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"November: The last month of Autumn, but the beginning of a new adventure. Time to take risks and do the unexpected."-Author Unknown

As we are nearing the end of another year, this quote spoke to me, to always continue to set goals and reach for the impossible. Many child life specialists will continue their journey this month on taking the certification exam and fulfilling their goal of becoming a Certified Child Life Specialist. A credential that is valued and solidifies their academic and clinical achievements. The Child Life Certification Commission understands the financial impact that obtaining child life certification has on child life specialists. In this edition of the CLCC Connection, a benchmark review of the current certification fees and how those fees compare to our peer professions is included for review as we strive to maintain transparency in the cost that is associated and necessary to maintain certification.

In addition to the associated fee information, this edition brings helpful tips on how to navigate common issues in certifying or recertifying, including an interview with a CCLS who has been through the Recertification by PDUs Audit process. The audit process, which often is dreaded, remains important and vital to provide credibility and provide confidence that certification is true and fair. It continues to be an opportunity for checks and balances within the certification system.

Furthermore, as we reflect and set out to conquer new adventures into our next season, why not check out the ACLP Connect. This edition of the CLCC Connection highlight's some ways to utilize the ACLP Connect to be inspired and have those opportunities to learn and grow from our colleagues.

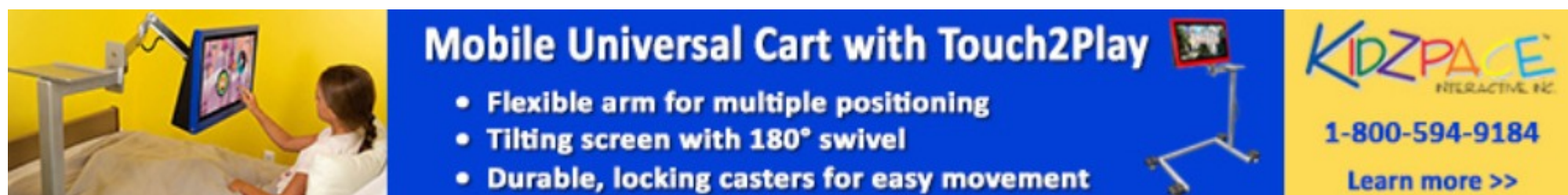
November is also a month of giving Thanks. Pausing to focus on what we are truly grateful for in our lives. Those individuals and moments that bring us peace, love, and joy. I can honestly say that for myself those moments include the privilege of working alongside such amazing volunteers and leaders in CLCC, as well as the incredible and amazing staff at ACLP. All our volunteers and staff who devote their precious time to ensuring the validity of the credentialing process and have invested into our profession. For each of those volunteers past and present involved in certification that made that commitment to be involved. Thank You. And thank you to the volunteers yet to come, who will continue the work and enhance and protect the value of the credential in the future, we welcome and give thanks for you.

Sincerely,
Leslie Daniels, CCLS
Child Life Certification Commission Chairperson

Certification Numbers

Total Current CCLSs: 6471

Residing in:	AK - 8	MS - 26
US- 5985	AL - 85	MT - 7
Australia - 4	AR - 35	NC -242
Brazil - 1	AZ - 130	ND - 15
Canada - 357	CA -597	NE - 39
China - 2	CO - 114	NH - 28
Georgia - 1	CT - 77	NJ-188
Hong Kong - 10	DC - 21	NM -21
India - 1	DE - 27	NV - 24
Italy - 1	FL - 281	NY-307
Japan - 61	GA-173	OH-304
Kenya - 2	HI - 12	OK - 44
Kuwait - 1	IA - 88	OR - 40
Luxembourg -1	ID - 17	PA -219
Mexico - 2	IL - 256	RI - 15
New Zealand - 3	IN - 102	SC - 92
Norway - 1	KS - 48	SD - 16
Philippines - 4	KY - 55	TN-158
Puerto Rico - 2	LA - 64	TX-594
Qatar - 6	MA -265	UT - 84
Romania - 2	MD -113	VA -108
Saudi Arabia - 1	ME - 18	VT - 20
Singapore - 4	MI - 182	WA - 118
South Africa - 1	MN - 169	WI -120
Spain - 2	MO - 183	WV - 9
Switzerland - 3		
Taiwan - 5		
Turkey - 1		
United Kingdom - 7		
Other - 25		



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IMPORTANT DATES

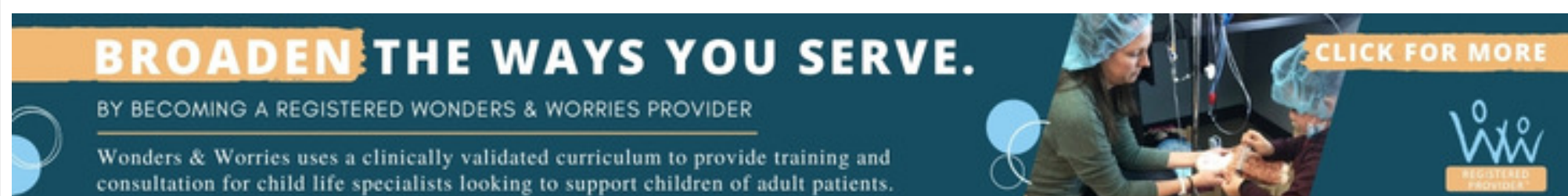
NOVEMBER

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](#)



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BENCHMARKING REPORT:

Certification Fees

ACLP recently underwent a benchmarking study to compare the cost of certification with similar professions. This type of study is conducted roughly every 5 years, comparing the child life certification fees to those of 10 similar organizations. [To read the full report, click here.](#)

To conduct this study, staff compares initial certification, maintenance, and recertification fees and determines an average annual cost of certification. These figures factor in the real cost of certification through one certification cycle: initial certification, maintenance, and recertification fees. Because the length of these certification cycles varies from 2-7 years, the total cost of certification is divided by the number of years in the certification cycle to provide the average yearly cost of certification over the life of the certification cycle. Due to the variance in cycle length, this is a better figure for comparison than the total cost of certification. The annual cost of certification for CCLs who are CLC members is \$128 which is \$23 less than the average of the other 10 professions. For non-members, the annual cost is \$190, \$10 less than that of the other organizations.

	Average cost per year (member)
Play Therapy	\$86
Pediatric Nurses	\$98
ACLP	\$128
Music Therapy	\$129
Qualified Social Workers	\$130
Family Life Educators	\$137
Activity Professionals	\$140
Oncology Nurses	\$159
Therapeutic Recreation	\$163
Art Therapy	\$175
Eating Disorder Professionals	\$297

Among the most closely-aligned professions, ACLP's fees for members are the second-lowest (average cost per year of the certification cycle).

	Average cost per year (member)
Play Therapy	\$86
ACLP	\$128
Music Therapy	\$129
Qualified Social Workers	\$130
Therapeutic Recreation	\$163
Art Therapy	\$175

Based on the results of the benchmarking study, staff has recommended keeping fees steady at this time with a slight increase to the maintenance and recertification fees over the course of the next few years. A maintenance fee increase of \$2 and a recertification fee increase of \$5 is proposed for 2024. With these modest increases and assuming the other professions make no changes to their fees, ACLP's fees will continue to be lower than the average as is noted below.

	Current		With Proposed Increases	
	Member	Non-Mbr	Member	Non-Mbr
ACLP	\$128	\$190	\$131	\$193
Average	\$151	\$200	\$151	\$200
Difference	\$23	\$10	\$20	\$7
ACLP Higher or Lower than Average			Lower	lower

Any questions about certification fees or the process used to determine them may be directed to ANright@childlife.org.

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MAKING ACLP CONNECT WORK FOR YOU!

Are you aware of all the things that can be done on ACLP Connect? When this platform launched in 2020, maybe you were nervous about the change from the traditional forum. Don't feel tech-savvy? The 'get started' video on the home page of ACLP Connect should help you navigate this new tool.

Much like traditional social media sites, it all starts with creating a profile. Pick your favorite "child life in action" shot of yourself and make that profile! Next, check out the "groups" and "topics" tabs in the blue header bar. Clicking on the "group" tab will help you connect with groups of interest (ranging from area of practice to personal identity). The "topics" tab can help you follow topics that are relevant to the child life world.

There are currently two topics related to certification---one for aspiring child life specialists and one for those specialists who have questions about recertification.

By clicking on the tiny "down arrow" (located on the right side of your screen next to your tiny profile picture), you can manage your notifications. Select "Profile Information" then "E-mail notification settings". Under this heading, you should have the option to click "daily notification summary e-mail."

Much like the "digest" feature of the old Forum, you can choose to get notifications to your e-mail when there is activity on a topic you follow or group that you have joined. These notification e-mails come from admin@connect.childlife.org. If you have trouble receiving these e-mails, don't stress. We all know how strict hospitals are at blocking e-mails. Simply check your "spam" folder or seek assistance at membership@childlife.org.

Looking to connect with a certain child life colleague who you met at conference or used to work with? Click on the "people" tab and make that request.

Finally, did you know there's a mobile app version of ACLP Connect? There are constant improvements to the app that make it easy to connect with your child life colleagues, seek information, or keep up with what's happening in your groups. Check your app store and start connecting on the go.

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TIPS FOR ORGANIZING YOUR PDUS

Recertification by Professional Development Units (PDUs) allows CCLSs an opportunity to choose education and training options specific to our professional needs. It is important to remember that we should be working towards consistently obtaining PDUs on a regular basis because we are required to report our PDUs within our five-year recertification cycle. Furthermore, some CCLSs will be selected for audit, which will require that you submit documentation to the Child Life Certification Commission.

Certificants must earn a minimum of 60 PDUs within their five-year certification cycle. Of these, a specific number must relate to each of the following domains:

- 15 PDUs within the Professional Responsibility domain
 - 5 PDUs must fall within Professional Ethics
- 20 PDUs within the Assessment domain
- 15 PDUs within the Intervention domain
- The remaining 10 PDUs may align with any of the three domains at the discretion of the CCLS

*Of note, any PDUs that you complete on Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion-related topics can be placed in ANY domain.

Each time you complete a PDU, it is important that you obtain the appropriate documentation so that you can verify this PDU in the case that you are audited. Want to know what's required for each PDU opportunity? That information can be [found here](#).

We get it...That is a lot of information to keep track of!

Here are some tips for organizing those PDUs:

- Create an Excel document that details all pertinent information about the PDU (i.e., domain, total credit received, month/year, title of PDU)
- Create a Google drive folder with separate folders that are specifically labeled by domain. This way when you obtain PDU documentation, you can immediately place that document in its respective domain folder
- If you have paper PDU documents, scan them so that they can be stored electronically
- If you like keeping paper documents, create a binder with folders that are specifically labeled by domain.
- Entering your PDUs as you get them into the database on ACLP's website

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CERTIFICATION BY PDUS AND THE AUDIT PROCESS

It's that time of year! Certified child life specialists who were due to recertify in 2021 and chose to do so by obtaining the required PDUs were held to the due date of October 31st. Many specialists who just went through the process may be wondering, "Will this be the year I get audited?" Though the idea of having one's PDUs audited may be intimidating, there is a great deal that a CCLS can do to make the process stress-free, should they be randomly selected.

First, it's helpful to understand why the audit process is in place. Having a system of auditing PDUs helps maintain the integrity of the CCLS credential. Every CCLS that is recertifying by PDUs has an equal chance of getting audited, regardless of previous certification or audit history.

If a CCLS is randomly selected to go through the audit process, they will be contacted by CLCC and given a deadline to submit verification documentation for the PDUs that they reported. All requested documents must be received by CLCC on or before the given deadline. The verification documents sent in by the certificant will be kept by CLCC, so it is advised that the individual being audited keeps the original documents themselves.

When speaking with a CCLS who has personal experience being audited, she stated that it was a "pretty simple process" and noted that after she submitted her documents, she received the results of her audit very quickly. She acknowledged that the reason she found the audit process so simple is that she has had the habit of keeping all of her PDU documents in one place. Due to this practice, getting audited was just a matter of scanning documents she already had organized. Are you curious about ways to organize your PDU documents? See the article titled "Great Ways to Organize PDUs" in this issue.

No matter where you are in your certification cycle, the most comprehensive resource is the Recertification Manual found on the ACLP website. This document provides all the information you need to successfully renew your certification and even more details on the audit process.

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CERTIFICATION HIGHLIGHTS

Certification Exam Administration

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

- # Candidates: 152
- # New CCLSs: 128

- % Passing: 84.2%

Certification Maintenance

Existing annual maintenance fees for 2021 are due by 12/31/2021 to avoid loss of the CCLS credential. [Reinstatement](#) applications will be accepted through December 31, 2021. Roughly 98% of CCLSs who owed this fee have made their payment. Thank you for maintaining your certification!

Recertification

of CCLSs due to recertify in 2021: 993
that did not recertify: 109
Retention Rate: 89.02%

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

Thank you!

Chair, Tracey Craddock; Chair-Elect, Sarah Framarin

Members: Caitlin Vasquez, Katie Walker, Jenna Sauls