



State of Nevada
Board of Environmental Health Specialists

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MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

October 10, 2024

Members Present: Brian Northam, Amber English, James Barnes,
Members Absent: Drew Skeen, Teresa Hayes
Staff Present: Loretta Ponton, Executive Director
Todd Weiss, Deputy Attorney General
Public Present: Mark Ports, REHS

Pursuant to the requirements of AB 219, Ms. Ponton stated the procedure for public comments by telephone or through remote access.

Brian Northam, Chair called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. A voice roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment: There were no comments.

Approval of the Minutes: Chair Northam asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of July 18, 2024. Hearing no comments, called for a motion.

Jim Barnes made the motion, seconded by Amber English to approve the minutes of July 18, 2024. The motion passed.

Ratification of Registrations Issued by Staff –Chair Northam called for a motion.

Amber English made the motion, seconded by Jim Barnes, to approve the registrations as listed. The motion passed.

Office of Boards Commissions and Council Standards

Chair Northam called on Loretta Ponton who reported on the meeting held with Director Sanchez and Deputy Director Haag with all Executive Directors.

The purpose of the meeting was to provide an update on the Legislative initiative in BDR 301 which will completely revise the administrative structure and operations of Boards. The proposed reorganizational structure will group Boards into three functional areas; Advisory, Licensing and Regulatory, and will move administration under B & I, Office of Boards, Commission and Council Standards adding sixty new positions.

Reorganization may include consolidation of specific professions/boards, elimination of some Boards and/or retention of independent status, specifically the Medical, Pharmacy, Nursing, Dental and Contractors Boards.

Boards are proposed to be consolidated under five “super boards” with 7-11 members, serving standardized 3–4-year terms with the chair appointed by the Governor. Professional advisory boards representing the regulated professions may be created under each of the “super boards” which will make recommendations pertaining to the specific profession.

All Board NRS laws will be opened to update and add the new structure; remove independent administrative authority and move funding to the State. It is anticipated it will take three legislative sessions, 2025, 2027 and 2029 to fully implement and cost over \$100 Million.

Ms. Ponton stated a second meeting in-person will be held in October with the Director and Deputy Director where more information will be available specifically addressing each individual Board.

Ms. Ponton stated the Board is comprised of representatives of public health agencies which are unique in structure and may not be the best fit for consolidation under the Department of Business and Industry. Ms. Ponton asked members to provide their input into how best to address the proposed restructuring and state oversight, including any recommendations for alternative oversight agencies such as the State Board of Health.

As information, Ms. Ponton reported on the initiative to restructure the State Personnel System which may also be considered at the upcoming Legislative session.

2025 Legislative Session

Chair Northam called upon Ms. Ponton who summarized the Bill Draft Requests of interest to the Board. BDR 340 submitted by the Joint Interim Standing Committee on Health and Human Services is proposed to add two legislative members to each district Board of Health.

Executive Director’s Report –Chair Northam called upon Ms. Ponton.

Registration Statistics - Ms. Ponton reported on registration statistics as of September 30, 2024, noting the increase from the prior years; renewals and pending applications for the 1st Quarter.

FY 2024 Financial Reports - Ms. Ponton directed the members to the FY 2025 1st Quarter financial statements reporting cash assets totaled \$50,031.15. Profit and Loss Statement reflects one-time expenses for the data system enhancement, annual tort insurance and office space assessment.

Board Office Activities – The 4th Quarter CE Audit was completed with no findings and the FY 2025 1st Quarter CE audit is underway. All state required reports have been submitted.

On-Line Applications – The on-line initial application went live in July; the conversion application will be completed in November.

Chair Northam called for a motion.

Amber English made the motion, seconded by Brian Northam, to approve the Executive Director report and financial statements. The motion passed.

Report from Deputy Attorney General – Mr. Weiss stated he had no report.

Reports from Chair and Board Members – There were no reports from the Board.

Public Comment: Chair Northam asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

Adjournment: Chair Northam adjourned the meeting 11:22 a.m.