

The background is a solid blue color. In the four corners, there are decorative white line-art patterns resembling circuit boards or neural networks, with lines connecting to small circles.

RAISING YOUR VOICE FOR DRAMA THERAPY: HOW TO ADVOCATE FOR THE PROFESSION

NADTA GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

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KEY PRINCIPLES OF ADVOCACY

KNOW YOUR ELECTED OFFICIALS

- On what committees do they serve?
- Did they participate in the arts when they were in school? Do they support funding/programming for the arts now?
- Do they support funding/programming for mental illness?
- Eg.- one of the legislative staffers had a sibling who was autistic and had done some art therapy. We leveraged that information and used it as opportunity to educate on drama therapy and the work we do with that population.

KNOW WHAT YOU WANT

- Establish an “ask” – decide what you want
- Be specific
- Understand how your activities contribute to the greater good- how does what you want benefit your community and the legislators’ constituents?

KNOW YOUR ALLIES

- Seek to establish coalitions- are there other creative arts therapy (CAT) organizations where you live?
- Are there other non CAT organizations you could partner with that are sympathetic to your mission?
- Create a unified message of purpose and strategy

WHAT TO DO

- Have information, statistics, and success stories relevant to drama therapy and the district.
- Keep message short and succinct.
- Suggest solutions or a specific request.
- Follow-up with an email or phone call.

KNOW WHAT THE HOT BUTTON ISSUES ARE OF THE DAY

- Find out what is important to your elected official.
- What issues does she/he most often support?
- How does drama therapy seek to address those issues?
- Provide evidence to support your claims.


BUILD A RELATIONSHIP WITH YOUR ELECTED OFFICIAL

- Attend their functions/visit their offices.
- Support their campaigns/volunteer on their election campaigns.
- Invite them to your events.
- Write to them.
- Send them updates on your work including newspaper clippings, photos, event brochures.

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RESOURCES

HOW TO FIND INFORMATION YOU
NEED TO SUPPORT YOUR ADVOCACY
EFFORTS



DO YOU KNOW HOW TO FIND FACT SHEETS THAT DETAIL HOW DRAMA THERAPY IS USEFUL WITH DIFFERENT POPULATIONS?

FOLLOW THIS LINK:

[HTTP://WWW.NADTA.ORG/WHAT-IS-DRAMA-THERAPY/FACT-SHEET.HTML](http://www.nadta.org/what-is-drama-therapy/fact-sheet.html)



FOLLOW THE LINKS TO FIND YOUR SENATORS AND LOCAL REPRESENTATIVE

CANADIAN LINKS TO FIND LEGISLATORS:

[HTTP://WWW.PARL.GC.CA/PARLINFO/COMPILATIONS/HOUSEOFCOMMONS/MEMBERBYPOSTALCODE.ASPX?MENU=HOC](http://www.parl.gc.ca/parlinfo/compilations/houseofcommons/memberbypostalcode.aspx?menu=hoc)

[HTTP://WWW.CANADASPEAKS.CA/RESOURCES/FIND-YOUR-MPP/](http://www.canadaspeaks.ca/resources/find-your-mpp/)

US SENATE:

[HTTPS://WWW.SENATE.GOV/GENERAL/CONTACT_INFORMATION/SENATORS_CFM.CFM](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm)

US HOUSE:

[HTTP://WWW.HOUSE.GOV/REPRESENTATIVES/FIND/](http://www.house.gov/representatives/find/)

FIND YOUR LOCAL OFFICIALS ON THE STATE AND LOCAL LEVELS

- CITY COUNCIL PERSONS
- CITY REPRESENTATIVES
- STATE REPRESENTATIVES
- STATE SENATORS

THE ROLE OF THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

THE GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE'S ROLE IS TO SUPPORT MEMBERS WITH INFORMATION AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY EFFORTS.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN CONTACTING THE COMMITTEE, PLEASE EMAIL :

GOVERNMENTAFFAIRS@NADTA.ORG