

WELCOME TO THE BOARD ROOM

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Each August Board meeting is held virtually for two hours to cover current topics, committee inquiries, and strategic discussions. Board reports are not expected from ACLP committees; however, they may be submitted for a timelier review, rather than waiting for the November Board meeting.

Committee/Task Force Charters:

Two existing charters were reviewed, and their respective updates were approved. Charters for the new Pathway to the Profession Committee and new Internship Excellence Task Force were also approved. The new Internship Excellence Task Force is charged with investigating models of recognition that support the provision of high-quality clinical internships for aspiring child life professionals. Recommendations provided to the Board must remain conscious of diversity, equity, and inclusion, suitable for a wide array of clinical programs (e.g., community-based, small/large), and financially and logistically sustainable. The new Pathway to the Profession Committee is charged with promoting quality, consistency, and expanded accessibility of pre-internship and internship programs; reviewing and updating best practices for child life clinical training experiences; and enriching cohesion between academic and clinical programs and ACLP.

Nominating Committee:

With the call for Board of Directors applications running September 5 through October 5, 2023, the Board reviewed the final Board matrix. Gaps



were identified in the following areas: 6-15 years of experience, male or non-binary/non-gender conforming, racial diversity, one-person programs, and members from the southeast region. Consideration was given to the representation and areas of expertise that our non-voting members (CLCC liaison, Canadian Association of Child Life Leaders liaison, and two new public members) bring to Board discussions while being mindful that they do not hold voting rights.

Internship Readiness Work Group (IRWG):

The IRWG relied on the expertise of subject matter experts across various child life roles to develop the new internship readiness common

application (IRCA) and submission process that was launched in January 2023. Their work intentionally focused on supporting the transition to the new common application process and tracking areas in need of refinement. The IRWG gathered stakeholder feedback through a membership-wide survey related to the new IRCA. This survey garnered a large response, which provided mixed results. Revisions were subsequently made to the IRCA to provide clearer instructions and language. No content changes were made to the application. The revised common application will launch on January 6, 2024 and will include updates to the common application's associated resources.

Furthermore, the IRWG conducted a listening session for aspiring professionals to provide further education and support in understanding the internship readiness knowledge, skills, and abilities (KSAs) and completing the IRCA. As evidenced by the survey results, all stakeholders are experiencing a learning curve, and additional communication and education is essential to increase comfortability with and adoption of the IRCA. The IRWG developed a list of tasks that may be considered for future work and was seeking confirmation that these tasks were within the bandwidth of ACLP to monitor and support. The continuation of their work will be carried forward through the collaboration of the new Pathway to the Profession Committee and ACLP staff. Since the IRWG completed their designated charge, the Board voted to decommission this workgroup.

Staffing Crisis & Pathway to the Profession Think Tank Outcomes:

The Board reviewed the final Think Tank recommendations, including the operational plan. Some examples included:

- Mentorship for aspiring professionals – A Mentorship Subcommittee will be formed and charged with developing a mentorship structure for aspiring professionals, which will subsequently be integrated into our new

mentorship platform with oversight from our Mentorship Committee.

- New Pathway to the Profession Committee – This group will be responsible for developing innovative internship models and supportive programming and resources. Potential considerations may include part time, half hospital/half community-based, and paid placements. Additionally, support and mentorship for one-person and small programs may be considered.
- Increased connection and collaboration between academic and clinical programs and with regional groups – This activity will involve engagement from ACLP Board and staff through virtual and in-person opportunities and partnership with regional conferences.
- New Child Life Leadership Development Task Force – This group will support the overall child life community by equipping child life leaders with resources to advocate for child life specialists within hospital and community-based settings. Topics may include but are not limited to business acumen, healthcare administration, organizational finances, staff supervision, hiring and pipeline development, human resources processes, and leadership of multiple disciplines.

Patient & Family Experience Committee:

The Board received an update on the Emotional Safety Summit II, which took place in June 2023 prior to the Annual Child Life Conference. The summit hosted 11 organizations with an interest in emotional safety. Several of the organizations expressed interest in continued engagement. For example, the president of the Pediatric Trauma Society has incorporated emotional safety into her opening remarks for their annual conference, and Barb Romito, MA, CCLS, has been invited to present the keynote session on emotional safety for the Society of Pediatric Nurses conference.