



State of Nevada
Board of Environmental Health Specialists

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MINUTES OF PUBLIC MEETING

January 23, 2025

Members Present: Amber English, James Barnes, Drew Skeen, Teresa Hayes
Members Absent: Brian Northam
Staff Present: Loretta Ponton, Executive Director
Henna Rasul, Sr. Deputy Attorney General
Public Present: Darren Winkelman, REHS, Central Nevada Health District

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

Amber English, Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 11:04 a.m. A roll call confirmed a quorum was present.

Public Comment: There were no comments.

Approval of the Minutes: Vice-Chair English asked if there were any corrections or revisions to the minutes of October 10, 2024 and November 7, 2024. Hearing no comments, called for a motion.

Teresa Hayes made the motion, seconded by Drew Skeen to approve the minutes of October 10, 2024 and November 7, 2024. The motion passed.

Ratification of Registrations Issued by Staff – Vice-Chair English called for a motion.

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

Office of Boards Commissions and Council Standards

Vice-Chair English called on Loretta Ponton.

Ms. Ponton directed the members to the written summary of SB78 identifying the two specific areas addressed by the proposed legislation; centralized administration and boards' composition. Ms. Ponton reported that B & I just released a Policy Paper on Board reform. The policy paper contains 5 recommendations; number 4 is the centralization of administration under the Office and number 5 eliminates 20 boards, including EHS, and creates 6 new boards through merger and 12 boards not merged with another profession. EHS would be represented by a merged board as originally proposed by B & I.

Ms. Ponton presented an alternative oversight proposal which retains independent Boards in their current structure while also providing enhanced State administrative oversight. The alternative proposal is supported by recommendations from the Audit of Occupational and Professional Boards conducted by the Governor's Office of Finance, Division of Internal Audits, No. 19-03 issued June 25, 2019.

The intent of the alternative proposal is to offer legislators a compromise to dismantling the professional and occupational boards, especially those that are compliant, effective, and efficient while providing others with the necessary administrative support and oversight where lacking.

There was a consensus that the EHS Board should not be merged and that independent status alternatives should be pursued. SB 78 will continue to be monitored for additional information.

2025 Legislative Session

Vice Chair English made a motion, seconded by Jim Barnes to authorize the Chair and Executive Director to determine and represent the Board's position on pending and potential legislation affecting the Board and its operations during the 2025 Legislative Session. The motion passed.

Teresa Hayes volunteered as an additional contact for the Executive Director in legislative matters.

Executive Director's Report – Vice-Chair English called upon Ms. Ponton.

Ms. Ponton reported on registration statistics as of December 31, 2024, noting renewals and registrations expired for the 2nd Quarter.

FY 2025 Financial Reports - Ms. Ponton directed the members to the FY 2025 2nd Quarter financial statements reporting cash assets totaled \$62,109 and net profit of \$1,132.74.

Board Office Activities – The 2nd Quarter CE Audit will begin in February; all state required reports have been submitted; the on-line conversion application is now active.

Teresa Hayes made the motion, seconded by Jim Barnes, to approve the Executive Director report and financial statements. The motion passed.

Report from Deputy Attorney General – Ms. Rasul stated she had no report.

Reports from Chair and Board Members – Teresa Hayes addressed the meeting schedule, stating there may be a need for a special meeting to address legislative issues and recommended a late March or early April period.

Ms. Ponton stated she will monitor legislation and will canvass members for availability for a special meeting if necessary.

Public Comment: Vice-Chair English asked if there were any public comments. There were no public comments.

Adjournment: Vice-Chair English adjourned the meeting 11:59 a.m.