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Hello all,

First, let me introduce myself. My name is Sherwood Burns-Nader, and I became the Chair of the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) at the end of May. I am so very honored and thrilled to be the CLCC, ACLP, and you in this role. As the Chair, I am excited to welcome you to this edition of CLCC Connect.

When I am not working with CLCC, I am an assistant professor at the University of Alabama. One competency I work hard to emphasize to students is the importance of self-reflection in child life. We encourage students to recognize their feelings and thoughts about things and reflect on how their personal experiences, biases, and such influence those feelings and interactions with others. As we know, we are experiencing a time with many emotions and anxieties, from the pandemic to the rally for racial justice. In these hard times, I find myself self-reflecting on what knowledge and skills we are equipped to provide services and support to students, children, and families in the face of the times.

You like me, may have found some areas that need improvement. Principle 6 of the Child Life Certification Ethics (CLCC, 2019) states, "Child Life professionals shall continually seek knowledge and skills to update and enhance their understanding of all relevant issues affecting the children and families they serve." As Certified Child Life Specialists, we are required to gain Professional Development Units (PDUs) which allow us to work on maintaining principle 6. In a time when travel to conferences is limited, we all may be questioning how we will obtain those PDUs. The members of the Certification Communications Committee provide some helpful ideas for continuing to obtain PDUs when travel funding may be limited. I encourage us all to take a minute to self-reflect and examine what PDUs we can pursue to best serve children and families and use the information provided here to pursue PDUs in our areas.

Until our next Connection, CLCC hopes you stay well, healthy, and positive. If you have any core questions, or topics you would like for us to explore, please email us at certification@aclp.org.

Sincerely,

Sherwood Burns-Nader, PhD, CCLS

Child Life Certification Commission Chairperson

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Certification Numbers

Total Current CCLSs: 6170

Residing in:	AK - 7	MS - 21
US- 5702	AL - 79	MT - 5
		NC - 7
Australia - 7	AR - 36	21
		ND - 7
Canada - 346	AZ - 120	NE - 13
		CA - 9
China - 2	558	3
		NH - 9
Georgia - 1	CO - 106	29
		NJ - 1
Hong Kong - 8	CT - 73	18
		1
India - 1	DC - 22	NM - 18
		NV - 1
Italy - 1	DE - 21	24

			NY
Japan - 55	FL -	-	
	274	31	
		5	
			OH
Kenya - 2	GA -	-	
	174	30	
		1	
			OK
Kuwait - 1	HI -	-	
	11	39	
			OR
Luxembou	IA -	-	
rg - 1	88	38	
			PA
Mexico - 2	ID -	-	
	16	19	
		9	
New			
Zealand -	IL -	RI -	
3	236	17	
			SC
Norway - 1	IN -	-	
	96	85	
			SD
Philippines	KS -	-	
- 3	65	3	
			TN
Puerto	KY -	-	
Rico - 2	51	15	
		5	
			TX-
Qatar - 8	LA -	55	
	64	7	
			UT
Romania -	MA -	-	
2	257	82	
			VA
Saudi	MD -	-	
Arabia - 1	109	10	
		0	
			VT
Singapore	ME -	-	
- 4	15	20	
			WA
South	MI -	-	
Africa - 1	185	11	
		3	
			WI
Spain - 1	MN -	-	
	162	11	
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Turkey - 1			
United			
Kingdom -			
7			



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Important Dates to Remember

August

10 Deadline to apply for the August administration of the [Child Life Professional Certification Exam](#)

15-30 [Child Life Professional Certification Exam](#) Administration Testing Window

22 Deadline to submit transcripts and other documentation in time to apply for the [2021 Winter/Spring Internship](#)

SEPTEMBER

5 Application deadline for the [2021 Winter/Spring Internship](#)

OCTOBER

18 Deadline to submit your coursework documents for review in time to register for the November [Child Life Professional Certification Exam](#)

27 Deadline to apply for the November administration of the [Child Life Professional Certification Exam](#)

31 Deadline to apply to [recertify through PDUs](#)

NOVEMBER

1-15 [Child Life Professional Certification Exam](#) Administration Testing Window

DECEMBER

20 Deadline to submit transcripts and other documentation in time to apply for the [2021 Winter/Spring Internship](#)

31 Last day to [reinstate lapsed CCLS credential](#)

PDUs During the Pandemic

We're living in a time where we've certainly had to get creative in how we do things, both in our personal and professional lives. In the child life world, one area we have had to think outside the box in is how we will continue the education and training necessary to maintain our needed competencies.

Many child life specialists pursue most of their professional development through conferences. However, the availability of in person conferences stopped with COVID-19. Suddenly many child life specialists shifted from planning travel and hotel rooms to preparing to participate in virtual sessions (e.g., wondering how in the world to pay attention to sessions in the presence of distractions from home).

To help professionals continue to have access to opportunities for professional development, ACLP got creative and shifted to a virtual conference. Following in the footsteps of the ACLP national conference, several regional child life groups are taking their conferences online. Both the Great Lakes Association of Child Life Professionals and the Texas Association of Child Life Professionals will go virtual this fall. Their day-long conferences will provide PDUs without leaving your home (or office).

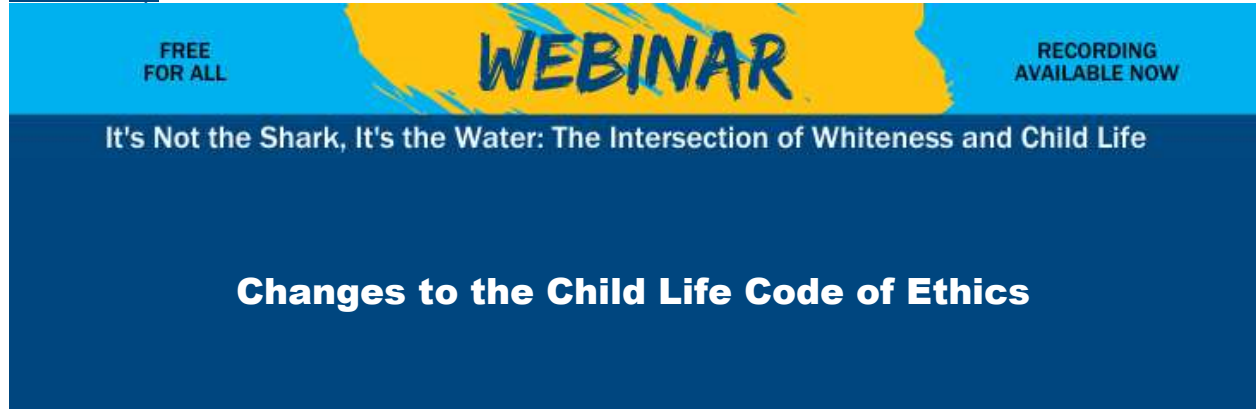
This prompted the Communications Committee to think about other options that may count toward our professional development.

- Is your hospital a member of an organization (e.g., The Beryl Institute) that provides online webinars for members?
- Check out national organizations online (e.g., palliative care groups). Many offer webinars.
- Are there learning opportunities available via local organizations (Red Cross, community hospices)?
- Are you still out there providing in-services to new employees, residents or other groups? You, as the presenter, can get PDUs for your time. You don't get credit every time you present the same lecture, but you can get PDUs for the initial presentation.
- Creating a presentation and providing an in-service to your team. Not only are you getting PDUs for presenting, you're helping your team obtain PDUs. The guidelines are simple: it must relate to one of the Exam Content Outline domains, be at least thirty minutes in length, and have the appropriate documentation.
- Serving on a hospital committee or local board in your community? If it can be tied to the Exam Content Outline domains, this time also counts toward PDUs.
- Taking a class with a university?
- Publishing a paper or article?
- Reading the Child Life Focus and taking a quiz?

Many of these resources are right at your fingertips. So, in a time where traditional conference attendance may not be possible, get out there and make those PDUs work for you!

Check out the Child Life Professional Certification Maintenance and Recertification manual for details (https://www.childlife.org/docs/default-source/certification/recertification/recertification-manual.pdf?sfvrsn=396ea34d_32)

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The banner features a blue and yellow background. On the left, it says "FREE FOR ALL". In the center, the word "WEBINAR" is written in a large, stylized, blue font. On the right, it says "RECORDING AVAILABLE NOW". Below this, a dark blue bar contains the text "It's Not the Shark, It's the Water: The Intersection of Whiteness and Child Life". At the bottom of the banner, the title "Changes to the Child Life Code of Ethics" is displayed in white, bold text.

The Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) revised the Child Life Code of Ethics over a period of several months and finalized the document in January 2020. Certified Child Life Specialists, some who have been trained in pediatric bioethics, as well as medical ethics experts from fields outside of Child Life, collaborated to revise the Code. This is part of a revision to the ACLP publication [Making Ethical Decisions in Child Life Practice](#) which is complete and in press. The work group benchmarked codes of ethics from other professions and conducted several working sessions with experts to complete the revision to the Child Life Code of Ethics.

The general purpose for a Child Life Code of Ethics in the child life profession is to help child life specialists recognize considerations when professional duties are not entirely clear or when ethical uncertainties arise. The Child Life Code of Ethics provides standards to which we hold ourselves accountable and to which the general public can hold child life specialists accountable.

Some goals for the revision to the Code included using more inclusive language and as per best practice, shifting the focus away from “rules” for behavior and instead using statements based on ethical principles that serve to guide one’s decision-making process when faced with a dilemma. The latter is in large part the reason the previous “2-year requirement” for entering into a personal relationship was removed. There had been no evidence that there was something significant about that period of time. There could be some circumstances that may require an even longer period of time to elapse before changing the nature of one’s relationship with a patient or family member. The critical aspect is that the relationship has surely come to a close without significant chance for another encounter with the patient and family. This is one example of the content in the revised Child Life Code of Ethics shifting away from rules to a more guided approach; encouraging the professional to make ethical decisions based on the circumstances while gaining guidance from the code to help determine decisions.

The revised code also has a shift in language, for example, the word *shall* has been replaced throughout the document. The rationale for the language shift is similar to the rationale already provided in this writing, the shift from the code being viewed as a set of rules to being more about guidance. When we move away from a word like *shall* it provides the professional more guidance to be responsible and act in an ethical manner instead of being told that they *shall* or *should* do something.

The Ethics Committee of the CLCC looks forward to the release of the revised [Making Ethical Decisions in Child Life Practice](#) book and to providing more information, rationale, and answering

any questions related to our Code of Ethics and ethics in general. Please reach out to certification@childlife.org with any questions or for additional information.

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CLCC Statements in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic

In response to inquiries and feedback resulting from the public health emergency, ACLP and CLCC have issued the following statements.

[ACLP Statement in Support of CLCC Decision on Clinical Hours](#)

[CLCC Statement for Interns](#)

[CLCC Statement for Academics](#)

[Guidance for Remote Internship Activities](#)

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Certification Exam Administration

The Child Life Professional Certification Examination was administered in March* with the following results:

# Candidates	# New CCLSs	% Passing
157	121	77.1%

Due to testing center closures due to the COVID-19 virus, CLCC extended the testing window through the end of June.

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Certification Maintenance

ACLP is waiving the reinstatement fees for those who have yet to pay their certification annual maintenance fees. Ninety-eight individuals currently have an inactive certification status due to non-payment of the 2020 certification maintenance fee. Existing annual maintenance fees are due by 12/31/2020 to avoid loss of the CCLS credential.

[Reinstatement](#) applications will be accepted through December 31, 2020.

Roughly 98% of CCLSs who owed this fee have made their payment.

Thank you for maintaining your certification!

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Recertification

Number of CCLSs due to recertify in 2020: 1073

CLCC is now accepting applications to recertify through Professional Development Units from those CCLSs whose certification will expire on December 31, 2020. **These applications are due no later than October 31, 2020**

For a revised list of ideas for how to earn PDUs, please click [here](#).

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Thank you CLCC Communications Committee!

CLCC would like to recognize the team of volunteers who serve on the CLCC Communications Committee and make this newsletter possible! Thank you!

Chair, Geri Sehnert; Chair-Elect, Tracey Craddock

Members:

Amber Hill, Sarah Framarin, Michelle Barksdale, Shannon Meland, Erin Munn

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