

*Noel McCluney (PT, DPT, PCS, and AT Specialist)
Director of Clinical Programming*

noel.mccluney@laurensaz.org

Role:

I serve a unique position at L.I.F.E. I primarily help manage the therapy department along with Richard Elicio, Therapy Manager. I focus on developing and implementing policies and procedures to further the quality of our therapy services and the longevity of our therapists. However, I also help other areas of L.I.F.E. by managing projects to help bring the clinical expertise of our therapists to other departments. For example, this year I worked on selecting appropriate equipment for classrooms, planning and facilitating our new sensory gyms, creating the Adaptive Fitness and Recreation Specialist position, and helping start a gymnastics program for our consumers. The largest project I managed was the creation of our brand-new website. I truly love helping with any program or project someone wants to bring to L.I.F.E and learning new things along the way!

Education:

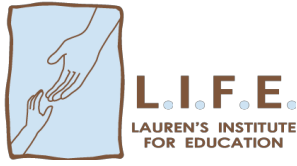
- Doctor of Physical Therapy (DPT), A.T. Still University, Mesa, AZ, August 2006
- APTA Board-Certified Pediatric Specialist (PCS) May 2011
- B.S. in Exercise Science, *Summa Cum Laude*, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL, May 2003
- Assistive Technology Certificate Graduate Program, Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, OH, January 2015- August 2016

Special Certifications:

- American Council on Exercise Youth Fitness Specialist 8/16
- 200hr Level Certified Yoga Teacher, Southwest Institute of Healing Arts, 5/08
- American Council on Exercise Group Fitness Instructor, 8/00

Specific Treatment Strategies, Equipment, or Expertise:

- Assistive Technology Services especially in mobility, seating, and positioning
- Mindful movement (yoga) positions, breathing, games
- Neurodevelopmental Treatment (NDT)
- Partial weight bearing gait training with Lite Gait device
- Exergaming Devices (Wii, Xbox Kinect)
- Hippotherapy
- Aquatic therapy



Career History:

I began at L.I.F.E. as the Director of Clinical Programming in September of 2018. I previously worked at L.I.F.E. when it first opened in 2007-10 and then again 2011-13 and then again in 2017 as a staff physical therapist. Although my husband's career has required us to move frequently, I have always found my way back to L.I.F.E. because it is such a special place. I feel so incredibly lucky to be able to return again in this new role. In addition to L.I.F.E., I have worked in a number of other settings and gained valuable skills and experience. I have worked at two intermediate care facilities (ICFs) for children and adults with medically complex developmental disabilities, and at a specialized school for children with medical complexity in NC. At these facilities I gained a lot of experience working with wheelchairs, standers, and other AT devices. I have also provided school therapy in OH and home-based therapy in CO and NC.

Personal Management Philosophy:

My experience working at many other organizations made me realize how special L.I.F.E. is. Many other organizations don't really care about their employees. One feels like a number and bringing concerns to a supervisor rarely results in any action or change. That was never how I felt when I worked at L.I.F.E. and now that I am in a management role, I want to ensure no one ever feels that way. I do my absolute best to listen to people's concerns, try to understand them, and try to address the concerns to the best of my ability. I also believe that policies/procedures are generally better when created jointly with those they will affect. I do my best to gather ideas and feedback prior to implementation of a new policy. But really most important of all to me is helping people feel like they have a "work family." At L.I.F.E. we work together for the common good of the "family" and we have great fun and make great memories along the way. To me that is really what life and L.I.F.E is all about.

Personal:

I grew up in Indialantic Florida. I am married to Kevin McCluney, an Ecology professor at Bowling Green State University. We have lived in multiple states for my husband's career including AZ, CO, NC and Ohio. We have two children, Desmond (7) and Malcolm (4). My hobbies and interests include yoga, hip hop, American Ninja Warrior, and sci-fi and Jane Austen style books and movies.