



May/June 2012

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National Council For Therapeutic Recreation Certification

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Welcome to NCTRC e-News!

A Message from the NCTRC Chair

Shay Dawson, M.A., CTRS, Chairperson
NCTRC Board of Directors

It is with great enthusiasm that I write this letter to you as the new Chair of the Board of Directors for NCTRC . There is much to be excited about in our profession as we reflect back on the progress of this past year and look forward to what is ahead of us in the coming months. Indeed, we are at important cross roads in the history of our profession.

As you may know, licensure has already been established in New Hampshire , Oklahoma , Utah , and North Carolina . Furthermore, over a dozen other states are considering licensure at this time and some of these states have had licensure bills submitted to their state governments for review. NCTRC feels strongly that this is one of the most important opportunities in the history of our profession. As a result, a National Forum is being planned and hosted by NCTRC in conjunction with the ATRA Licensure Task Force during the ATRA Annual Conference in Phoenix this October. Fifty state delegates will be invited and provided a complimentary scholarship to attend the National Forum as well as the ATRA conference. This forum will provide delegates with important information to help move licensure forward in their home state in a deliberate and consistent process across the United States and into the Canadian Provinces. State and Provincial licensure will continue to be the key task of the strategic plan of NCTRC this year and in the years to come as we work diligently to advance the profession.

Specialty Certification has been rolling out with consistent applications coming in. Over 30 therapists have been granted Specialty Certification. This new development positions therapists as advanced practitioners that have a specialized focus area. The end result is an improved level of service for clients and a step forward in the efficacy of our services. With licensure in place as the baseline entry into the field, the specialty certification could then become the advanced level certification consistent with best practices in other therapy fields.

CEU Pre-approval in conjunction with ATRA is fully functioning. Several conferences have already worked through the process including a very successful pre-approval for the ATRA Annual Conference that took place in Indianapolis last year. This level of service provides certificants with the assurance that the pre-approved sessions being attended at both the state and national level are of the highest quality and that each session is guaranteed to count towards recertification.

The trend of increased applicants taking the CTRS exam has been consistent over the past year. I am happy to report that the May 2012 exam had a record number of applicants reaching into the 730 range. This focus on providing TR/RT services by a qualified provider with the CTRS certification is a very important step forward in the evolution of our profession.

Canada is seeing a great increase in the number of RT degree granting universities, students in recreation therapy, and applicants taking the CTRS exam. As internship sites increase, we will see ever growing numbers of therapists practicing in Canada . NCTRC continues to work closely with the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association as this process develops.

The field of TR/RT is indeed on good footing moving forward. We have always provided a beneficial, self- determined and enjoyable form of therapy that is unique in the health care

industry. We are now moving forward with licensure, advanced specialty certification, improved continuing education offerings, and a more sophisticated and consistent therapeutic approach. Thank you for what you do every day to better the lives of our clients and to provide a service that is like no other.

Sincerely,



NCTRC Conducts Annual Board Meeting

The NCTRC Board of Directors conducted its annual meeting on April 20-21, 2012 in Newburgh, NY. Among the many achievements accomplished during the two-day meeting were the following:

- Three new members were inducted to the NCTRC Board of Directors. Sharon Nichols, CTRS (NH), Susan Popek-Boeve, CTRS (MI) and Duane "Red" Jensen will each serve a three-year term (2012 to 2015).
- A new Executive Committee for the term of 2012-2013 was elected:
 - Shay Dawson, CTRS (IN), Chair
 - Patricia Thomas, CTRS (WI), Vice Chairperson
 - Sharon Nichols, CTRS (NH), Treasurer
 - Janet Turner, CTRS (PA), Secretary
- The Board approved conducting the NCTRC Annual Certificants Meeting at the ATRA Annual Conference to be held in Phoenix , AZ , October 12-15, 2012.

NCTRC Sponsors National Forum for State Licensure in Recreational Therapy

A National Forum to promote state licensure will be held at the ATRA Annual Conference in Phoenix, AZ on Friday, October 12, 2012. This one-day forum will include notable speakers addressing the need for establishing RT state licensure as well as specific segments outlining critical steps to establish professional legal recognition. This forum is a unique approach designed to address state licensure from a comprehensive perspective with discussions ranging from conceptual need for licensure to the methodology for establishing licensure at the state level.

The target audience for the forum is representatives from each of the 50 states in order to advance state licensure to a national movement and to ensure that in all states CTRS certificants have access to vital strategic information.

In order to reach all of the 50 states, NCTRC will be offering one representative from each state a complimentary conference registration to both the National Forum and the entire ATRA Annual Conference.

At this time we are requesting that state RT associations identify a representative for attendance at the National Forum. Please share this invitation with your CTRS colleagues in an effort to identify an appropriate person to represent your state at the National Forum.

Please forward specific contact information to:

Noelle Molloy, CTRS, NCTRC Credentialing Specialist, nmolloy@nctrc.org

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact:

Bob Riley, CTRS, NCTRC Executive Director, briley@nctrc.org

NCTRC to Attend CTRA Annual Conference

In the continuing effort to expand its international focus, NCTRC will attend the Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association Annual Conference. The CTRA conference is being held in

Halifax, Nova Scotia, June 13-15. NCTRC will sponsor an exhibit booth, present two educational sessions, conduct a CTRS certificants meeting, as well as provide the opening Keynote Address. NCTRC and CTRA have been working together to expand the CTRS credential throughout Canada. These strategic efforts have resulted in a 100% increase in the number of CTRSs residing in Canada during the past three years. If you are at the conference, please stop by and say hello.

Internship ALERT

NCTRC would like to remind students, CTRS supervisors and educators that as of January 1, 2013 there will be new certification standards in place regarding field placement. The new standards are based on application date and not on completion date of the internship. Therefore applications postmarked to NCTRC on January 1, 2013 or after will be required to meet the new standards regardless of when the internship was actually completed. It may be prudent to complete summer and fall internships using the criteria in the new standards in case the application process is delayed until after January 1, 2013. The new standards are as follows:

- **Field Placement Standards Information – Increase in the Number of Internship Weeks and Hours:** Effective January 1, 2013, the standard pertaining to the field placement will read as follows:
A minimum 560-hour, fourteen (14) consecutive week field placement experience in therapeutic recreation services that uses the therapeutic recreation process as defined by the current NCTRC Job Analysis.
- **Field Placement Standards information – Academic Field Placement Supervisor must possess the CTRS Credential:** Effective January 1, 2013, the standard pertaining to the internship supervisor will read as follows:
The Academic Field Placement Supervisor must be an active CTRS at the start of the field placement experience and is required to sign the final Field Placement Verification Form signifying that the candidate completed all stated components of the NCTRC field placement requirements.

Did you know ...

- NCTRC has a new email contact service for the notification of CEU opportunities and research
- NCTRC provides free marketing materials to promote the CTRS credential
- NCTRC provides pre-application review of CEU materials that have been completed for CTRS recertification

Please contact NCTRC at 845-639-1439 or nctrc@nctrc.org if you have any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support of NCTRC and the CTRS credential.