

**Canadian Therapeutic Recreation Association
Certification Task Force - Teleconference Meeting
Wednesday, March 23, 2005**

MINUTES

In Attendance: Tanea Goncalves (Chair), Chris Richards (ON), Helene Driscoll (BC), Gary Georgeson and Anne Robins (SK), Erin Turnell (AB), Wayne Bishop (NF/L), Jerry Singleton (NS), Dawna Sylvestre (MB)

Guest Speaker: Bob Riley (NCTRC)

Regrets: Micheline Commitz (NB), Brooke Alsbury (Yukon), Maggie Blaise (PQ)

Information Sharing: Francis Holt-Gallant (PEI)

	Item for Discussion	Discussion/Action to be taken	Person Responsible
1.0	Call to Order		
2.0	Welcome/Introductions		
3.0	Priority Items for meeting		
3.1	<i>NCTRC Presentation</i>	<p>How can NCTRC partner together with Canada to develop or implement a Certification program? Benefits and Costs associated.</p> <p>Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialists - CTRS</p> <p>Slide One NCTRC Certification Add Strength and Value to Health Care Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CTRS is most professionally advanced recreation therapist. ▪ Requires education, training, and knowledge-based testing. ▪ Requires re-certification via work experience and CEU or retesting. ▪ Recognized by (5) accrediting, regulatory, and insurance groups. <p>Slide Two NCTRC Certification Ensures Quality Service</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Extensive knowledge and skill based training. ▪ Systematic and team-oriented approach to practice. ▪ Multi-functional and diversified skill base. ▪ Group oriented processes to enhance cost effectiveness. ▪ Trained in core therapy skills (A-P-I-E-D). ▪ Outcome-based practice. <p>NCTRA (Job Analysis)</p> <p>Slide Three NCTRC Certification Provides for Protection of the Public</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ CTRS is recognized as the benchmark of safety. ▪ Rigorous standards ensure qualified practitioners. ▪ Provides on-line verification services of all active CTRS's. ▪ NCTRC has an effective peer disciplinary 	<i>Bob Riley</i>

process.

- NCTRC serves as national clearing house for all disciplinary cases.
- NCTRC is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

Slide Four

CTRSs Work in a Variety of Settings and with Diverse Populations

- 16,000 Certified Therapeutic Recreation Therapists: “CTRS”.
- 70% of CTRSs are employed full-time as “recreation therapist”.
- 78% of CTRSs work with adults or older adults.
- Most CTRSs (66%) provide either acute or long term care services.
- Most CTRSs are employed in hospitals (42%) or SNFs (19%).
- CTRSs work with wide range of population groups.

Slide Five

Profile of CTRS in Canada

- Approximately 120 individuals residing in Canada possess the CTRS credential (**Mailing address**)
- About 60% of these individuals possess a degree from Dalhousie University
- About 41% of these individuals reside in Ontario
- About 34% of these individuals reside in Nova Scotia
- Approximately 40% are employed in hospital settings
- Approximately 25% are employed in **long term care settings (Areas growing)**
- Approximately 41% work with **geriatric populations (Areas growing)**

Slide Six

Models for Collaborative Arrangements with NCTRC

Credentialing – registration – sign-up (usually voluntary)

In Washington State is required in that state to be registered.

Credentialing – certification – usually a voluntary outside organization sets standards

Credentialing - licensure – law, governmental agency

- **Maintain current NCTRC CTRS program in Canada (International)** – (perhaps with some tweaking)
- 2a) Establish Canadian national licensure using CTRS/components (? **Provincial licensing body**)
- 2 b) Establish provincial licensure using CTRS/components (egg. Utah, Washington state – both have NCTRC components)

- 3a) Establish separate Canadian national certification program without CTRS/components
- 3 b) Establish separate Canadian provincial certification program without CTRS/components

NCTRC is interested in negotiating with Canadian organizations both nationally or provincially. Not interesting in assisting a competing system of certification.

Question: Can Canada be included in the upcoming job analysis? Yes. NCTRC would include some Canadians. But in looking at the spectrum as to how individuals perform/delivery of Canada, you are looking at the average w/ the U.S. If there is a difference, it might not show up in the job analysis results.

Could the sampling group be skewed to reflect more Canadians? Not sure.

Would individuals in Canada have a transitioning component if we choose to adopt the NCTRC system? Yes, they could look at that.

Canadian test? Alter the U.S. questions to reflect Canadian law is a possibility. Exam committee.

Bilingual exam? Very important to include both language.

Discussion: Three paths for NCTRC Certification

- 1) Academic Path – new graduates
- 2) A – Criteria – degree work – core courses – 5 years of paid experience in TR
- 3) B – Criteria – degree work – core courses – 1 years of paid experience in TR w/ CTRS supervision

Courses – Eastern Washington University – online programs

Barriers w/ NCTRC & Canadian Partnership

- 1) Legislative practice questions
- 2) Job Analysis
- 3) Nationalism Issue
- 4) Educational qualifications
- 5) Language Issues
- 6) Moving current TR's forward to meet competency requirements (10-15 year plan)

Slide Seven

Value of an International Credentialing Program

- Consumers receive consistent level of professional service across all care levels
- Assures for competent and qualified personnel
- Improves recognition by external regulatory agencies and internal peer-practitioners
- Streamlines hiring process by means of on-line verification
- Promotes continuing education and professional

- development on a systematic basis
- Increases opportunities for TR internships throughout the TR delivery system
- Flexibility in adaptation (for Provinces and States)
- Serves as the most economical model

Slide Eight

Cost Associated with the use of NCTRC Credential

- Maintaining current NCTRC Credentialing Program:
 - New Application: **\$375.00 (USD)**
 - Annual Maintenance **\$ 65.00 (USD)**
- Establishing Canadian National/Provincial Recognition:
 - NCTRC would require the fees listed above
- Establishing Canadian National/Provincial Certification Program:
 - NCTRC would not support a separate certification program
 - Estimated cost to CTRA for valid program **\$500,000.00 (expensive process)**

Tweaking the current program – enter a negotiation phase) to deal w/ barriers identified

Promotion of an International Certification Program (New Zealand)

Slide Nine

Questions and Discussions

- What are the true barriers to promoting the NCTRC CTRS in Canada?
- Is there an opportunity for a multi-level certification program using the CTRS as the professional level?
- In a collaborative arrangement would CTRA be willing to issue certificates and/or conduct disciplinary action involving Canadian certificants?
- Is the real interest for recognition on the national or provincial level?
- What do the survey polls indicate regarding what most RTs want with respect to Canadian credentialing?

Slide Ten Summary and Conclusions

3.2	<i>Question Period</i>		All
4.0	Next Meetings	April 21, 2005 – Tele-conference meeting May 13, 2005 – lunch meeting at CTRA conference in Vancouver	
5.0	Adjournment		