



# From the Executive Editor

**By: Morgan Morgan, MS, CCLS**

I want to begin my first column as Executive Editor as a way for you, our readers, to get to know me and share some insight into why I am so passionate about the ACLP Bulletin. I have worked as a Certified Child Life Specialist (CCLS) for almost ten years, and in that time, I have worked at several children's hospitals in almost every type of coverage area you can imagine. I have volunteered on a variety of committees for both regional child life groups and the ACLP. Throughout the many changes to my professional life, one consistent thing is my commitment to the Bulletin. I have been a part of the Bulletin Committee for the past eight years. In my time on the committee, I have

seen so many changes to this publication and the field of child life. Some examples include separating from the Journal of Child Life to produce two independent publications, changing to a digital publication platform to make the Bulletin more accessible and reader-friendly, and becoming open access to share these stories and resources with all our colleagues (not just ACLP members). I think these changes have been for the better and have shaped this publication into a unique place for child life professionals to share stories and ideas.

As I step into the role of Executive Editor, I hope that the Bulletin continues to evolve and be a space where people can share new ideas, practices, and beliefs. My goal is to have the Bulletin be a place where readers can turn to see themselves reflected in our (digital) pages. I have long said that the Bulletin is a place for the "tactical and practical with a side of personal," where students and professionals alike can share their perspectives on trends in the field, describe new programming they are developing, and dream of ways that the field of child life can continue to expand beyond the walls of the hospital.

Within these pages, we have a collection of authors doing just that. Katie Hart and Barbara Ramirez Quach share stories from working on hospital units, such as a D&E clinic or adult psychiatric ward, where child life services are far from the norm. Student author Rebecca Summers proposes how child life might integrate into the American justice system to support children of incarcerated parents. Maryam AlBahar and Alice Chiu share their perspectives as child life specialists, trained in the United States and working in healthcare settings in Kuwait and Taiwan. Sydney Stigge writes an honest reflection on her journey to working with patients with Developmental Disabilities as part of an Adaptive Care Team, a role that she had never pictured for herself or her skill set but that she has grown to love. Several CCLS

contributed to an interview about the role of child life in working with the growing behavioral health populations that many hospitals are seeing (including some excellent ideas for interventions for this population). Finally, we have a mentor/mentee team that shares their experience seeking mentorship through the ACLP's Mentorship Program and how they were both able to learn from each other.

As I prepare to hit "publish" on my first issue as Executive Editor, I am amazed by the creativity and resilience of my colleagues. Within these pages are the stories of people continuing to push themselves and expand the idea of what child life specialists can do. I hope that the stories here inspire you as well. I promise to keep pushing the limits of what this publication can be if you promise to keep sharing your stories.

