



**American Therapeutic Recreation Association**

*founded in 1984*

**NEWS RELEASE**

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**ATRA Affirms Support for ICF**

*(Alexandria, VA)* At the recent Annual Conference of the American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA), held October 7 – 11, 2005, in Salt Lake City, the ATRA Board of Directors approved a position statement regarding the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF). The ICF was published by the World Health Organization in 2001.

The ATRA position statement, which reads: The concepts and terminology of the ICF are compatible with recreational therapy practice. ATRA supports, the use of ICF language and terminology in recreational therapy practice guidelines, standards of practice, curriculum development, public policy, international relations, and research. ATRA also acknowledges the significance of the use of the ICF classification and coding system as a vehicle to clarify and enhance practice and research in recreational therapy.

At the recent ATRA conference in October, a three-hour session titled, *"The W.H.O. and its ICF Model: Application for RT Practice, Research & Education"* was presented by ATRA members David Howard, John Jacobson, Bryan McCormack and Sharon Nichols from the ATRA WHO/ICF Public Health team. This session provided information on the ICF model, applications of the ICF, and practice and research implications of the ICF for recreational therapists. A highlight for the participants was a review of coding and qualifiers with time allowed for actual coding exercises.

The American Therapeutic Recreation Association is the national association of recreational therapists. Recreational therapy is a health care and human service discipline that delivers treatment services designed to restore, remediate and/or rehabilitate with a focus on restoring and improving the functional capacity for persons with injuries, chronic illnesses, or disabilities. ATRA President Dr. Bryan McCormack stated, "Our association is pleased to endorse the International Classification of Function and see it as a valuable tool in our treatment services."

For more information, please contact the ATRA National Office at (703) 683-9420.

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The American Therapeutic Recreation Association (ATRA) was founded in 1984 to advance the profession of therapeutic recreation. ATRA is a non-profit, professional membership organization dedicating 100% of resources and efforts to promote therapeutic recreation professionals in health care and human service settings. For more information, please contact the ATRA National Office.