



President's Perspective

By: Sarah Patterson, MSc, CCLS

Dear Colleagues and Members,

As summer is now winding down, I hope this season has offered you a chance to recharge, spend quality time with loved ones, and perhaps even explore new opportunities for personal and professional growth. It is a time when many of us reflect on the first half of the year and begin planning for what lies ahead. I want to take this moment to update you on our association's progress, share exciting developments, and express my heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing commitment to our shared mission.

As I begin my term as Board President, I am

both humbled and deeply grateful for this opportunity. It is an honor to serve in this capacity, and I am committed to working hand in hand with our board, members, and partners to advance our profession. Together, we will continue to champion excellence in the field of child life, advocate for the needs of children, families, and our members, and nurture a culture of collaboration and innovation.

This past May, just before our conference in San Antonio, we engaged in a crucial strategic planning session. While this process usually takes place every three years in the fall, we chose to move it to May to better align with our budget planning cycle. Our discussions were enriched by the diverse voices of board members, ACLP staff, and members from various regions across the U.S. and Canada, each bringing unique perspectives and experiences.

In the months ahead, the ACLP Board of Directors will review and finalize our strategic plan during the November board meeting. Once approved, the ACLP staff will begin implementing the plan, and we look forward to sharing the final version with all of you in early 2025. This plan will guide our decisions and resource allocations, setting a clear path for our future endeavors.

A central focus will be continuing the incredible work of the Emotional Safety Initiative. Recognizing the paramount importance of emotional safety in healthcare, we are dedicated to continuing to develop increased collaboration with other healthcare providers, hospitals, and other vested interests and to champion knowledge translation and dissemination of the emotional safety initiative. The emotional safety initiative is a significant achievement, and we must continue our efforts to ensure that our members are fully equipped to prioritize, teach, and uphold emotional safety in healthcare practice. A recent partnership with the Pediatric Nursing Certification Board has led to the development of the Emotionally Safe Care Module. This [module](#) is a free CE for pediatric

nurses as well as ACLP members.

On a more personal note, this summer has been a time of deep reflection for me. Recently, I experienced an unexpected and profound loss that has had a significant impact on my life. During this challenging time, I have found great comfort in our community. These past weeks as I have assumed the President role, I have been able to connect with the child life community in a deeply meaningful way. I have reconnected with old friends, formed new connections, and met wonderful new individuals. The kindness, compassion, and support I have received from so many of you have been overwhelming and deeply appreciated. This experience has reinforced my

belief in the power of our community to uplift and inspire one another, even in the face of adversity.

As we move through the summer and begin planning for the latter half of the year, I am filled with optimism and excitement about what lies ahead. Our foundation is strong, our direction is clear, and our future is bright. The work we do is incredibly important, and I am honored to serve as your President during this pivotal time.

Thank you for your unwavering trust, support, and dedication to our mission. I look forward to continuing this journey with you and to celebrating the incredible milestones we will achieve together in the coming year. Wishing you a wonderful and rejuvenating summer!

