



Notes from the March 22, 2020 Virtual Town Hall Meeting:

On March 22, the NADTA Board hosted a Virtual Town Hall Zoom Meeting for members concerning the COVID-19 crisis and the NADTA's response to it. The full town hall was recorded and can be viewed [here](#). A big take-away from this meeting was:

Don't socially disconnect yourself just because we must physically distance ourselves.

Please find the notes from this meeting with resource links of helpful information.

1. Slack – Slack is an instant messaging platform for users to connect with one another. Slack is being made available to all members as a way for members to stay connected. There is a channel dedicated to educational issues.

Please email the NADTA office (office@nadta.org) to receive an invitation to Slack and appropriate channels (<https://slack.com/>)

2. NADTA Awards – The nomination deadline for NADTA awards has been extended until May 15. Photos and videos from past winners will be posted on social media. For more details on how to submit your nominations visit <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MKL2B6Y>

3. COVID-19 Updates and NADTA's response and support strategies ([See previous statement here](#)):

a. Capitol Hill Management Services (CHMS) is open for business. Nicole Weijola, our CHMS Administrator, is currently working from a remote platform. CHMS has established a [website](#) resource that addresses how CHMS and our organization is dealing with COVID-19.

b. "The Show Must Go On" – Even though we do not know what the future will hold, NADTA will guide members on taking it moment by moment. It is important to stay mindful and take it step by step so we don't feel overwhelmed. It is not business as usual and we will creatively and collectively adapt to these challenges as they come and will move forward together.

c. [The 2020 NADTA Conference](#) is still set to be held November 5-8, 2020. Please see below (Item 6) for more information and adaptations.

d. Students – We know that students are being impacted by COVID-19 in terms of internships, course work, and graduation. The Education Chair (with help from the NADTA Board and school

administrators and BCTs) is working to adapt and to provide alternatives for course work and internships (Item 5 will provide more information and adaptations). We plan to work collectively and creatively to help students to graduate on time.

e. NADTA website – The NADTA organization is moving forward to update our website to be accessed in a mobile format – something that has become essential in our current global reality.

f. Regional funds are available to support regional programs, which help to support our region members and overall community. Even though groups and individuals have been forced to cancel in-person conferences due to social distancing regulations/guidelines, the NADTA regions are dedicated to assist and fund online/virtual programs, workshops, and programs that will connect the region's members. Please connect with you regional reps for more information:

1. canadianrep@nadta.org
2. centralrep@nadta.org
3. easternrep@nadta.org
4. westernrep@nadta.org

4. CHEDC – Statement about Xenophobia - Please be mindful of groups and individuals (even ourselves) targeting and scapegoating during these times. Please view the trending hashtag #Iamnotavirus for more information on individuals' experiences with increased xenophobia related to COVID-19.

5. Education – Discussed a list of Resources and Virtual Guidance provided to educators to support students in terms of coursework and internships ([See previous statement here](#)):

a. Support to Educators – Cap Hill has a [list of resources](#) regarding COVID19. Slack - #educationissues channel (contact office@nadta.org to be accepted). The Slack Education Channel is a great way to share knowledge and strategies to help students come together.

b. NADTA is dedicated to being flexible and creative with experience hours for students – the Education Chair and the NADTA Board are working to create a system of accepting telehealth groups, online individual sessions, and online supervision hours. Acceptance of special projects with BCTs and accredited programs are currently being developed.

c. Loosening hours accumulation requirements – NADTA is working with our education sites about the possibility of providing allowances for experience hours to be accumulated post-graduation, if their accumulation was impacted by the pandemic and jeopardize May 2020 graduations. Please connect with the Education Chair for information – education@nadta.org.

d. The Membership Chair provided information about connecting with educational program student reps and the alternative training student rep for resources for internships and solidarity. Look out for two upcoming Zoom gatherings.

6. 2020 NADTA Conference (#NADTA2020) – We KNOW that the annual NADTA Conference is important to many of us, as it is a time to connect, network, and inspire each other. With the continuation and forecast for COVID-19, we are looking into different formats that the 2020 NADTA Conference could take. The NADTA Board is dedicated to make this conference happen!

a. Conference Planning – Conference planning is moving forward! The conference planning team is working collaboratively and creatively to meet the needs of the NADTA community, as well as ensuring the safety needs of everyone. A special thank you goes out to Rachel Brousseau, Alexis Maron, and Dorothy Lemoult for their work in navigating and adapting to this ever-changing landscape we are facing.

b. Family-Friendly Oriented – The COVID-19 pandemic is impacting families of all shapes, sizes, and makeups and the NADTA Board is committed to helping all families by providing a family-friendly conference. If members have any questions or ideas for the conference whether it be for face-to-face or virtual conference platform, please email vicepresident@nadta.org.

c. Conference Technology – the NADTA Board has been in process, even before COVID-19, to provide conference attendees with expanding-reach conference information and to attempt to be more eco-friendly moving forward. The NADTA Board is in the process of selecting a conference app that will answer the needs of this organization.

d. Expansion of the “Riding the Wave” (into the Next Act for Drama Therapy) has developed as a result of COVID-19. The Conference Committee is encouraging proposals for workshops, presentations, and poster sessions that can be both in-person, virtual, AND hybrid (a combination of in-person and virtual). Be creative and diverse!

e. Extension of Proposal Deadline – The deadline for proposals have been extended to **March 31, 2020**. PLEASE submit proposals that celebrate resilience and changing formats that match the needs of our profession.

f. Conference Planning – Please consider participating/volunteering to make this next conference the richest, most creatively executed conference ever! Contact vicepresident@nadta.org for more information.

7. Providing Resources for drama therapy professionals and students -

a. Resources about **accurate information, getting creative, internships, and NADTA Conference Travel** have been provided.

b. Reach out! – Please reach out to members of our community via a variety of avenues (both traditional and technological) -Support and be supported during this time of crisis. Visit social media sites ([Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), [Twitter](#) and [LinkedIn](#)) for resources and webinars for ideas and support.

c. Reach out to NADTA Regional Reps – provide your ideas and needs to regional reps. They can be a great help for region-specific needs AND to help you find out how you can be of service to your local community. Please connect with you regional reps for more information:

1. canadianrep@nadta.org
2. westernrep@nadta.org
3. centralrep@nadta.org
4. easternrep@nadta.org –

In addition, you may respond to a call for volunteers in NY at:

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help>

d. Students are not forgotten! – While this meeting did discuss some of the ideas NADTA will discuss with accredited programs and alternative track BCTs (see meeting discussion #5), please continue to send your questions to your program educators, BCTs, and NADTA Board. This is uncharted territory for all of us and we will have to work together to pave the way for aspiring drama therapists.

Take good care of yourselves!

~The NADTA Board