



APRIL 2015

Hawaii Association for Play Therapy Newsletter



CONTACT HAPT

P.O Box 176
Pearl City, HI 96782

President-Mary Welsh
mlwelsh@comcast.net

President-Elect Joanne Higashi
joanneofmanoa@hotmail.com

Past-President-Shelly Tokunaga
shellzhi@yahoo.com

Secretary-Veronica Pahia
vkpahia@icloud.com

Treasurer-Minnie Quan
minniequan78@gmail.com

Member-At-Large Lindsay Bottoms
lindsaybottoms@yahoo.com

Semi-Annual HAPT Training & Membership Meeting

Sunday, September 20, 2015

11:00am to 3:45pm

Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden
45-680 Luluku Road in Kaneohe

Guest Speaker: Anita Trubitt, LCSW, MSW, M.Ed., RPT

Presents: Development and Attachment Considerations for the Child Play Therapist in High-Conflict Divorce/Paternity Cases



This interactive workshop will explore the ways a child's specific developmental stage typically affects his/her reactions to high conflict separated or divorcing parents. Erik Erikson's first two developmental stages will be reviewed and illustrated with specific case examples. Participants will be invited to identify what they need to know about the child, the parents, and the situation, then share their expertise in how to intervene as the treating therapist to the child and parents. The presenter will share tips to crafting parenting plans that are developmentally appropriate for the child. The workshop will include a number of handouts that the presenter has developed over many years of working with high-conflict families. This workshop offers 2.5 CEUs.

A Tribute to Carla



HAPT honored founder Carla Sharp at our semi-annual membership meeting. Sue Bergman, long time friend and fellow play therapist shared Carla's 40 year contribution to play therapy in Hawaii and beyond. Other mementoes included a Hula by Cheryl Ho dedicated to the special work Carla did with many of Hawaii's keiki, a dedication book signed by colleagues and an appreciation plaque and bowl. It was a great day all around!!

In case you missed it...Re-cap of Training with Dr. John Mascaró

“A Culturally Sensitive Look at Effective Play Therapy Interventions”

Dr. John Mascaró guided us in a great discussion on cultural sensitivity and what that can mean for the mental health provider in Hawaii. He examined what it looks like to develop a sense of our own unique cultural history and how that may affect our work with children and families. Participants shared stories of their cultural backgrounds and insight from personal experiences. Counseling tips and techniques were shared that can promote cultural sensitivity towards local populations. An insightful and thought provoking training!

*Early
Registration &
Student
Discounts
Available!
STAY TUNED*

MARK YOUR CALENDAR! 18th Annual HAPT Conference
***Healing Through Play: An Introduction to Attachment Based
Play Therapy***

Presented by: Claire Melanthin, LCSW



February 25 & 26, 2016

Pomaika'i Ballroom, Dole Cannery

Honolulu, Hawaii

Day 1: An Introduction to Attachment-Based Play Therapy

Day 2: Healing Complex Trauma Through Play Therapy

*Visit the HAPT website www.hawaiiplaytherapy.net for more
information and registration COMING SOON!!*

Congratulations to new RPT & RPT-S!!

Marilyn Choy Gibson, RPT

Mary Greaney, RPT

Kimberly Brewer, RPT

Shelley Schweitzer, RPT-S



Hello Kimberly Brewer!

One of HAPT's newest RPT's.

Thanks Kimberly for sharing your Journey!

I started my professional career as a child welfare worker. It was while working in the system when I realized I could be more helpful to these children as a therapist than I ever could as a case manager, so even before I started my master's program, I knew I was going to specialize in treating children. Like so many mental health counseling programs, there were minimal courses about working with children in my master's program. I graduated with my MA in mental health counseling having had a course in Human Development, but nothing even remotely close to theory or practice in working with children.

After I started working with children it didn't take very long to find out the skills you learn for how to treat adults don't go very in treating children. Like so many of my colleagues at the time who had no specific training in how to counsel children, I resorted to using books like 101 Favorite Play Therapy Techniques, and 101 More Favorite Play Therapy Techniques. I saw the kids were responding to these techniques, but I knew that in order to be truly effective at treating these children I needed to learn the theory behind the techniques. I needed to become a trained play therapist.

It was about that time that my husband was transferred to Hawaii for what was supposed to be just a two year assignment (It is now an indefinite assignment). My plan when we moved here was to be a stay at home mom and enjoy my two year Hawaiian vacation with my then three year old daughter. After a few months of being a stay at home mom I started to realize that I missed working. My husband deserves the credit for doing the research and finding Carla Sharp's year-long play therapy training. I guess he actually deserves a little credit for really listening to me when I was complaining about being bored too!

I enrolled in Carla's class in the fall of 2013. I knew from the very first class I attended that this was what I had been missing, this is exactly what I had been looking for; a theoretical foundation for effectively treating children. And not just treating children's behaviors, actually helping these children to HEAL. It was eye opening and inspiring. I decided at my very first class that I was definitely going to continue on with the requirements to become a registered play therapist. I finished the class in 2014, and finished the required supervision hours in 2015. I officially became an RPT in the Spring of this year. I opened a practice in Wahiawa, Oahu Play Therapy, and I'm doing what I love, every day, I'm helping children heal through play.



NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME!!

We welcome contributions to the newsletter: review of play therapy literature, tips or techniques you have found helpful, resources, upcoming trainings related to play therapy, letters to the editor, etc. Please contact HAPT Member-at-Large Lindsay Bottoms, lindsaybottoms@yahoo.com

Looking for Play Therapy Supervisors? **Hawaii Registered Play Therapy Supervisors**

Members who are interested in receiving their credentials in play therapy (i.e. Registered Play Therapist, RPT), and/or those seeking counsel regarding those sometimes sticky complex cases, here's your opportunity! Below is an updated list of your friendly neighborhood Registered Play Therapists supervisors, RPT-S who are extending their offers.

Margaret Bubon Smith, MA, MFT, RPT-S—Currently working for Healthy Start at Child and Family Service on Kauai. Experience with foster care, child abuse and preschool age children. She can be contacted at mgtbubon@hawaiiantel.net or 808-332-5200.

Carla Sharp, APRN, RPT-S, CST-T is offering play therapy and sandplay supervision until December 18, by appointment only at the Play Therapy Center of Hawaii. For more information, email Carla carlasharp@hawaii.rr.com

Shelley Schweitzer, LCSW, RPT-S, BCBA, is currently in private practice and works with children, adolescents and families. She offers individual supervision. Shelley has 15 years of experience in direct practice including 10 years at the Department of Education as a Behavioral Health Specialist and 6 years providing in home therapy to children with autism. She specializes in autism spectrum disorder, trauma, anxiety, depression, grief, child development, parenting, filial therapy and positive behavior support. She is trained in child centered play therapy as well as cognitive behavioral play therapy and directive play therapy techniques. She uses a prescriptive approach. She can be contacted at (808) 277-2850 (808) 277-2850 or emailed at schweitzer.lcsw@gmail.com

Supervisors cont.

Laura Williams, LCSW, RPT-S Currently is Private Practice on the Big Island. Offers individual and Group Supervision. Free monthly play therapy training group for HAPT members. Over 25 years of play therapy experience specializing in trauma, grief/loss, family violence, child abuse and neglect, sexual abuse, adoption, parenting education and support, bonding and attachment, infant mental health, developmental delays, sensory integration, autism, and alcohol/drug related neurodevelopmental disorders. Expertise in non-directive and directive play, sand tray, art, and other expressive modalities with children, adolescents, adults and families. She can be contacted at lwilliams LCSW@gmail.com or 808-895-0989

Elizabeth Kong, MA, LSC, LMFT, RPT-S Currently works as a School Counselor in East Honolulu. Experience working with children with

school related issues, anxiety disorders, **and** selective mutism, as well as children with physical challenges and families with substance abuse and loss. She can be contacted by email at Pacrimplaytherapy@yahoo.com

Available for individual supervision.

Mary Welsh, MS, NCC, MHC, RPT-S Currently working with Military Families as a consultant. Mary has 22 years experience in the field of child and family therapy and has spent 9 of those years in private practice. Mary was trained and received her supervision on the mainland and is also certified through the National Institute for Relationship Enhancement.

She feels that it is very important for Play Therapists to have a strong background in Child Centered Play Therapy and looks forward to working

with Supervisees interested in strengthening their knowledge and skills in this area. Mary can be reached at mlwelsh@comcast.net or at 703-919-1881. She is available for distance supervision and will assist the supervisee in creating and utilizing videotaped sessions as the best way to learn strong skills.