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**Division of Public and Behavioral Health**

**DIETITIAN ADVISORY GROUP**

**DRAFT SUMMARY MEETING MINUTES**

**DATE: Thursday, August 22, 2019 TIME: 3:30 p.m.**

Meeting Locations:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Bureau of Health Care Quality and  
Compliance  
727 Fairview Drive, Suite E  
Carson City, NV

Division of Public and Behavioral Health  
Bureau of Health Care Quality and  
Compliance  
4220 Maryland Parkway, Building D, Suite  
810  
Las Vegas, NV

Note: Some board members may attend in Las Vegas. Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion

The meeting was called to order at approximately 3:30 p.m.

**Attending:**

Michele Cowee, RDN, LD, CDE, Chair  
Deborah Klein, RD, LD  
Laura J. Kruskall, PhD, RDN, CSSD, LD, FACSM, FAND, Director, Dietetic  
Internship & Nutritional Center, Coordinator, MS Nutrition Sciences, Kinesiology and  
Nutrition Services, University of Nevada, Las Vegas  
Anne R. Lindsay, Ph.D.

Pam Wagner, RD, LD, CNSC-excused

Others attending:

Kaelyn Day, DHCFP  
Sheri Oswalk, DHCFP  
Leticia Metherell, HCQC  
Nathan Orme, HCQC  
Nenita Wasserman, HCQC

Approval of meeting minutes from February 21, 2019 *Michelle Cowee, Chair*

THERE WAS A MOTION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE MEETING MINUTES OF  
FEBRUARY 21, 2019. THERE WAS A SECOND TO THE MOTION. MOTION PASSED  
UNANIMOUSLY.



Members whose terms expire June 2019 and may want to renew for another two years:

Pam Wagner, RD, LD, CNSC

Deborah Klein, RD, LD

Laura Kruskall, PhD, RDN, CSSD, LD, FACSM, FAND, Director, Dietetic Internship & Nutritional Center, Coordinator, MS Nutrition Sciences, Kinesiology and Nutrition Services, University of Nevada, Las Vegas

Michelle Cowee, RDN, LD, CDE

The renewal of terms listed on the agenda was in error as everyone has a term of four years; not two. Renewal was not necessary, so this item was skipped.

Nathan Orme said this is two years away but next time when memberships expire you may want to open it up for new people to apply.

Chair Cowee said staggering the memberships would be good for continuity so that the seasoned members can help guide the new members.

## Bureau Topics

Leticia Metherell asked if the advisory group recommends that a graduate degree be the entry level degree to be a dietitian in Nevada due to the CDR changes requiring a graduate degree moving forward in 2024. Leticia Metherell noted representatives from both UNR and UNLV did not feel moving to a master's degree requirement for licensure purposes would be a problem. Both universities offer master's degree in nutrition.

Leticia Metherell explained the current statutes say that a bachelor's degree is needed to be a dietitian and the statutes also require the CDR national exam be taken. Once the CDR requirement requiring a master's degree becomes effective this would result in a conflict in the statutes. It was suggested that a change in statutes be moved forward in the next legislative session removing the individual requirements, including the requirement for a bachelor's degree, and making the only requirement be that to apply for licensure as a dietitian an applicant must be a registered dietitian in good standing with the CDR.

Laura Kruskall said they have students that have a bachelor's degree that take the DTR exam. The academy will probably move for the bachelor's degree requirement to be able to take the DTR exam.

Michele Cowee commented there are opportunities of employment for those with a DTR in private, corporate, pharmaceutical, food service and other places. It was her opinion that having a master's will give them an opportunity for better jobs and open more doors.

LAURA KRUSKALL MOVED THAT DIETITIANS SHOULD HAVE A MASTER'S DEGREE TO ALIGN WITH THE CDR. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED BY ANNE LINDSAY. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The chair requested that this be on the February 2020 agenda to prepare for the changes in language.

### Review of NRS Chapter 640E Dietitians statutes for recommended changes- *Leticia Metherell*

Discussion was had regarding whether statutory language should be moved forward allowing a grace period for dietitians who let their licenses lapse. It was concluded that if a master's degree was required and a dietitian let his or her license lapse, if he or she was a registered dietitian with the CDR, he or she would be able to reapply for licensure even if he or she only had a bachelor's degree. If a licensed dietitian let both his or her licensure and registration as a dietitian with the CDR lapse, then there would be an issue for those with only a bachelor's degree wanting to reapply for licensure again. The opinion was expressed that since dietitians are notified of both the need to renew their licensure and registration, this should not present a problem. It was also noted that everyone is responsible for tracking their expiration dates and renewing regardless of whether they receive notification or not. The group agreed that the statutes did not have to be revised to allow for a grace period.

### Review of S.B 95 – which will allow dietitians to order diets and supplements – *Leticia Metherell*

There were no questions regarding this topic.

### Frequently asked Questions, Blog, Social media

Nathan Orme, HCQC explained what he would like to use social media to give more information to the public regarding dietitians. He asked advisory group members to come up with ideas for the frequently asked questions (FAQ) section of the website. He can use that as some general promotion for dietitian licensing in Nevada. He said he was trying to use more video concepts so

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if anyone from the group would like to add that to the website, just contact him and he can do that.

Michele Cowee said there is information on what the basic difference is between a RD and NDTR. Laura Kruskall provided the link to the NDTR info:

<https://www.eatrightpro.org/about-us/what-is-an-rdn-and-dtr/what-is-a-nutrition-and-dietetics-technician-registered>

**Update on any new information related to dietitians.** *Michelle Cowee, Chair*

Sheri Oswald and Kaelyne Day were at the meeting representing Medicaid. They noted they put together a PowerPoint to help with billing the correct codes and timeliness. This was emailed to all advisory group members. The PowerPoint highlights that Registered Dietitians can bill certain CPT codes.

Billing reminders include:

- Verify the client is Medicaid eligible at the time of service.
- Ensure the services being billed are a covered benefit under Medical Nutrition Therapy (MNT).
- The referring National Provider Identifier (NPI) is required on the claim form.
- If the recipient has exceeded the maximum allowed services limitations, a prior authorization showing medical necessity must be obtained before rendering additional services.
- Determine if recipient is covered under fee for services Medicaid or a Managed Care Organization and bill accordingly. This information can be found in the Medicaid provider portal.
- Medicaid is always payer of last resort, please bill other insurances if available first.

**Successes deserving recognition** – Laura Kruskall said Samantha Kruger, who is a faculty member at UNLV, will be featured as a younger professional on video highlighting what dietitians are doing.

Leticia Metherell said that HCQC uses dietitians on their inspections. She commented that two new dietitians will be starting in September and will be located in the Las Vegas office.

**Public Comment**

No action may be taken on a matter raised under this item of the agenda until the matter itself has been specifically included on an agenda as an item upon which action will be taken.

There was no public comment.

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## **Adjournment**

There being no further business before the advisory group, the meeting was adjourned at approximately 4:30 p.m.