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State of Nevada



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Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists

Biennial Report Summary

Much has happened over the past two years in the field of Environmental Health for the state of Nevada. This was in great part to the passage of AB260 (the modification of NRS 625A) at the 2005 Legislative Session, which requires mandatory registration for all of those individuals working in the capacity of an Environmental Health Specialist. This is a major step in the endeavor for environmental health practitioner's who are responsible for ensuring the prevention, promotion and protection of public health for all involved. In order to remain in "good standing", individuals who obtain this credential will be responsible for ongoing education. Each individual must maintain at least 24 continuing education credits (CEU's) biennially and submit proper documentation to the Board in addition to paying an annual fee.

In making the change to mandatory registration, the Board was very busy trying to ensure that everything was done in a timely manner. AB260 gave every individual working in the scope of practice of environmental health the opportunity for one year to be grandfathered in. This would ensure that the individuals who were already working in this capacity to obtain the credential without having to sit for the Registration Exam. Because of this, the Board had to come up with a way to ensure that eligible individuals submit an application prior to the deadline, which was July 1, 2006. This included developing a specialized application process, including several meetings with the Board to process and vote on individuals applying. As part of the application process, two sets of fingerprints were needed from each applicant for state and federal background checks. The Board established an account with the Nevada Repository and over 150 cards have been submitted for background checks. The Board is currently distributing certificates/cards to all new registrants. This has been and continues to be a huge undertaking, but the Board has worked diligently to ensure the process is as smooth as possible. To date, the state of Nevada has 127 new Registered Environmental Health Specialists.

In addition to the passage of AB260, the Board also held three workshops for changes to NAC 625A and are currently being filed with the LCB for temporary status. A regulatory meeting to consider changes to NAC625A along with a Board meeting will be held in Las Vegas on September 25, 2006.

Over the past year there have also been many changes on the Board. Pete Allen (ex-Chair) resigned at the end of July 2005 and Teresa Long, representing the Washoe District Health Department took over the position of Chair until July 1, 2006 and resigned after one term. Cindy Ulch, representing the State has agreed to manage the Board in the interim. She is not serving in any official capacity other than a manager since she is prohibited by statute from doing so. A Washoe County representative will be joining the Board soon. Her application is in the Governor's office at present and it is anticipated that she will chair the Board once appointed. Daniel Maxson resigned at the end of June 2006 and the Board has now welcomed Darrell Wiser, representing the Southern Nevada Health District. Darrell will serve as Board Secretary. Although there have been many changes, the Board remains strong and excited about the future of the profession.

The Board now has a permanent dedicated office established with a full-time phone line that is checked daily to serve the membership. The office is located in Winnemucca and is across the hall from Board Member Ulch's office at Bureau of Health Protection Services. Mail is now delivered to the office on a daily basis and the office is equipped with a desk, bookshelf, two locking file cabinets and several desk chairs. The Board hopes to obtain a computer and printer in the next year with internet access for members to be able to email the Board computer directly. Confidential records for all Board members will soon be centralized in this secure location inside the locking file cabinets.

In summary the Board continues to strive to serve its members to the best of its abilities. The Board remains optimistic in accomplishing goals that have been set before them over the next year. Board members will be attending the next Legislative Session (2007) with an update on progress.

Respectfully Submitted,

Cindy Ulch, REHS
Board Member