

The American Therapeutic Recreation Association Information Sheet

Management of Recreational Therapy

The Management Section is an opportunity for Recreational Therapy managers to ask and answer questions, find necessary resources and be a resource for others, mentor and be mentored by experts, and actively participate as leaders in the healthcare arena.



Managing Recreational Therapy departments/ programs and Recreational Therapists requires a broad foundational set of skills for most managers and additional skill sets for others.

Skills most managers have in common are:

- Creating a mission, vision, values and strategy for the department
 - Developing goals and objectives
 - Overseeing risk management
 - Monitoring and assessing quality improvement
 - Assuring Recreational Therapy Standards of Practice are integrated into policies and procedures
 - Developing and implementing policies and procedures

- Recruiting, hiring and retaining excellent employees
 - Assuring and managing competency
 - Complying with personnel law and policy such as Reasonable Accommodation, Family Medical Leave Act, etc.
- Managing a budget or financial aspects of a budget
- Advocating and ensuring human and/or patient rights
 - Management of inclusion and/or accessibility

Other skill sets may include:

- Research management
- Documentation standards
- Union issues such as contractual obligations
- Marketing
- Governance
- Information Technology
- Community engagement/networking

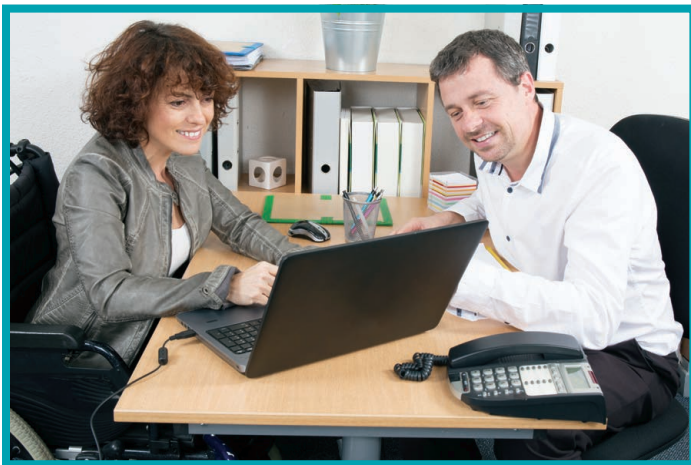


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Empowering Recreational Therapists to Empower Those They Serve

Management of Recreational Therapy *(continued)*

Recreational Therapy, also known as therapeutic recreation, is a systematic process that utilizes recreation and other activity-based interventions to address the assessed needs of individuals with illnesses and/or disabling conditions, as a means to psychological and physical health, recovery and well-being. Further, Recreational Therapy means a treatment service designed to restore, remediate, and rehabilitate a person's level of functioning and independence in life activities, to promote health and wellness as well as reduce or eliminate the activity limitations and restrictions to participation in life situations caused by an illness or disabling condition (ATRA, 2015).



Resources for Leadership in Recreational Therapy:

- **American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA)**
<http://www.atra-online.com/welcome>
- **National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC)**
<http://nctrc.org/>

- **Committee on Accreditation of Recreational Therapy Education (CARTE)**
<http://www.caahep.org/carte>
- **Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs (CAAHEP)**
<http://www.caahep.org/default.aspx>
- **The Joint Commission (JC)**
<https://www.jointcommission.org/>
- **The Joint Commission – Behaviors that undermine a culture of Safety**
http://www.jointcommission.org/assets/1/18/SEA_40.PDF
- **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**
<https://partnershipforpatients.cms.gov/p4p-resources/tsp-leadership/toolleadership.html>
- **World Health Organization (WHO)**
<http://www.who.int/en/>
- **Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF)**
<http://www.carf.org/home/>
- **Agency for Healthcare Research & Quality (AHRQ)**
<http://www.ahrq.gov/health-care-information/index.html>



Recreational Therapists are professionally credentialed by the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification (NCTRC). The Certified Therapeutic Recreation Specialist (CTRS) “exemplifies the profession’s dedication to quality standards and excellence.” The CTRS is recognized as the qualified provider of recreational therapy services.

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