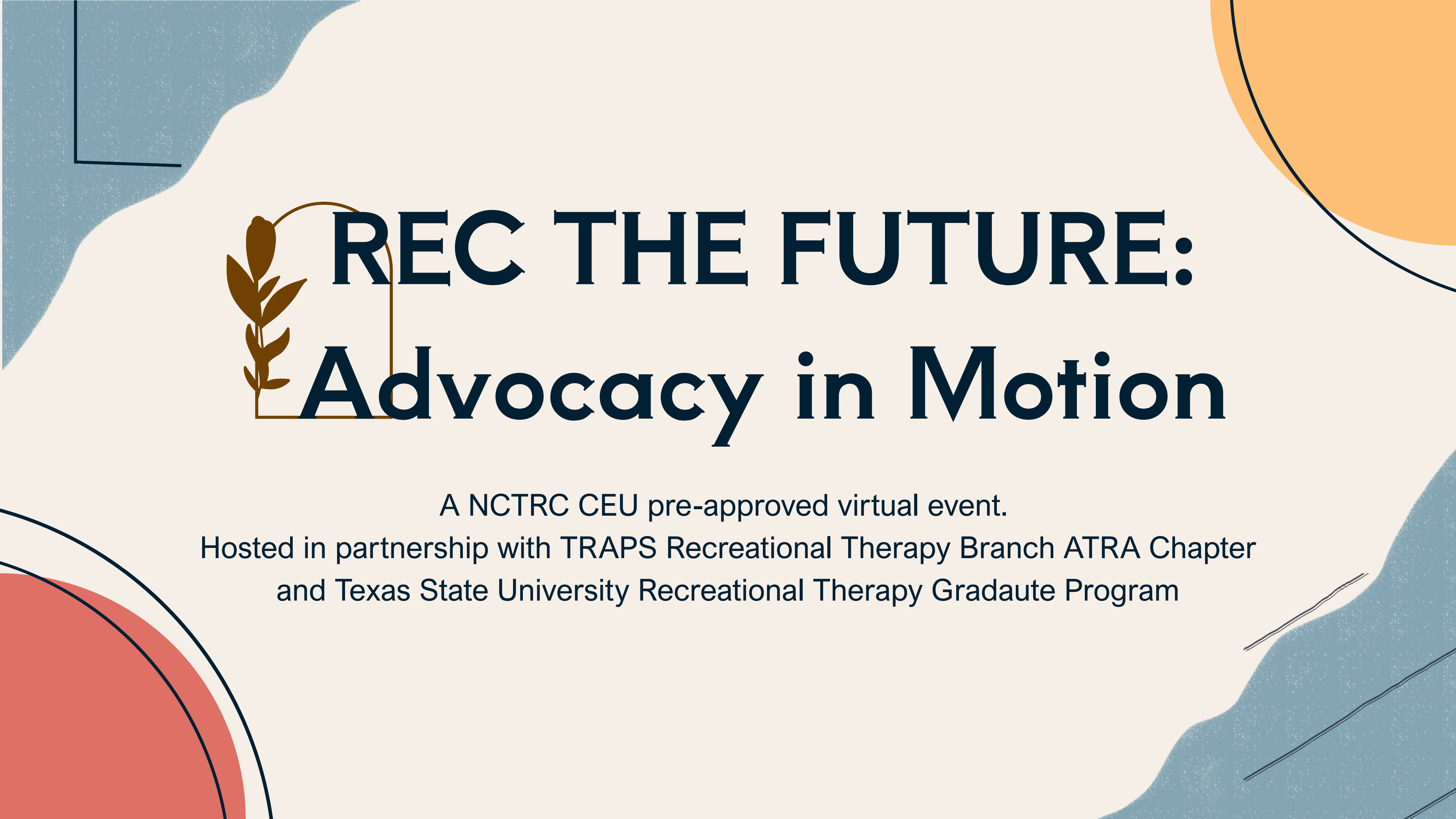




REC THE FUTURE: *Advocacy* in Motion

A NCTRC CEU pre-approved virtual event.

Hosted in partnership with TRAPS Recreational Therapy Branch ATRA Chapter
and Texas State University Recreational Therapy Graduate Program



Welcome

- What to expect:
 - 30 minutes about current advocacy efforts impacting RT in Texas from
 - 9 mini presentations by graduate RT students
 - Earn 2 hours/0.2 CE credits for attending the entire event

Thank you!



TEXAS STATE UNIVERSITY
Recreational Therapy



Learning Outcomes

- By the end of the session:
 - Identify at least 3 relevant trends related to your RT practice
 - Discuss impact of at 1 state specific RT legislative initiative
 - Identify at least 2 actionable tasks to address trend(s) relevant to your RT practice

Thank you!



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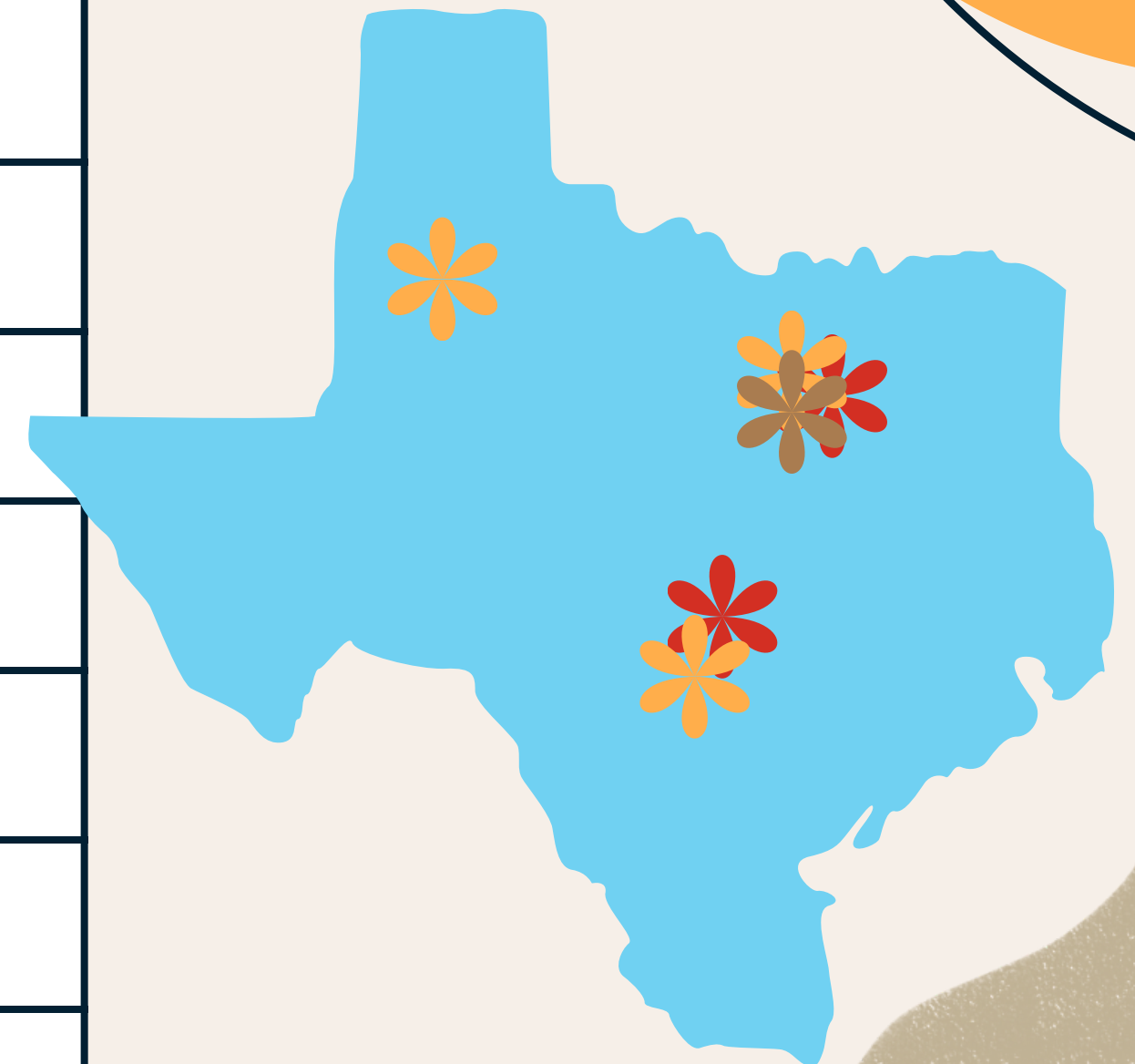


Community Guidelines

- To earn full credit you must attend the entire session
 - Attendance will be taken by board member at the start of this session and before the end of the session
 - Anyone that does not appear on the attendance list at both check points is at risk of not earning the 2 hrs of CE (0.2)
- Respectful engagement
 - Through emojis or reactions and even questions, which are encouraged, we ask all participants to be respectful of varying perspectives
 - Communication, verbal and non-verbal, demonstrating disrespectful or aggressive behavior will result in removal from event

Board Members

Shelby Sharpe, Chair	sj1174@txstate.edu
Shelby Carradine, Chair-Elect	shelby.carradine@cityofcarrollton.com
Teagan Sailors, At-Large Member	tsailors@moodyneuro.org
Cozea Stevens, At-Large Member	cozea.stephens@dallas.gov
Elena Christopher, At-Large Member	elena.christopher@austintexas.gov
Monica Martinez, At-Large Member	monica.martinez@austintexas.gov
Alan Gatton, Past Chair	alan.gatton@cor.gov



Board Updates

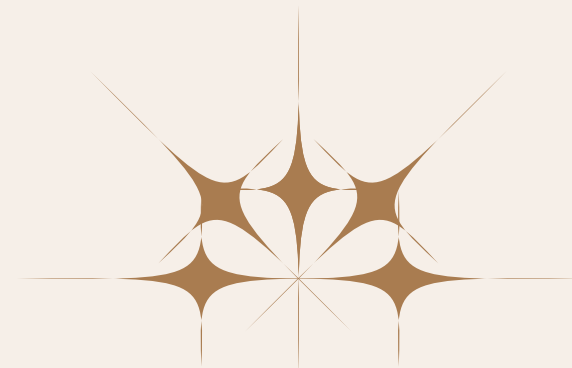
- RT specific track at 2027 TRAPS Institute & Expo-Irving, TX
- High School Recruitment Taskforce led by Spring Coleman
- Member meeting August 5th 12 pm
 - Register using Link or QR Code
 - <https://membership.traps.org/events/EventDetails.aspx?id=2050032&group=>
- Legislative committee priority #1

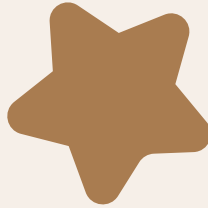


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Priority 1

TRAPS supports establishing state licensure for Recreational Therapists to create minimum professional qualifications, define the scope of practice, strengthen professional credibility, and protect individuals receiving recreational therapy services. Licensure will improve consistency, accountability, and recognition of the profession while expanding access to high-quality recreational therapy services.





Licensure in Texas

Why

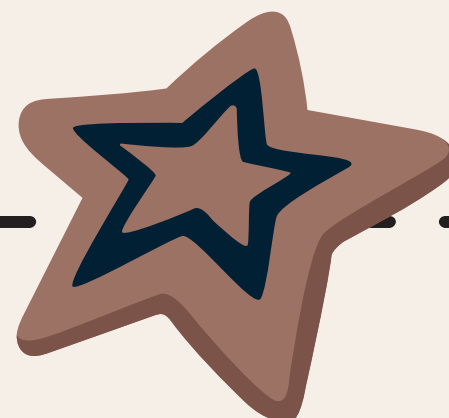
Promote patient safety, professional competency and accountability

Texans deserve protection when receiving recreational therapy services

Without

Anyone can:

- legally call themselves an RT advertising, implementing, and documenting RT services
- Work with vulnerable populations without disciplinary repercussions



Licensure is...

- **Protects** the public from unqualified providers
- **Legally defines** who may provide recreational therapy services
- Establishes minimum education and competency standards
- Requires **ethical** practice and continued competence
- Creates state board to investigate complaints
- Allows for **disciplinary action** such as revoking or suspending licenses
- Improves **transparency and accountability** for employers and the public



Licensure is NOT...

- Guaranteed employment or reimbursement
- A salary increase
- Protection from competition
- Replacement for national certification
- A professional organization membership
- A cure for every workforce issue

Texans deserve protection when receiving recreational therapy services

How this would work

Texans deserve protection when receiving recreational therapy services

Develop and gather essential documents i.e. Whitepaper, employer information

Develop legislation outlining scope of practice, requirements, etc.

Once law passed, formalize and enforce

Educate state officials to gain bipartisan support

Continue to gain legislative support to pass law

1

2

3

4

5

Where would we be housed?



Texas Department of Licensing & Regulation

Open and transparent

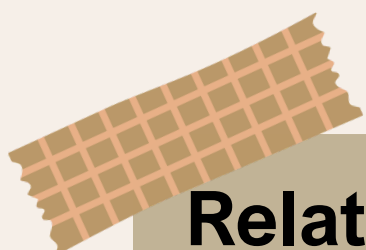
Mission

To earn the trust of Texans every day by providing innovative regulatory solutions for our licensees and those they serve.

**Core values include
accountability, integrity, respect**

**Clear, consistent,
commonsense standards**

**Keep costs low and
efficiency high**



Related licensed professions under TDLR:

Athletic trainers - Behavior analysts - Dietitians - Dyslexia Therapy - Massage Therapy - Midwives - Orthotists & Prosthetists - Podiatry - Speech-Language Pathologists & Audiologists

What this means for you

Texans **deserve**
protection when
receiving recreational
therapy services

1

Licence education and professional experience requirements will **align with NCTRC**

2

Ask questions to inform yourself, coworkers, and supervisors. **Stay updated** on progress and requirements

3

Utilize **consistent messaging** provided by TRAPS Legislative Committee & RT Branch ATRA Chapter

4

Take **action** through committee support, events, and local opportunities. Obtain license once law passes.



How to get involved

- Join the advocacy committee in developing essential documents
i.e. whitepaper, employer support letters
- Attend Play Day at the Capital November 2026
- Share information using provided resources
 - Educate employers
 - Educate local state officials
- Sign up for Walk the Halls January/February 2027

**RT Branch ATRA Chapter
Advocacy Committee POC**

Elena Christopher, CTRS

elena.christopher@austintexas.gov

**ATRA Licensure Committee
Texas Representative
TRAPS Legislative Committee Rep.**

Dr. Allie Thomas, PhD, CTRS

kc37@txstate.edu

**Texans need
your help!**



In Person Events

Play Day at the Capital

November 18, 2026

- Join recreation and park professionals at the state lawn capital
 - Support interactive and educational booths sharing about recreation and park profession
 - Casual relationship building with state officials, legislative staff, and community

Walk the Halls 2027

- Join recreation and park professionals at the state capital to discuss TRAPS legislative priorities
 - Break into small groups of professionals and students
 - Visit assigned legislator offices in capital building
 - Discuss key legislative priorities using provided resources with legislator and/or staff
 - Address questions

Visit TRAPS Online Calendar
for details or to RSVP

https://membership.traps.org/events/event_list.asp





Support from a distance

- Join the RT branch advocacy committee and TRAPS Legislative Committee in developing essential documents
 - i.e. whitepaper, employer support letters, FAQ
- Upcoming Advocacy Committee Meetings
 - August 5th 1p
 - RT Branch All Member Meeting beforehand 12p
 - September 2nd 12p

**RT Branch ATRA Chapter
Advocacy Committee POC**
Elena Christopher, CTRS
elena.christopher@austintexas.gov

**Texans need
your help!**



Thank you!



Scan the QR Code to ask licensure specific questions and/or share how you'd like to get involved!



https://txstate.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_0PyYBM1OW8hNsWy



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