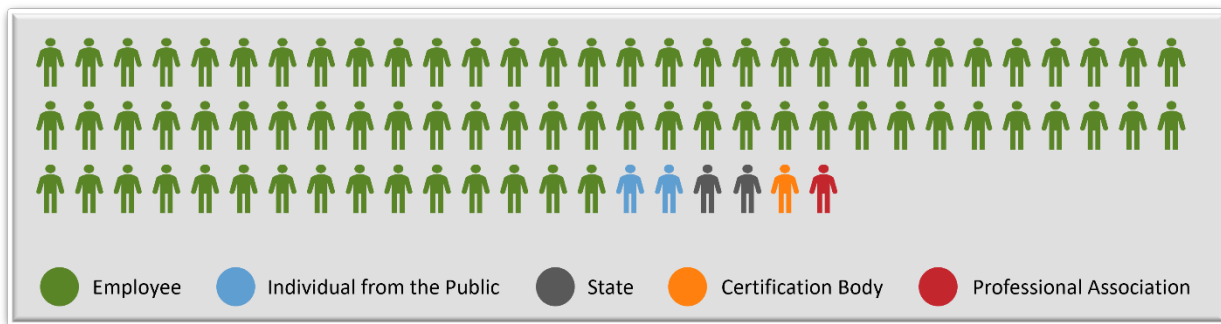


## VA STANDARD OF PRACTICE FOR RECREATION THERAPISTS

### Comment Count Report

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) is establishing VA's standard of practice for Recreation Therapists; this will be a standardized set of services that all VA Recreation Therapists can perform if their VA medical facility performs such services, and they have the education, training, and skill to perform the services.

On July 28, 2023, VA posted the proposed VA standard of practice for Recreation Therapists on the Federal Register ([88 FR 48963](#)) for public comment and within VA's intranet for VA employee comment. VA also sent letters to the national certification body (National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification), the association that developed the standards (American Therapeutic Recreation Association) and State licensing boards for Recreation Therapists with the proposed VA standard of practice and an opportunity for them to comment directly to VA on the proposed standard. VA requested that all comments on the Federal Register, VA's intranet site, and from the States and the certification and standards bodies be provided within 60 days. The comment period closed on September 26, 2023, and VA received 81 comments in total.



VA received 75 comments from VA employees, 2 comments from individuals from the public, 1 comment from the National Council for Therapeutic Recreation Certification, and 1 comment from the American Therapeutic Recreation Association. As of September 26, 2023, VA received comments from 2 out of the 5 State licensing boards for Recreation Therapists; however, VA will continue to actively engage with States.

VA will review all comments received and make appropriate revisions to the VA standard of practice for Recreation Therapists in light of the comments, to include those that help VA meet its mission and goals through evidence-based practice and alternatives.

VA will post a collective response to all comments in a final report on <https://www.va.gov/standardspractice> once the VA standard of practice for Recreation Therapists is published in Veterans Health Administration Directive 1900, which will be available at <https://www.va.gov/vhapublications/publications.cfm?pub=1>.