



# NOAH

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION for  
ARTS IN HEALTH

CODE OF ETHICS for  
ARTS IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

AND

STANDARDS for  
ARTS IN HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

Version 1

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## WHAT IS NOAH?

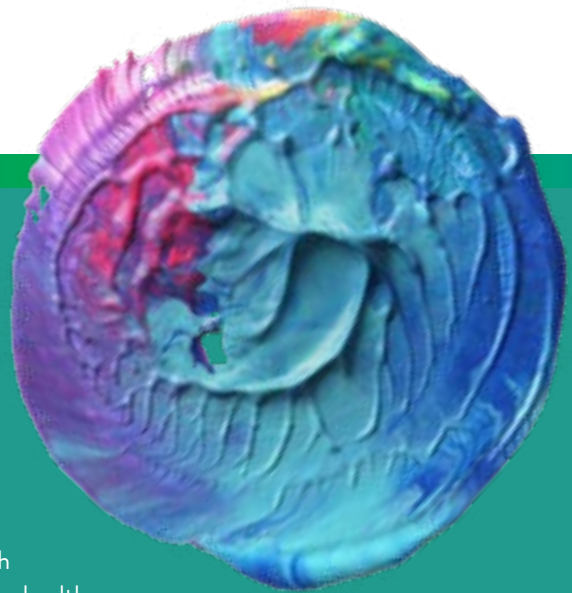
### MISSION:

To serve and advance the field of Arts in Health.

### VISION:

Arts in Health is an integral component to health and well-being.

As the National Organization for Arts in Health, we know through research and experience that the arts are an integral component to health, and we are committed to shaping a reality where that fact is accepted fully, and incorporated into medical treatment, medical education, prevention, and public health and wellbeing.



## WHAT IS ARTS IN HEALTH?

Arts in health is a field dedicated to using the power of the arts to enhance health and well-being in diverse institutional and community contexts.

Comprised of many subfields and affiliated fields, arts in health supports health as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”

— *Art, Health, & Well-being in America*, NOAH, 2017



October 7, 2018

Dear NOAH Members,

The mission of our Professionalization Committee is: “To endorse and promote professional standards of practice and professionalization for artists and administrators working in the field of arts in health.”

To this end, we are pleased to share the following foundational resources, endorsed by the National Organization for Arts in Health, to support the professionalization of the field.

- CODE OF ETHICS for Arts in Health Professionals
- STANDARDS for Arts in Health Professionals

Since its inception in 2016, the Professionalization Committee has focused on updating and codifying these two documents in consultation with members of the previous national arts in health organization and the NOAH Board of Directors, Ambassadors, Friends, and Membership. Our efforts were supported by the outpouring of positive and constructive feedback we received from this pool of committed professionals, and we are proud to endorse and release these documents for use by the field of arts in health.

To be noted:

- a. These documents are not intended for use in the field of creative arts therapies, which NOAH acknowledges as separate specialized disciplines.
- b. These are living documents and shall be reviewed every three years to accommodate cultural and procedural changes.
- c. The next professional resource, a Core Curriculum for Arts in Health Professionals, will construct legally defensible core competencies and a scope of practice for professionals working in the field. NOAH’s newly-formed Arts in Health Competency Task Force will be the creator of this resource.
- d. A glossary of common terms is attached to further clarify these documents.

It is in the adaptation and use of these professional resources that we can positively support and shape an elevated relationship between the spheres of arts and health and amongst affiliated fields.

With thanks,

*The NOAH Professionalization Committee*

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## CODE OF ETHICS for Arts In Health Professionals

### 1. RESPECT

Arts in health professionals treat each person with respect and maintain an understanding of individual differences and diversity. Arts in health professionals embrace the whole person and celebrate the unique identity of each participant in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

### 2. AUTONOMY

Arts in health professionals maintain respect for the autonomy of participants by offering a choice of participation throughout the arts in health experience.

### 3. SAFETY

Arts in health professionals avoid causing harm to health and wellbeing, intentionally or unintentionally, within the arts in health experience.

### 4. CONFIDENTIALITY

Arts in health professionals strictly follow the rules of their field and institution on behalf of patient, staff, and participant confidentiality.

### 5. INCLUSION

Arts in health professionals promote inclusion of all individuals to the fullest extent possible, ensuring that every participant is acknowledged and valued. Arts in health professionals make the arts accessible to all interested individuals regardless of race, ethnicity, national origin, language, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, age, marital status, political belief, religion, immigration status, ability, or socioeconomic status.

### 6. COMPETENCE

Arts in health professionals maintain a commitment to apply their professional knowledge and skills, to ensure participant safety and program effectiveness, and to work within their qualifications drawn from experience, training and education. Arts in health professionals do not engage in practices beyond their qualifications and take measures to clarify and support the roles of other health-related professionals.

### 7. INTEGRITY

Arts in health professionals act honestly and responsibly, adhering to ethical practices of their field and institution, on behalf of the individuals they serve, professional colleagues, and affiliated organizations.

### 8. JUSTICE

Arts in health professionals promote fair and just action. Arts in health professionals adhere to legal requirements of state and national law as well as affiliated institutions and remain alert to potential conflicts between legal and ethical obligations.



## 1. QUALITY OF PRACTICE

**Arts in health professionals systematically follow best practices and enhance effectiveness of arts in health practice.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Develop and implement programs that measure, evaluate, and improve the quality of arts in health services.
- Ensure patient/participant safety through consideration of environment, programming, and safe use and maintenance of professional materials.
- Incorporate research innovations and published evidence for arts in health programming and environments into their work.
- Adhere to applicable professional standards and regulations of affiliated institutions.
- Obtain and maintain professional experience, training, and education in respective discipline(s); and certification(s), as appropriate.

## 2. EDUCATION

**Arts in health professionals attain knowledge and competency that reflect current practice.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Understand professional standards for the role of an artist in health by participating in education related to arts in health.
- Acquire knowledge, techniques, and skills appropriate to their artistic discipline, population, practice setting, role, or situation.
- Demonstrate a commitment to continuing education through self-assessment and professional development; seek opportunities that reflect current practices to develop, maintain, and improve skills and competence in arts in health.
- Maintain professional records that provide evidence of professional experience.
- Use current research and evidence to increase knowledge of arts in health and enhance professionalism.

## 3. PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE EVALUATION

**Arts in Health professionals apply their knowledge and evaluate their performance based on current arts and health standards and guidelines, statutes, rules and regulations.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Engage in ongoing self-evaluation, identify areas of strength and areas in which professional development is required.
- Obtain informal and formal feedback regarding performance from participants, supervisors, and stakeholders.
- Provide guidance and evaluation of other arts in health professionals, as appropriate.

## 4. COLLEGIALITY

**Arts in health professionals use their experience, training, and education to contribute to the professional development of arts in health colleagues.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Model best practices and share arts in health knowledge and skills with arts in health colleagues.
- Provide arts in health colleagues with constructive feedback regarding their practice and professional performance.
- Maintain collegial relationships with local and national arts in health colleagues.

## 5. COLLABORATION

**Arts in health professionals collaborate with interprofessional team members and other stakeholders.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Maintain professional boundaries based on experience, training, and education, and take measures to clarify and support the roles of other health-related professionals.
- Collaborate with healthcare providers, stakeholders, and colleagues in creating programs, programming goals, and activities appropriate to the population and community setting.

## 6. ETHICS

**Arts in health professionals integrate the Code of Ethics for Arts in Health Professionals in all areas of arts in health practice.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Follow policies and guidelines of their affiliated institution with regard to interactions with patients, families and other professionals.
- Assure the preservation and protection of the autonomy, dignity, privacy, and rights of participants.
- Maintain confidentiality in accordance with legal, regulatory, and affiliated institution parameters.
- Understand the potential risks, benefits, and outcomes of all arts in health activities.
- Partner with healthcare administration and leaders to implement the Code of Ethics for Arts in Health Professionals and their affiliated institutions.

## 7. RESEARCH

**Arts in health professionals integrate research findings into arts in health practice.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Utilize evidence-based research to guide arts in health practice decisions, using validated assessment instruments whenever possible.
- Formally disseminate arts in health research and best practices through presentations, publications, or consultation.
- Participate in research collaborations to advance the field of arts in health, as appropriate.

## 8. RESOURCE UTILIZATION

**Arts in health professionals consider safety, effectiveness, cost, and impact of arts in health services.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Develop innovative arts in health practices that address effective and efficient resource utilization to assure quality programs.
- Utilize resources based on the identified needs of arts in health services.

## 9. LEADERSHIP

**Arts in health professionals serve and advance the field of arts in health.**

*Arts in health professionals:*

- Promote collaboration, advocacy, and innovation within the field of arts in health.
- Deliver high quality arts in health programming that reflects current best practices.
- Advocate for the professionalization of the field of arts in health.



**Arts in Health** is a field dedicated to using the power of the arts to enhance health and well-being in diverse institutional and community contexts. Comprised of many subfields and affiliated fields, arts in health supports health as defined by the World Health Organization (WHO), as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”<sup>1</sup>

**Arts in Healthcare** “is the domain of arts in health that pertains to using the arts within healthcare settings. Frequently used synonymously with the term Arts in Medicine.”<sup>1</sup>

**Arts in Community Health** “is the domain of arts in health that pertains to using the arts within community health or public health settings.”<sup>1</sup>

**Arts in Health Professionals** are individuals, including but not limited to artists and arts administrators, who apply their professional knowledge and skills to enhance health and well-being through the arts, ensuring participant safety and program effectiveness, and working within their qualifications drawn from experience, training, and education.

**Artists in Healthcare** (also known as Artists in Residence) are artists who work in healthcare settings who, upon referral from the interpersonal care team, explore different art forms to enhance the patient experience, improve the healthcare environment, and care for caregivers through passive or active creative process.<sup>1,2</sup>

**Health Sciences Education** “describes the application of the arts and humanities in service to medical education and practice,”<sup>3</sup> to increase “discourse about, express, and/or promote dimensions of human health and well-being.”<sup>4</sup>

**Healthcare Settings** pertain to public, private, and clinical areas of traditional healthcare facilities such as hospitals, hospices, and long-term care facilities.

### **Creative Arts Therapies**

The broad field of creative arts therapies, utilizing a wide range of artistic media, have specific educational and credentialing processes. Please see respective websites for definitions.

*Art Therapy, Art Therapists*  
arttherapy.org

*Creative Arts Therapies,  
Creative Arts Therapists*  
www.nccata.org

*Dance/Movement Therapy,  
Dance/Movement Therapists*  
adta.org

*Drama Therapy*  
www.nadta.org

*Expressive Arts Therapy*  
www.ieata.org

*Music Therapy, Music Therapists*  
www.musictherapy.org

*Poetry Therapy*  
ifbpt.org

<sup>1</sup> National Organization for Arts in Health. (2017). Arts, health and well-being in America: A white paper

<sup>2</sup> Sonke, J., Brandman, R., Graham-Pole, J. (2007). Whole person healthcare: Volume 3: The arts & health. Praeger: Connecticut.

<sup>3</sup> University of Florida Center for Arts in Medicine. (2017). Talking about Arts in Health: White Paper.

<sup>4</sup> Jones, T., Blackie, M., Garden, R., & Wear, D. (2017). The almost right word: The move from medical to health humanities. *Academic Medicine*, 92(7), 932-935.

# NOAH

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ARTS IN HEALTH

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