

Licensure Update, October 2014

Progress of the best kind, is comparatively slow. Great results cannot be achieved at once; and we must be satisfied to advance in life as we walk, step by step.

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The process for self regulation of Recreation Therapists in Nova Scotia is ongoing. We wanted to share with you some of the steps the Licensure subcommittee has been taking on behalf of you, the membership and the TRAAC Board.

In July of 2014 the Licensure subcommittee was successful in securing a meeting with members of the Legislative Review committee, from the Department of Health and Wellness, to review our application and discuss any specific gaps that led to their decision to not support self regulation at this time (Feb, 2014). They were pleased with the content, quality and organization of the proposal. The gap they identified was the Risk of Harm based on factors considered by government:

“1) The extent to which the practice of the health profession may involve a risk of physical, mental, or emotional harm to the health, safety, or well-being of the public, having regard to:

- (a) the services performed by practitioners of the health profession;
- (b) the technology, including instruments and materials, used by the practitioners;
- (c) the invasiveness of procedures or mode of treatment used by the practitioners.”

2) In relation to Risk of Harm how would regulation mitigate those risks versus performance management issues? Looking at causes of the risks and risk mitigation. What is the risk to the public? They felt there wasn't sufficient evidence with respect to Risk of Harm of the profession. The committee also asked for information regarding complaints.

In August, 2014 the Licensure subcommittee was able to meet with TRAAC's legal counsel to review the feedback and discuss next steps. It was agreed that there was a need to further develop the Risk of Harm component of the application, and consider a revision of the old application as the framework has been updated by the government since our original proposal.

Items that need to be updated and redeveloped such as:

- Need to add more literature and articles relating to risk into the proposal. Combine literature search with a new domains of practice, activities (task & activity analysis), harm of the activity and align it with patient populations, what happens if you don't adapt / modify the activity
- Incorporating component of 'A Day in the Life of a Recreation Therapist' into the proposal
- Contact current insurance provider (Holman Insurance) to identify types of claims brought forward in the profession
- Need to list practice settings, multiple modalities, concrete examples of why, knowledge, risks, etc., Approach other regulated professions for support, give example of IP team that works together and get a statement from them to show team based and individual practice is important, gather letters of support for the concept of regulation of the regulators vs team members.

These are very specific and time consuming tasks that need to be completed for us to move forward in our pursuit of self regulation. The targeted time frame for resubmission is the spring of 2015 based on the need for time to review, re- present, etc. prior to an election call. It was felt given the extensive time commitment this would require and the relatively short turn around time it was recommended by the Licensure subcommittee that the TRAAC Board consider hiring a Research Assistant to complete this in a condensed timeline.

A position description was developed and a motion was submitted and passed by the Board at the October meeting. The details will be forth coming.