

ITA Announces Change in Leadership

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: ITA announces the appointment of Jeffrey Wolfe as the organization's new Chief Executive Officer

Evanston, IL — August 13, 2025 — The Institute for Therapy through the Arts (ITA) announces an important leadership transition as current CEO Chrissy Dale has accepted the role of Executive Director at Laughlin Children's Center in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. Her official last day at ITA will be **August 29, 2025**.

Dale has been a visionary leader at ITA, guiding the organization through a period of extraordinary growth. Under her leadership, ITA expanded services to more than 105 Chicago Public Schools and secured a landmark \$1.4 million grant to support mental health initiatives. Her expertise in education, counseling, and nonprofit leadership has positioned ITA as a leading provider of Creative Arts Therapy in the region.

"It has been an honor to lead this incredible organization," said Dale. "The passion, creativity, and dedication of the ITA staff have been nothing short of inspiring. I am deeply grateful to our stakeholders—staff, partners, board members, and community advocates—for your support, trust, and belief in our mission. Together, we've made a meaningful impact on thousands of lives."

As Dale transitions to her new role at Laughlin Children's Center—a mission-aligned organization dedicated to academic and clinical services for children—ITA is proud to introduce its next Chief Executive Officer, Jeffrey Wolfe.

Wolfe is a dynamic leader with more than two decades of progressive leadership experience, including the past three years as Chief Operating Officer at ITA. During his tenure, he helped spearhead transformational growth, expanding access to therapy services and increasing organizational revenue sixfold. He led ITA's strategic initiative with Special Children's Charities and Chicago Public Schools, bringing therapy services to 105 schools and positively impacting more than 20,000 individuals.

A board-certified and licensed music therapist, Wolfe's clinical expertise spans neurologic rehabilitation, trauma, dementia, neurodivergence, and cult recovery. He brings a unique, neuroscience-informed, and family-centered approach to leadership—blending clinical depth with operational excellence. Wolfe has also been a strong voice for ethical practice and disability rights on both local and national stages.

"Jeff's leadership, vision, and deep commitment to inclusive care make him the ideal person to guide ITA into its next chapter," said Dale. "I have had the privilege of working alongside Jeff for several years, and I could not be more confident in his ability to continue ITA's legacy of innovation, compassion, and community impact."

"Jeff's strategic vision, client focus, and deep grounding in Creative Arts Therapy make him the ideal choice to lead ITA into the future," said Tracy Canter, Chair of ITA's Board of Directors. "Chrissy's steady leadership has positioned ITA well for the next 50 years, and we are deeply grateful for her impact. I have been honored to serve on the Board for the past nine years and to work with Jeff in various capacities—most recently as COO. With 15 years of experience at ITA, he brings not only strong leadership but also a visionary mindset that will guide the organization forward. I look forward to working with him in this new role."

Wolfe will assume the role of CEO effective **September 1, 2025**. As ITA enters this new chapter, the organization remains grounded in its mission to empower individuals through Creative Arts Therapies and is committed to serving communities with excellence, equity, and heart.

About the Institute for Therapy through the Arts (ITA)

The Institute for Therapy through the Arts has helped individuals of all ages and abilities connect, grow, and heal through the power of the creative arts for more than five decades. Our work is grounded in research, fueled by compassion, and focused on helping people express themselves, strengthen relationships, and improve their overall well-being.

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