

# North Carolina Board of Recreational Therapy Licensure, NCBRTL

## 2021-2022 Year-end Summary Report

### 2021 NCBRTL Members and Officers

Chair: Joan Sutton  
Vice Chair/Tres: Rhonda Walton  
Secretary: Judy Kinney  
NCBRTL Executive Director: Becky Garrett LRT/CTRS, e-mail [becky@ncbrtl.org](mailto:becky@ncbrtl.org)

Members: 8  
Term: 3 years  
Cite: GS 90C-5

#### Governor Appointees

##### LRT Engaged in Training

Judith Kinney PhD, LRT,CTRS( 6/30/2020)  
Ethics training 5/15/2020  
University of North Carolina Greensboro  
Dept. of Community & Therapeutic Recreation  
249 Ferguson Building, 524 Highland Ave.  
Greensboro, NC 27412  
Wk 336 334-4481  
[jskinney@uncg.edu](mailto:jskinney@uncg.edu)

##### Practicing LRT

Cari Sipe-Owens LRT, CTRS(6/30/2021)  
Ethics training  
Carolina Meadows  
700A Carolina Meadows  
Chapel Hill, NC 27517  
Wk 919 370-7119  
[trheel15@yahoo.com](mailto:trheel15@yahoo.com)

##### LRTA

Amy Aalbritton, LRTA  
Vidant Health  
P.O. Box 6028 - BH Recreational Therapy  
Greenville, NC  
Albritton, Amy <[AALbritt@vidanthealth.com](mailto:AALbritt@vidanthealth.com)>

##### Physician

Augustus "Gus" Parker  
Vidant Health  
Sports Medicine  
Charlotte, NC  
<[AGP009@novanthealth.org](mailto:AGP009@novanthealth.org)>

#### President Pro Tempore Appointees

##### Practicing LRT

Joan Sutton, MS, LRT, CTRS 6/30/2017-6/30/2023 J Michael Atkins 6/30/22-6/30/25  
Ethics Training  
400 Avinger Lane  
Davidson, NC 28036  
e-mail [joanmsutton@gmail.com](mailto:joanmsutton@gmail.com)

##### Consumer Member

[wheelchairwolf@gmail.com](mailto:wheelchairwolf@gmail.com)

#### Speaker of the House Appointees

##### Public Member

Wendy Chavez 6/30/2025

[wchavez0202@outlook.com](mailto:wchavez0202@outlook.com)

828 320 0124

Practicing LRT

Rhonda Walton, LRT, CTRS(6/30/2023)

P.O. Box 6028 - BH Recreational Therapy

Greenville, NC

[rwalton@vidanthhealth.com](mailto:rwalton@vidanthhealth.com)

As of June 30,2022 There are 981 Licensed Recreational Therapists (LRTs), Licensed Recreational Therapy Assistants (LRTAs) 45, Inactive 28. During 2021-2022 NCBRTL continues to see overall growth, addressing Interrupted Internships (remaining from pandemic issues. Recreational therapy services were in high demand during the pandemic in some facilities while other were furloughed. NCBRTL continues to receive an increased number of out of state applicants.

Many facilities would not allow “volunteers” (often the designation of interns) during the pandemic, so some were interrupted, made virtual or ended entirely. NCBRTL has followed national certification board’s (NCTRC) internship standards due to out of state internships however this year NCTRC made changes to the wording of the internship standards that would allow for internships to be completed at multiple sites and under multiple supervisors. NCBRTL met with NC recreational therapy educators to discuss this issue. NC educators stated they expected to continue to maintain standards of one internship site with one agency Supervisor except in the case of emergencies. NCBRTL and NC educators value consistency of one site and one supervisor but will allow for emergency exceptions. More of these exceptions occurred during the pandemic but do occur for medical, family emergencies and other unique situations. This was viewed as a positive movement for the best practices within the profession and compliance for students to have practical experiential learning to the professional standards of the APIE(D) process. In accordance with the ATRA SOP.

The Records Manager continues to receive mail, files and assist with online training sessions. This allows for separation of duties and administrative assistance.

New appointed Physician member Dr Augustus Parker joined the Board in July 2021, Dr. Parker has been an active serving member. Amy Albritton, LRTA was appointed to finish the LRTA position term completing Doretha Maxwell’s term when she retired in June, 2021. NCBRTL made recommendations for open appointments in June 2022, one is for a consumer of recreational therapy serves (Michael J. Atkins) and another in LRT engaged primarily in education and training (Joan L Sutton, LRT). NCBRTL recommended that Amy Albritton be appointed to continue serving in the LRTA position.

Rules: NCBRTL submitted Rule change request to meet growth of the profession to require six recreational therapy content courses from five courses 21 NCAC 65 .0301 Educational Requirements for a licensed recreational therapist. Additional Rule changes were to increase renewal and maintenance fees in 21 NCAC 65 .0501 Fees and clarify the use of the reinstatement rule in 21 NCAC 65 .0701 Reinstatement.

NCBRTL issued new 120 licenses to applicants, an increase from last year. Eighteen began applications but did not complete them, they remain open for one year pending completion.

There were 27 out of state applicants that were licensed this year. We continue to see this higher number of out of state applicants. It is uncertain whether their intention is to move and practice in NC or seeking the credential that is not available in their state.

As well, as 24 Inactive Status Requests, 1 LRT returned to active practice from Inactive

Issued 5 Reinstatements ( expired and returned within 60 days)

Issued 7 Reentries (past Reinstatement period)

Issued 1 Denials

Issued no Reciprocity Applicants

LRT requests reasons

-one did not have RT coursework

No Military Trained licensees were issued, to date, there is no Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) Training for recreational therapy in the military, NCBRTL does have a Rule, 21 NCAC65 .0902 Military Exemption to accept any MOS military applicants if received. There are ten (10) licensees who state they are veterans of military service.

Total Licensees as of June 30, 2022

New issue LRT 120

New issue LRTA 0

Inactive Status 18

Reinstatements 5

Reissues 7

New Licensees by NC School

ECU 15 (decrease from 2020-2021)

UNCG 28 (increase)

UNCW 26 (same)

WCU 14 (same)

WSSU 7 (decrease)

Catawba 3 (same)

NCCU 0 (decrease)

Mt Olive 0

Out of State Schools 27 (increase)

Two-year NC Schools (Assistant level)

WPPC 0

Licenses issued by month

July 2021 10

Aug 2021 12

Sept 2021 11

Oct 2021 9

Nov 2021 8

Dec 2021 10

Jan 2022 7

Feb 2022 5

Mar 2022 6

Apr 2022 9

May 2022 22

June 2022 12

NCBRTL On average, NCBRTL approved 10 licenses per month, the larger months being, May (22), June (12), and August (12) viewed as a result due to completion of graduations, completed internships, and

exam offering dates. September (11), July (10) and Dec(10) being the next larger months. The least received in Nov (8) and October(9).

The required Compliance and Ethics Training continues to assist licensees in understanding the Chapter 90C, 21 NCAC 65 Rules, and annual requirements. NCBRTL offers the required training for first year licensees. Registration for existing licensees is open for continuing education credit and increased knowledge of the law and requirements. The NCBRTL Compliance and Ethics Training was offered virtually via Zoom with 136 participants. NCBRTL will be offering Compliance and Ethics Training through Zoom webinars due to limitations of groups and pandemic standards. NCBRTL continues to Review how best to educate licensees to compliance.

Disciplinary Actions take in 2021-2022

#### **Compliance Issues:**

Licensees allowed licenses to expire by not paying required Maintenance fee and returned by Reinstatement.

**Unsubstantiated Report investigated.** No unfounded reports taken this year.

**Misconduct:** NCBRTL investigated three (3) individuals that continued to practice with an expired license. Their license was Suspended for the amount of time they practiced with expired license and required to attend Compliance and Ethics Training.

#### **Future Goals and Plans**

NCBRTL identified inconsistencies in internship ratings and offerings across NC and has developed an Internship Manual Development Training to narrow the inconsistencies. The first training was offered via Zoom in a 3-part series 26 participated Summer of 2021. Plans are being made to offer the training in-person workshop in October 2022.

NCBRTL contracted to have website functions to be updated with completion expected summer of 2022.

Plans for possible replacement for Executive Director are being considered. The current Executive Director has been in the position for 30 years and the only one to hold this position. NCBRTL plans on a gradual transfer of duties when date is determined.