



# North Dakota Association for Play Therapy Newsletter

June 2024

## **Past President Message:**

Thanks to all who attended our NDAPT Annual Conference. It 's always great to see familiar faces and learn together with people who are working hard to help children! During the conference, elections were held and your new President is Andrea Walker. Congratulations I would like to thank the NDAPT board and members for making Play Therapy a priority in ND and for the hours of work behind the scenes to make it all happen. I hope you all have a great summer!

Ariana Best, LCSW, RPT-S

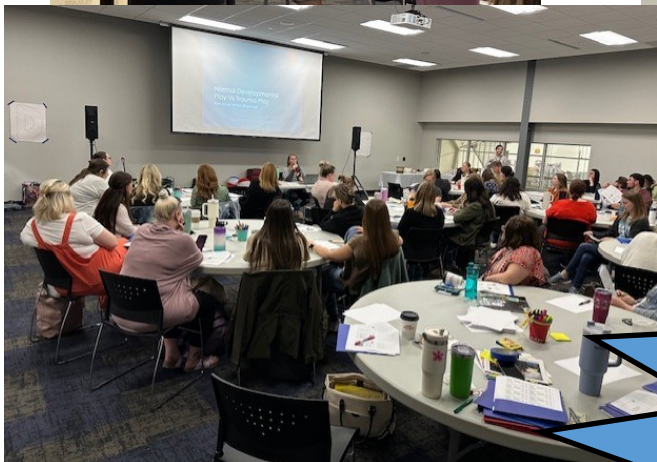
## **New President Message:**

I am honored and excited to lead the North Dakota branch for the Association of Play Therapy! As President of this branch, I hope to inspire more professionals to expand their knowledge and expertise in working with children and families. I have been a member of APT since 2014 and started assisting with the board and conference activities after attending my first play therapy conference back in 2014. I earned my Registered Play Therapist Credential in 2017 and graduated from the Association for Play Therapy's Leadership Academy in 2023. I currently serve on both the Leadership Academy Committee and the Registration & Continuing Education Committee at the National level. Additionally, I have been an active member with North Dakota APT including serving as Secretary and Vice President. Professionally, I have a private practice serving adults, youth, and families while also provide supervision and consultations to many interested in obtaining licensure and RPT credentials. I look forward to serving you as we continue to foster new growth and opportunities in serving the North Dakota APT Branch and our local youth families!

Andrea Walker, MSW, LCSW, RPT-S

## 2024 Annual Conference in Review

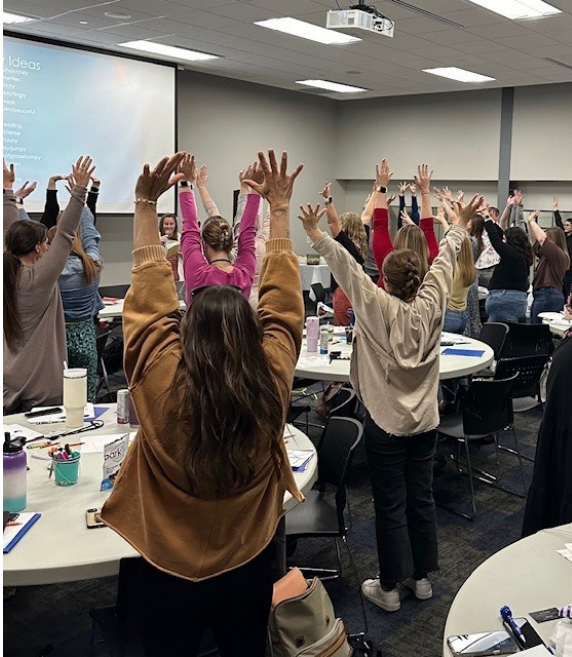
Thank you to all of those who joined us for the 2024 Annual Conference held June 5-7th in Bismarck ND. We are so thankful for our presenters and great learning opportunities offered to play therapists in our area. Our first two days included learning about Somatic Experiential Play Therapy from Melissa Wetterlund followed by a final day learning about the Powers of Play and how games are not just games when working with children. The final day was presented by our ND Board Members, Carol Schneweis, Ariana Best, and Bridget Meranda. Here is a look at a some of the fun from our three days together.



Save the Date  
2025 Annual NDAPT  
Conference

June 18-20, 2025 Fargo, ND





**Mental Health Professionals  
Applying the Therapeutic Power of Play!**

**President** Andrea Walker  
**Vice President** Bridget Meranda  
**Secretary** Tina Nordaune  
**Treasurer** Amanda Weston

**Members at Large:**

Jennifer Kizima  
Alissa Fugazzi  
Ariana Best

**Newly Elected  
NDAPT  
Board  
Members**

Heidi Selby  
Brandi Arndt  
Torina McConnachie  
Nicole Renner  
Talia Telander

Welcome to our  
New NDAPT  
Members!

**New  
North Dakota  
RPT**

*I am part of the play therapy community* 🖐️



**NEW RPT™**







Registration is open for the upcoming APT International Conference held October 15-20th, 2024 in Atlanta, GA.



## RPT

Interested in learning more about the  
Registered Play Therapy Credential?

**I offer Free consultations!**

Andrea Walker, MSW, LCSW,

LICSW, RPT-S

Child and Family Therapist

Registered Play Therapy ~ Supervisor



Thank you to the 2023-2024 Board  
Members for all your work the past  
few years.

Stay Connected  
with NDAPT



Facebook:



ND Association for Play  
Therapy

Instagram:



nda4pt

North Dakota Association for Play Therapy

<https://playtherapynd.com/>

## NDAPT Board Members

Executive Director	Carol Schneweis
President	Andrea Walker
Vice President	Bridget Meranda
Secretary	Tina Nordaune
Treasurer	Amanda Weston
Member Elect	Jennifer Kizima



Alissa Fugazzi

Ariana Best



## Why Play Therapy?

"Play is the highest form of research."  
- Albert Einstein