



April 3, 2020

On behalf of the Association of Child Life Professionals including the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC), we hope that you and your loved ones are safe. As many, myself included, still struggle to find a new normal and balance new demands on our roles as learner, educator, clinician, friend and family member my hope is that we are also finding ways in which to satisfy our hunger to engage, connect, and relate to one another to fill our tanks with hope, comfort and unity.

Recently, the Child Life Certification Commission has reviewed the hourly training requirements needed for eligibility to the certification exam and determined that 600 hours remains the necessary minimum training time to assure those entering the profession have the appropriate clinical skill set. We are in support of CLCC's decision and are *strongly* recommending internship sites discuss their plans with their interns to find alternate times or solutions for completing remaining hours. Coordinators, we trust that you are staying in close communication with your intern(s) and may find the CLCC's recent statement on [Guidance for Virtual Activities](#) helpful and/or this [example](#) of how one program has restructured to provide ongoing support with their interns despite the disruption until they're able to resume as usual.

If an internship site cannot resume the internship when the Covid-19 restrictions are lifted, we expect the coordinator to communicate such with the impacted intern, including rationale for why the internship cannot resume. Although we expect programs to welcome back their interns, in the unlikely event that it cannot occur we are **calling on all qualified Certified Child Life Specialists** – *especially those who have supervised interns previously* – to consider opening their programs to take in disrupted interns for their remaining hours.

We are committed to doing what we can – calling on a community of Certified Child Life Specialists to be prepared to welcome displaced interns under their supervision for remaining hours and/or consider providing a different level of support (e.g. providing options for potential housing). As our certified members know, the opportunity to complete the clinical training required to sit for the certification exam is ripe with stress, financial investment, learning, growth and anxiety. Added on is the trauma of the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on their anticipated trajectory for becoming certified. We hope the need will not arise but if/when an intern cannot return to their original program, we intend on posting a call for qualified supervisors in the Internship Coordinator and Program Leaders forums and hope the community responds with their usual generosity and leadership. We cannot, however, guarantee or anticipate how our community will respond to such a call to action. Still, we remain hopeful.

We recognize how exhausting and traumatizing this pandemic has been on all. Yet, our members continue to serve as heroes to their patients, families and colleagues. Herein lies another opportunity to be a hero within the community – by providing support to disrupted interns seeking remaining hours if/when their original programs cannot resume their internship as originally arranged.

We look forward to witnessing how the community supports these pre-professionals and have deep appreciation for your ongoing resiliency, creativity, courage and perseverance. We continue to hold you, our members, at the forefront of our thoughts and efforts, as we strive to navigate these ever-changing waters, and provide the support, connection, collaboration, and community that we all need through this time of pandemic.

Best wishes to you all and stay safe.

Jen Lipsey
CEO
Association of Child Life Professionals