

MINUTES OF THE NEVADA STATE BOARD FOR THE REGISTRATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS

The Board of Registration for Environmental Health Specialists Meeting was called to order on Wednesday, April 14, 1999, at 10 a.m. by Clare Schmutz, Chairman of the Board, at Sunset Station Hotel and Casino, 1301 W. Sunset Road, Henderson, Nevada.

Board Members in attendance were Clare Schmutz, Chairman, Carl Cahill, Secretary, and Peter Allen, Member at Large, making a quorum present. Absent was Member Barbara Orcutt. Also in attendance from the public: Sam Moldave, Mary Hahn and Steve Henke; Sharon Poole, Recording Secretary.

Nominations were opened for election of board officers. Carl Cahill nominated Clare Schmutz for Chairman and Peter Allen seconded the motion. The motion was carried unanimously by those present. Carl Cahill accepted to retain his position as secretary.

The question was raised as who could be on the State Board of Registrations and Clare stated according to NRS Statutes five (5) members make up the Board: one member from Washoe District Health Department, one member from Clark County Health District, a member appointed by the State Health Officer, and two member at large, one from the north and one from the south. The appointee from the State Health Officer is the only member who cannot hold an office.

Minutes of the June 19, 1998 meeting were reviewed. No minutes were available from the June 29, 1998 meeting. No changes were made by those present. Motion was made by Clare Schmutz and seconded by Peter Allen to approve the minutes of the meeting. Motion was carried unanimously.

Carl Cahill, Secretary, gave the following report. The financial report from July, 1998 through April 14, 1999, was presented to the Board. The beginning balance on July 1, 1998 was \$6,509.68. The current balance as of April 14, 1999 was \$7,365.68. Current membership is 36 paying members (34 from last year and two by reciprocity; this is down from the 38 paying members in 1997. By law, the Board is required to conduct an audit every other year, and Carl has carried this out every other year by using Kafoury, Armstrong and Company, Certified Public Accountants. This year their letter of engagement is proposing an hourly rate of \$55; a total cost of \$700 for a two year period if the records are complete. Audit is to be completed by May 28, 1999. This will reduce the income total slightly. Peter Allen questioned whether the board was required to keep a certain balance and Carl stated the state has certain fixed fees - a \$200 fee to the A.G.'s office for their representative. Carl feels dollar amount has not changed very much and the board is still stable and able to conduct business. The Board pays a secretary \$150 for record keeping. Carl stated that if it becomes mandatory for Environmental Health Specialist III's to be registered, it would help stabilize the Board and NEHA and he also feels the agencies then could be required to pay registration fees.

Mary Hahn questioned if Carl had staff that could not meet the mandatory registration. He felt there were a couple that have the experience to perform but they don't have the educational requirements. If this mandatory registration went into effect now, a grand-fathering in process would be included where these people would be included, but any new person coming on board would have to have the education credentials in order to be registered. Mary asked with the way the statute is written now could they become registered without the education. Carl replied no, a person could come in as a trainee or a Environmental Health Specialist I, but in order to promote to a II they would have to pass a registration exam and even then the clock is running because they would have only so many months if they failed to get the examination, they would no longer be employable. Carl stated if an employee of Washoe County applies for college credits that are job related and get a B or better, the employee gets compensated for that. This would give those individuals who are short in key areas the opportunity to go back and get their educational credits and get registered. He felt in the future they have the County Manager supporting this move to have III's certified.

Clare stated at the present time we have a contract with National NEHA in using their registration exam from NIA. We have received a letter stating they are increasing examination fee to \$99 (a \$19 increase). The state board is currently charging \$130 for the examination, supplying the proctor, and the first year's registration. The registration by reciprocity is \$40 for registration and the first year membership. Clare suggested considering increasing registration by exam by \$20 to cover the cost of the test. If we have to pay \$99 for the test plus postage, we would be making \$31. Annual renewal is \$35.00 at present. Clare proposed \$60 reciprocity; and \$150 for registration and first year membership. Peter asked if they could use the national for reciprocity, which would increase local membership. Carl stated once it became mandatory as a condition of employment, and districts were paying registration to the Board, they would have to either take the state exam or by reciprocity join the state registration. Peter Allen made a motion to increase the charge for the initial exam and first year member from \$130 to \$150, Carl Cahill seconded motion. No discussion. Motion carried.

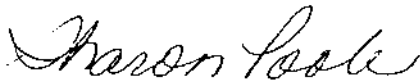
Discussion was held regarding increasing reciprocity fee. Clare stated the board only provided reciprocity with national. He felt the increase for testing was more important as we were losing money on it. Carl Cahill made a motion to amend the fee for reciprocity and first year membership from \$40 to \$60, Peter Allen seconded motion. No discussion and motion was carried unanimously.

It was noted that the only reciprocity is through the National Environmental Health Association and Peter Allen stated he supported this as the national requirements were more stringent than the states and we don't know what all state standards are. Carl Cahill stated the CHN's in Washoe County have a very strong organization and bargaining unit thru professional nursing. This is allowing them to improve their salary range based on their credentials. The Registered

Comments from the Public: Sam Moldave commented he felt the board was on the right track of getting mandatory registration and asked the Board to call on him if he could be of any help.

Carl stated that if the Board was going to try to meet with NEHA in April, 2000, the Board should plan to have a meeting in April, 2000. Peter stated he felt that the Board needed to meet with a representative from NEHA to see what was discussed at the business meeting prior to the April, 2000 meeting. Steve stated it was important the Registered Sanitarians and Registered Environmental Health specialists are aware of the Board meetings so that they can attend. Mary felt if more people would have know about the mandatory registration more people would have attended this meeting. The Board thanked the public attending today and the interest they've shown. Peter suggested that the Board get a copy of the NEHA minutes and have Carl, at least one representative from the North attend the NPHA meeting and plan on putting some time aside to discuss some of the educational program. Carl stated he heard having a meeting of the Board during the NPHA meeting and have another meeting of the Board during NEHA. However, he stated they would have to do the elections at the NEHA meeting. Another meeting in conjunction with NPHA Conference in October in Las Vegas. Carl requested the Board to call him if *they* had any additional agenda items to be discussed at the next meeting.

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.



Sharon Poole, Recording Secretary