

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
DIETITIAN ADVISORY GROUP
SUMMARY MINUTES
Date: Thursday, February 21, 2019
Time: 3:30 p.m.
MEETING LOCATIONS

Teleconference to:

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
727 Fairview Drive
Carson City NV 89701

Video conferenced to

Division of Public and Behavioral Health
4220 South Maryland Parkway, Building D, Suite 810
Las Vegas, NV 89119

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
Pam Wagner, RD, LD, CNSC
Anne R. Lindsay, Ph.D.
Sarah Morrison, Nevada Early Intervention Services
Debra Sapphire
Christina Hilton, Dietitian Long Term Care

It was determined there is a quorum for this meeting.

Approval of meeting minutes from August 23, 2018 Michelle Cowee, Chair

THERE WAS A MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 23, 2018 MEETING
MINUTES. THE MOTION WAS SECONDED. MOTION PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.

Bureau Topics

**Change in Entry-Level Registration Eligibility Requirements & Dietitian Laws -
Qualifications**

Leticia Metherell

Leticia Metherell explained that HCQC received notice from the Commission on Dietetic registration letting HCQC know that they are going to move to change the education requirements from a bachelor degree to a minimum of graduate degree. This only applies to new applicants. Once the CDR officially puts this into place, the way the statutes are written if you actually read the statutes it actually lists the different requirements but NRS 439.537 does not allow an individual to use the term dietitian or related terms in NRS 439.537 without being a

registered dietitian. To keep the requirement at a Bachelor's level we would want to remove the provision in NRS 439.537. Discussion was had of modifying current statutory language by removing individual licensing requirement mandates and just making the requirement that an applicant has to be a registered dietitian. In this case, a Master's degree would be required if the CDR implements the requirement to have a Master's degree. There is one more Legislative Session before 2024, so there is one more opportunity to request revisions.

NRS 439.537 Unlawful use of words or letters designating person as licensed or registered dietitian; penalty.

1. A person shall not use in connection with his or her name the words or letters "Dietitian," "Licensed Dietitian," "Registered Dietitian," "L.D.," "R.D." or any other title, word, letter or other designation intended to designate that the person is a licensed or registered dietitian without being registered with the Commission on Dietetic Registration, a member of the National Commission on Health Certifying Agencies, or its successor organization.

2. Any person who violates the provisions of this section is guilty of a misdemeanor.

NRS 640E.150 Application; qualifications; fee; submission of fingerprints.

1. An applicant for a license to engage in the practice of dietetics in this State must submit to the Board a completed application on a form prescribed by the Board. The application must include, without limitation, written evidence that the applicant:

(a) Is 21 years of age or older.

(b) Is of good moral character.

(c) Has completed a course of study and holds a bachelor's degree or higher in human nutrition, nutrition education, food and nutrition, dietetics, food systems management or an equivalent course of study approved by the Board from a college or university that:

(1) Was accredited, at the time the degree was received, by a regional accreditation body in the United States which is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor organization, and the United States Department of Education; or

(2) Is located in a foreign country if the application includes the documentation required by [NRS 640E.160](#).

(d) Has completed not less than 1,200 hours of training and experience within the United States in the practice of dietetics under the direct supervision of a licensed dietitian, registered dietitian or a person who holds a doctorate degree in human nutrition, nutrition education, food and nutrition, dietetics or food systems management from a college or university that is:

(1) Accredited by a regional accreditation body in the United States which is recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or its successor organization, and the United States Department of Education; or

(2) Located in a foreign country if the application includes the documentation required by [NRS 640E.160](#).

(e) Has successfully completed the Registration Examination for Dietitians administered by the Commission on Dietetic Registration of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

(f) Meets such other reasonable requirements as prescribed by the Board.

2. Each applicant must remit the applicable fee required pursuant to this chapter with the application for a license to engage in the practice of dietetics in this State.

3. Each applicant shall submit to the Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History two complete sets of fingerprints for submission to the Federal Bureau of Investigation for

its report. The Central Repository for Nevada Records of Criminal History shall determine whether the applicant has been convicted of a crime listed in paragraph (a) of subsection 1 of [NRS 449.188](#) and immediately inform the Board of whether the applicant has been convicted of such a crime.

Leticia Metherell stated said there are 623 dietitians in Nevada. The ratio of dietitians to the general populations is not very high.

Dr. Kruskall said that without a masters degree you will not be able to take the test. She said she did not think there will be a shortage of dietitians because of the masters degree requirement. She commented that there are approximately 50 graduates from UNLV every year alone. There is a nontraditional population at UNLV but a majority become dietitians.

Michele Cowee said it was her opinion the law should match the CDR requirements.

Leticia Metherell recommended Nevada could do what another state did and say you must be a registered dietitian by CDR to be a licensed dietitian in Nevada. If the advisory council makes the decision to recommend a graduate degree, the way it is written, it says they have to pass the CDR exam to be licensed. If the group wants to make a recommendation regarding whether a Bachelor's degree or Master's degree should be required, then she could pass it onto the administration.

An attendee from Reno asked if they could make the changes to the current bill going through the legislative session changing the statutory language so it clearly notes that you must be a registered dietitian when applying for a license. After further discussion, it was determined not to move forward in this direction at this time as the group did not want to risk the current bill allowing dietitians to order diets to be put at risk. It was determined that further discussion regarding this topic could be addressed at a future meeting.

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

Leticia Metherell said the bill was heard in the Nevada State Legislature on February 20, 2019 and it did pass out of the Senate. The next step: it will go before the Assembly.

Leticia Metherell said that if you want to alter the bill, you would have to go to the bill sponsor and ask them.

On another note, Leticia Metherell said that licensed dietitians do not have a licensing renewal grace period. Theoretically, if you are a dietitian that has a Bachelor's Degree and let your license expire; under the new requirements, you may be out of a job. She said the advisory council may want to consider recommending a law that allows some kind of grace period.

Leticia Metherell reminded everyone to keep their emails up-to-date as HCQC sends a reminder regarding your license expiration about 90 days prior.

Deborah Klein said she would like to reinforce a grace period. Leticia Metherell said that is something that would have to be done by changing the law. Some programs have grace periods and some don't.

Frequently asked Questions, Blog, Social media – *Nathan Orme, HCQC*

Nathan Orme said that he can answer any questions regarding upcoming bills before the legislature.

Leticia Metherell said that the State of Nevada has a contract with Nevada Broadcaster's Association, and they can send out messages by television and radio.

Nathan Orme said for everyone to send in their ideas and he will see if he can put some new stuff out there.

Pam Wagner, Diabetes Educator for Dignity Health said that they would be willing to do a clip that is related to diabetes in Nevada.

Nathan Orme noted that April 11, 2019 Legislative Day, Dairy Farm and Produce Farm on Saturday.

Updates from Medicaid on items related to dietitians and regulation changes. Sherri Eggleston, Medicaid

Katy Day, representative from Medicaid. There is not any new policies that are related to dietitians.

Pam Wagner said there was a certain amount of funding for 2018, was that utilized.

Katy Day said that she did not know but she would look into it. There are still some issues have medicare and then Medicaid. It is a very tricky think to try to navigate. It took awhile for dietitians to become Medicaid providers. She did not know if there are a lot of dietitians that are Medicaid providers.

Laura J. Kruskall will forward annual meeting information.

A member said there was background noise and asked everyone to mute their phones.

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

Successes deserving recognition.

There was no discussion on success deserving recognition.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Michele said that the DAG usually meets in February and August. August 22, 2019 was set as the next meeting for the DAG at 3:30 p.m.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 P.M.