

Practice trends

Musical counselor recruits colleagues to share tunes

Warren Throckmorton may well have been the first clinician to build a successful private practice and then leverage the sale of that practice to a hospital system.

He went on to serve as president of the American Mental Health Counselors Association, striking accords along the way between the group's members and national managed care firms.

Today, Throckmorton's day job is as a counselor at Grove City College, and he has a small private practice on the side one night weekly in a nearby town. And he makes music. Like many of his colleagues, Throckmorton has survived the managed care squeeze that pumped dollars, or at least visions of dollars, into the world of private practice, sucking them away almost as quickly.

He has emerged on the other side with a new plan that is grounded in his personal and clinical interests. As a musician, Throckmorton has loaded his CD on mp3.com, a where listeners can download free mp3 software to their computers.

His plan is to recruit other musical therapists not to be confused with music therapists who are interested in promoting each other's songs. "I'm looking for other counselors who are also musicians. They may have left counseling to do music, or like myself, counseling may be their primary occupation, but they do this on the side. They would have to be pretty serious about music though."

The next step is a resource station of sorts where clinicians can refer their clients for healthy mood music. "I want it to be an adjunct to what we're doing. You can let your computer play music while you're working. It would be very positive, affirming music. It would be very hopeful as just one more thing, one more resource or way to maybe relax or provide a nice soothing environment."

Throckmorton's music is already posted on one station identified as a positive music channel.

There's no cost to download the music, and no cost to the artists to post the music. "It's amazing the value you get for nothing. You can add a lot of bells and whistles and they'll charge you, but you don't have to."

Therapists who are interested should email Throckmorton at ewthrockmorton@gcc.edu. To hear his songs, visit www.mp3.com/throckmorton. To visit the positive music station, go to the website: www.stations.mp3s.com/stations/152/positive_music_radio.html

Sex offender treatment programs for youth

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groups. "The questions people asked after the presentations led to referrals. Now I get paid an average of \$500 for a two-hour presentation. People ask, 'What is normal adolescent sexual behavior? What do we need to look for?'" Jensen admits that he sometimes returns the fees to nonprofit groups.

Jensen charges \$85 an hour to supervise clinicians interested in learning to work with youthful sex offenders. For colleagues interested in the field, he offers these tips:

- **Learn state requirements for working with sex**

offenders. "You really need experience in working with sex offenders. You must be well grounded in your discipline."

- **Network with local people who specialize in the field.** Jensen is involved with the Network of Juveniles Offending Sexually (NOJOS), a local board of clinicians that meets biweekly discuss treatment strategies. Jensen says NOJOS offers an Advanced Academy for clinicians. These involve a two or three day conference that leads to a certificate. The NJOS can be reached at 503-643-1023.

- **Get information from a national association.** The

Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abusers is the one he recommends. The ATSA can be reached at 4900 SW Griffith Dr., Ste. 274, Beaverton, OR 97005. Phone: 503-643-1023. Website: www.atsa.com

- **Call on local correctional departments.** "Network with them. You must speak their language, demonstrate knowledge and treat the offender. You need to know how to navigate the offender through the juvenile court system. It gives you a backup for kids who resent treatment."

For more information, contact: Ronald Jensen, Rocky Mountain Youth Services, 133 E. 800 N., Orem, UT 84057. Phone: 801-229-1212.