy Supervisors show leadership to the profession by:

6.7 Using their skills to assist the development of a high degree of professional competence in the student and supervisee.

6.8 Confirming that student and supervisee receive adequate supervision in placements.

6.9 Being responsible for the behaviour of the student or supervisee.

6.10 Ensuring that the competence and ethics of supervisees is directed towards eliminating harm to clients.

6.11 Tracking process, noting ethical issues and supervisee interventions.

6.12 Acting as role models with regard to conduct and the Code of Ethics.

6.13 Making the student and supervisee aware that they must function under the same Code of Ethics that guide professionals.

Expressive Arts Therapy Educators show leadership to the profession by:

6.14 Exercising a professional demeanour when working with students/supervisees/peers by respecting social and ethical boundaries.

6.15 Creating a program which includes a broad range of academic, research, clinical and ethical foundations standard to the field.

6.16 Staying current with regard to theory and method and the progress made in related health fields. Educators will undertake sufficient training, consultation and supervision before teaching new techniques and material.

6.17 Making sure that all descriptions are up to date. This includes providing to students program goals and objectives, course descriptions, syllabus and content, fee structure and graduation requirements.

6.18 Offering feedback and evaluating performance on standard requirements throughout the training.

6.19 Being accountable for a program which necessitates that students be in therapy, group or individual, making certain that the faculty evaluating student performance, do not themselves provide therapy to their own students.

6.20 Referring students and supervisees to another professional and do not contract as therapist with them.

6.21 Maintaining educational standards, evaluating student competence, and identifying students whose limitations prevent them from being recommended for placements with clients. Educators will only recommend students whom they feel will qualify as competent EXATs in meeting the academic, clinical and ethical expectations of the field.

6.22 Providing training that delivers the requirements for graduation, and other institutional goals.

6.23 Giving precise and objective information when training.

6.24 Not offering techniques /procedures to students lacking the pre-requisites.

6.25 Delegating to his/her employees, students, or co-workers only those responsibilities that such persons can reasonably be expected to perform competently on the basis of their training and experience. The EXAT takes reasonable steps to see that such persons perform services competently; and if institutional policies prevent fulfillment of this obligation, the EXAT attempts to correct the situation to the extent feasible.

7.0 Research

Investigators respect the dignity and protect the welfare of research participants, and are aware of applicable laws, regulations and professional standards governing the conduct of research.

The Expressive Arts Therapist acting as investigator:

7.1 Designs and conducts research in accordance with established ethical standards.

7.2 Prior to participation, establishes, an agreement with research participants specifying the responsibilities and rights of those involved, and written consent is obtained. The research participant is free to refuse to participate or to withdraw from the research at any time without penalty or loss of service. The investigator describes elements of the research that might influence the subject's willingness to participate, including potential risks and benefits. The investigators will avoid any deception in research.

7.3 Is especially sensitive to the possibility of diminished consent when participants are also receiving clinical services, or have impairments which limit understanding and/or communication, or when participants are children.

7.4 Does not include new clients in their research before establishing informed consent for research purposes, clients must be comfortable with the process and have an understanding of disclosure.

7.5 Debriefs research participants in such a way that the participants' knowledge is enhanced, and the participants have a sense of contribution to knowledge.

7.6 Is responsible for making careful examination of ethical acceptability in planning studies. To the extent that services to research participants may be compromised by participation in research, the investigator seeks the ethical advice of qualified professionals not directly involved in the investigation and observes safeguards to protect the rights of research participants.

7.7 Ensures that participation of subjects in research is voluntary. Appropriate authorization will be obtained both from the subjects involved (or specified guardians) and the facility. This obligation requires special thought and consideration when investigators or other members of the research team are in positions of authority or influence over participants. The Expressive Arts Therapist therefore, makes every effort to avoid multiple relationships with research participants that could impair professional judgment or increase the risk of exploitation.

7.8 Ensures that information obtained about a research participant during the course of an investigation is confidential unless there is a waiver previously obtained in writing. When the possibility exists that others, including family members, may obtain access to such information, this possibility, together with the plan for protecting confidentiality, is explained as part of the procedure for obtaining informed consent.

7.9 Is ultimately responsible for protecting the welfare of the research subjects, both during and after the study, in the event of after-effects, and will take all precautions to avoid injurious psychological, physical, or social effects to the subjects.

7.10 Stores research data in a secure location accessible only to the researcher.

7.11 Determines a set period of time after completion of the study by which all research data must be shredded or erased.

7.12 Is competent in his/her research efforts, being cognizant of his/her limits.

7.13 Makes efforts to present clinical and research findings without distortion or misuse and in a manner that will not be misleading.

7.14 Is aware of consequences of third party interventions (eg.editors) in creating research material. Investigators need to be involved at the editing level.

7.16 Exercises, due to their ability to influence and alter the lives of others, extra care when making public recommendations and opinions through testimony or other public statements.

8.0 Publication and Credit

When publishing, the Expressive Arts Therapist:

8.1 Respects colleagues by citing persons to whom credit for original ideas or work is due, research or findings in publications or presentations. The Expressive Arts Therapist does not misrepresent, plagiarize or misquote another's work.

8.2 Ensures credit is assigned only to those who have contributed to a publication, in proportion to the contribution.

8.3 Ensures that major contributions of a professional nature made by several persons to a common project will be recognized by joint authorship.

8.4 Ensures that minor contributions such as editing or advising, will be recognized in footnotes or in an introductory statement.

8.5 Acknowledges through specific citations all unpublished, as well as published, material that has directly influenced the research or writing.

8.6 Compiles and edits for publication the contribution of others, they will publish the symposium or report under the title of the committee or symposium, with the therapist's name appearing as chairperson, or editor, among those of the other contributors or committee members.

8.7 Does not accept or require authorship credit for a publication based on research from a student's program, unless the therapist made a substantial contribution beyond being a faculty advisor or research committee member. Co-authorship on a student thesis, dissertation, or project should be determined in accordance with principles of fairness and justice.

8.8 Takes reasonable precautions to ensure that the organization promotes and advertises the materials accurately and factually.