



CEO Shares

by Alison E. Heron, MBA, CAE

Greetings!

The Fall season brings a sense of transformation, a reminder that change is the only constant; similarly, our organization embraces change and progress. This time of the year is a testament to our resilience, adaptability, and the ability to harness innovation. In these moments, we reaffirm our commitment to excellence, seeking new opportunities and nurturing the spirit of collaboration that defines us.

Gathering in September in Scottsdale, AZ, approximately 90 attendees joined the Child Life Leaders Conference. The event, overseen by the Association of Child Life Professionals (ACLP) for the first time, was a chance for leaders to enhance their skills, take specific actions to develop the

child life profession, and foster a supportive network through networking. The conference also provided a retreat and rejuvenation opportunity for attendees.

In November, we introduced the ACLP Professional Code of Conduct. This Code addresses misconduct in three main areas: Personal, Professional, and Legal Misconduct. However, it is important to note that the Child Life Code of Ethics, governed by the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC), remains in place. The Child Life Code of Ethics provides a comprehensive framework for Certified Child Life Specialists (CCLSs) to guide their professional conduct and ensure that children and their families are well-cared for and protected during potentially stressful or traumatic situations.

At ACLP, we believe in creating a welcoming, safe, and professional environment for everyone. The Code of Conduct is intended to provide ACLP participants with a set of best practices and guidelines on standards of conduct to which ACLP participants agree they will adhere when joining and maintaining their ACLP membership or participating in ACLP activities and events.

Over the past few months, the ACLP team has undergone some changes. One significant change that has occurred is the CEO's role. With the Child Life Certification Commission (CLCC) now operating as a separate organization under ACLP, the CEO role is now shared between ACLP and CLCC.

Despite recent vacancies, our staff members have shown remarkable dedication and team spirit, working together to manage the increased workload. We understand the risks of staff fatigue and burnout and are taking necessary measures to prevent them.

Moreover, we proudly welcome new staff members bringing fresh perspectives and expertise to our various programs and events – Rebecca Reynolds (communications and publications), Jasmine Rowe (membership and engagement), Alexandra Campbell and Sylvie

Messavussu (education), and Stephanie Schultz (conferences and events). Together, we will continue to strive for excellence and to positively impact our organization and beyond.

The ACLP team will convene at our headquarters in Falls Church, VA, on November 28-30 for a staff retreat to plan for the 2024 calendar year, which is also the last year of the 2022-2024 strategic plan, and visit INOVA Children's Hospital—special thanks to Jamie Gentile for the invitation and coordination.

Don't miss the 2024 Child Life Annual Conference in San Antonio, TX, May 24-26. Registration opens mid-January!

Let us set our sights on growth, learning from our experiences, and utilizing our knowledge to propel us forward. With fresh ideas and innovative strategies, we will soar to greater heights.

I'm genuinely delighted to have this opportunity to gather and reflect on our journey thus far and the promising road ahead.

Alison E. Hewitt

