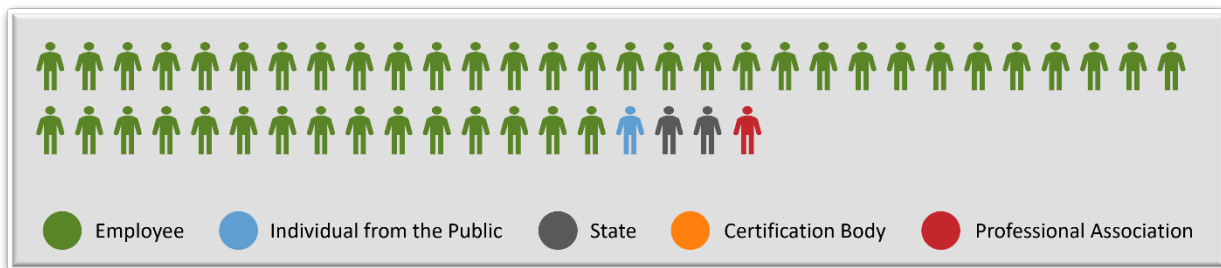


## VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR MUSIC THERAPISTS

### Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing VA's standard of practice for Music Therapists; this will be a standardized set of services that all VA Music Therapists can perform if their VA medical facility performs such services, and they have the education, training, and skill to perform the services.

On July 28, 2023, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Music Therapists on the Federal Register ([88 FR 48961](#)) for public comment and within VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent letters to the national certification body (Certification Board for Music Therapists), the association that co-developed the scope of practice (American Music Therapy Association)<sup>1</sup> and State licensing boards for Music Therapists with the proposed VA standard of practice and an opportunity for them to comment directly to VA on the proposed standard. VA requested that all comments on the Federal Register, VA's intranet site, and from the States and the certification and standards body be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on September 26, 2023, and VA received 49 comments in total.



VA received 45 comments from VA employees, 1 comment from an individual from the public, and 1 comment from the American Music Therapy Association. As of September 26, 2023, VA received comments from 2 out of the 11 State licensing boards for Music Therapists; however, VA will continue to actively engage with States.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Music Therapists in light of the comments, to include those that help VA meet its mission and goals through evidence-based practice and alternatives.

VA will post a collective response to all comments in a final report on <https://www.va.gov/standardspractice> once the VA standard of practice for Music Therapists is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at <https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.

<sup>1</sup> The Standards of Clinical Practice was developed jointly by the Certification Board for Music Therapists and the American Music Therapy Association.