

California Board of Recreation and Park Certification, Inc

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Established in 1954 Non-Profit Incorporated

California Certification Promotes Pride and Excellence in the Profession

CBRPC Position Paper on Recreation Licensure in the State of California

Position Statement:

The California Board of Recreation and Park Certification (CBRPC) supports licensing of Recreation Therapists. The current California State regulatory system which includes the recognition of both CBRPC and NCTRC as qualified organizations to certify recreation therapist's as meeting standards to practice recreation therapy in the State of California. Therefore, CBRPC is supportive of a Licensure Bill that recognizes both CBRPC and NCTRC.

Rationale:

- Current licensure bill language, eliminates CBRPC by not recognizing Recreation Therapist Certified (RTC) by CBRPC as meeting the standard to practice recreation therapy; diminishing the role of the RTC (a licensed RTC is not able to supervise out of state interns or interns seeking national certification); and eradicating the CBRPC examination process.
- CBRPC requires RTC to renew their certification every (2) two years. In addition, every renewal application is audited and CEU's are verified. NCTRC requires CTRS to renew their certification every (5) five years. These applications are audited on a random basis and CEU's are randomly verified. CBRPC clearly has a higher standard of auditing and ensuring professional standards are being met by the RTC.
- CBRPC is recognized by the State of California Regulatory System as a qualifying agency to certify Recreation Therapist. Based on the higher standard established by CBRPC, it is unlikely the State of California will recognize NCTRC standards for state licensure. The California State Department of Consumers, which controls California licensure, generally believes that other licenses and credentials achieved outside of California, fall below California standards. There have been recent attempts to recognize other states licensures to get individuals more quickly licensed in California to reduce shortages of licensed personnel in the State. California's response was to put a regulation in place that requires out of state licenses to meet the same or higher standards than the State of California's standards. Thus far, out of state licenses are not recognized.
- CBRPC is not supportive of allowing the new Recreation Therapy Licensing Board decide specific licensure credentials. CBRPC cannot support an option, nor do we believe the State of California, will support an option that takes the identification of standards out of the States hands. California will simply never let a Board set State Standards which must be specified into law and regulation. The State must be able to have very specific standards that must be met and written into regulation for all to see. Therefore, supporting what has already been passed by the California legislature is the most likely scenario for Recreation Therapists to achieve licensure in California.
- CBRPC is in support of protecting the clients we serve through California State Licensure. Ensuring access to all qualified and certified recreation therapists within the State of California is the best way to protect and serve our clients and consumers of recreation therapy services.