



AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION, INC.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**AMERICAN GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY ASSOCIATION RELEASES
“PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR GROUP PSYCHOTHERAPY”**

NEW YORK, May 23, 2007 — The American Group Psychotherapy Association (AGPA) announced the release of “Practice Guidelines for Group Psychotherapy,” a document which addresses areas considered essential to the successful practice of group psychotherapy.

Authored by the Science to Service Task Force, a blue ribbon panel of clinical and research experts in the field of group psychotherapy chaired by Joseph Kobos, Ph.D., ABPP, CGP, FAGPA and Melyn Leszcz, M.D., FRCPC, CGP, the guidelines are a cross-theoretical guide to developing and leading psychotherapy groups. Supported by clinical research, and developed through an expert consensus process, they are a practical resource for mental health professionals, and also serve the public-at-large by providing consumers with valuable information on the practice of group psychotherapy.

“These guidelines are a valuable new resource for the field of group psychotherapy and the client base it serves,” said Elizabeth Knight, M.S.W., CGP, FAGPA, AGPA President. “They are a concise guide to the basic tenets of practice, with a client-centered approach that maintains clinical integrity and creativity.”

The Guidelines address clinical practice areas including client selection, group process, the ethical practice of group psychotherapy, and group termination. The complete guidelines are available on the AGPA website at www.agpa.org to clinicians as well as the public-at-large.

Our appreciation goes to the authors who contributed their time and expertise in the development of these guidelines:

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About AGPA

The American Group Psychotherapy Association is the oldest and largest professional association dedicated to the field of group psychotherapy, operating through a tri-partite structure: AGPA, a professional and educational organization; the Group Psychotherapy Foundation, its philanthropic arm; and the National Registry of Certified Group Psychotherapists, a standard setting and certifying body. This multidisciplinary association has approximately 3,000 members, including psychiatrists, psychologists, social workers, nurses, pastoral counselors and creative arts therapists, many of whom have been recognized as specialists through the Certified Group Psychotherapist credential. The association has 31 local and regional societies located across the country. Its members are experienced mental health professionals who lead psychotherapy groups and various non-clinical groups. Many are organizational specialists who work with businesses, not-for-profit organizations, communities and other "natural" groups to help them improve their functioning.