
DIETITIAN ADVISORY GROUP

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, April 14, 2022

3:01 p.m.

Meeting Locations:

This meeting will be held online and by phone. The online and phone meeting locations are:

- [Click here to join the meeting online](#)
- **Call in (audio only)**
 - 775-321-6111
 - Phone Conference ID: 633 265 973#
- **Join with a video conferencing device – 192425125@teams.bjn.vc**
 - Video Conference ID: 111 728 440 5
 - [Alternate VTC instructions](#)

Note: Agenda items may be taken out of order, combined for consideration, and or removed from the agenda at the chairperson's discretion.

1. Call to order/roll call –
 - 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, Chair
 - Pam Wagner, RD, LD, CNSC
 - Anne R. Lindsay, Ph.D.
 - Cheryl A. Kapalka, MPH, RD, LD, CNSC, CSP
 - Sachiko Tokunaga de St. Jeor, RD, LD

Quorum was met – Laura Kruskall, Anne Lindsay, Cheryl Kapalka, Sachiko Tokunaga in attendance.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Public comment may be presented in person or by computer, phone or written comment. Due to time considerations, each individual offering public comment will be limited to not more than five minutes. A person may also have comments added to the minutes of the meeting by submitting them in writing either in addition to testifying or in lieu of testifying. Written comments may be submitted electronically before, during, or after the meeting by emailing Nikki Feister at nfeister@health.nv.gov. You may also mail written documents to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Attention:

Leticia Metherell, 727 Fairview Drive, Suite E, Carson City, Nevada 89701.

Leticia Metherell mentioned a written comment was submitted by Dillion Martin. Laura Kruskall asked that Dillion holds his testimony and be heard after we hear from Senator Neal, these items are related to the discussion. Laura Kruskall asks for any other public item currently.

Dillion Martin, past president of the Nevada Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, thanked Senator Neal for taking the time to be on this meeting and his condolences regarding her father. Dillion made us aware that the Nevada Academy of nutrition dietetics is a state affiliate of the National Academy nutrition dietetics, which represents over 100,000 credential practitioners. This includes practitioner areas from K through 12 education to government programs, hospitals, long term care facilities, mental health and rehabilitation corporate health as well as private practice. The Nevada Academy supports public policy initiatives, especially in education in medical nutrition therapy for food access and food security. Every 2 years we host a legislative day in Carson City or virtually to collaborate with state policy leaders. Dillion mentioned AB73 and the changes it brings. Membership is undergraduate and graduate level students that are aspiring to a career in dietetics. The new requirement will be a master's degree, supervised practice with 1000 hours from an accredited program, all dietitians would have to submit a professional development portfolio with continuing education, and to renew every 5 years. Specialty certifications can take from 2-5 years which would prevent dietitians from practicing in our state if those specialty certifications were required. Dillion mentioned he is working on his certified diabetes and education specialist which requires 1000 hours of direct patient care in order to receive certification and will take 5 years.

3. Discussion with Senator Neal regarding Specialty Certification Requirements for Nevada Licensed Dietitians and Possible Action to make recommendation to the Executive Officer for amendments to Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 640E. **Possible Action Item**

Laura Kruskall introduced Senator Dina Neal. Senator Neal spoke about her father's hospital experience and spoke to specialized certification which was brought up during the Commerce Labor Committee in the last legislative session.

Laura Kruskall advised us about specialty credentialing and how it takes 2-5 years to complete a specialty post RDN credentialing. This means that the RDN would leave the state for the specialty credential and then come back to Nevada, this is not realistic. She agrees with Senator Neal, about training and education in this field but also that a

Master's degree will be required in 2024. When we did our survey, nationwide, 4% of them hold the specialty credential and of the 695 dietitians license in Nevada, 3.3% hold the specialty credential, in Nevada.

4. Review of Proposed Dietitian Regulations of Nevada Administrative Code (NAC) Chapter 640E, stemming from Assembly Bill 73 and Assembly Bill 330 of the 81st Legislative Session (2021), relating to requirements to engage in the practice of dietetics & possible action to recommend amendments to the Executive Officer – *Leticia Metherell, HCQC.*

Possible Action Item

Another approach is to look at our regulations regarding requiring assessments. We could also set certain criteria, which are concerns specifically in a hospital setting. The assessments would be done by the dietitians of the patients and a requirement in a hospital setting. The assessment could have, like Senator Neal mentioned, home health and to help regulate areas where we might be able to add something about conducting nutritional evaluations. Pay was also mentioned to Leticia, she explained we do not have authority to address pay as the Bureau that as a legislature issue, this could be an item already for legislature session. It looks like there are some avenues that may address regulatory concerns.

Senator Neal sees where the board is deeply against the dietitian with a specialty, however having tighter regulations is agreed. A care model was advised, a parent or support system in the hospital, would step in. Senator Neal noticed that a pill given to the patient was more appropriate than to deal with the issue of potassium. Dietitians could offer alternatives and provide the same result, also within the home health care model. It's a great idea of making sure that there is a consultation, so if a person leaves with a nutrition schedule like they're supposed to be doing instead of protein drinks and they're going through their gastro. Patients will be receiving proper nutrition and they are monitored for sodium levels that could dropped which a body can shut down from lack of magnesium, sodium, calcium or potassium. A care model or caretaker could help the patient and potentially save their life.

Laura Kruskall appreciates and agrees with Senator Neal, dietitians must be part of that healthcare team everything from admission through discharge through home healthcare. We do have the expertise and we need some solutions so that every patient has the care of nutrition and dietetics they need.

Madeline Bellows (public caller), I am the current president of the Nevada Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, Director of Dietetics at Horizon Specialty Hospital and a private practice owner of Desert Dietitians. Madeline agrees with Senator Neal that nutrition is important, as well as the psychological level, and how she would be a good resource. Madeline is part of a multiple home with affiliations and legal disciplinary on staff. Patients that need to be seen by dietitians and physicians and physician groups are not referring them to dietitians. I see many patients at home who are on tube feeding and these are typically patients whose caregivers are reaching out to me. I'm not receiving referrals, so I'm passionate about making sure that these people who are at home on feeding tubes have resources they need moving forward and I let them know I am a free resource available to them because insurance isn't going to cover it.

Laura asked for any more public comment, none at this time, she thanked Senator Neal for joining us and sharing her passion for excellent nutrition in the hospitals.

Cody Phinney, Deputy Administrator for DPBH, thanked Leticia Metherell for her continued work and coordinating with our special guest, Senator Neal. She looks forward to working with Leticia as well as Senator Neal in changing regulations and thanked Senator Neal for all her help in this matter. Cody will get together with Leticia between now and next meeting to work on details, and if Pierron could meet as well to see about BDR's whether the regulatory route is sufficient and revisit on the next meeting.

Leticia said if you have a draft of the proposed regulation, Section 2 addresses. AB 330 and that's why that was added. The purpose of that addition and that it is a statutory requirement that we address through AB 330. We are compliant, Laura said and no action item at this time. Leticia mentions to discuss more in detail with Laura over these sections for AB330, section 2 and 3. Where section 2 we are compliant, section 3 it's removed, section 4 we know that visual license may be issued pursuant to NRS 640E.180 which brings us back to the changes in AB 73 that everybody already agreed to where it modified 640E.180, so it goes back to that Section 5. Section 6 goes over their dietitian credential number and some changes to how we do an unlicensed complaint investigation as well as a complaint investigation. There are some changes to that area, there are 2 omitted sections: where removing NEC 640.120 waiver of examination due to being a registered dietitian. Are there questions on these regulations? No hands were raised. This will be moving towards the regulatory process. Hopefully in May a public workshop and in June the public hearing will happen.

5. Approval of meeting minutes from November 18, 2021. **Possible Action Item**

Laura asked for approval of the passed minutes, Annie Lindsay made a motion to approve, Cheryl Kapalka 2nd it. 4 in favor, 0 abstention

6. Presentation of frequently asked questions, blog, social media & any other communication items that may impact dietitians – Nathan Orme, HCQC. **Informational**

Nathan mentioned he's here to help with any technical items, he will make a shortcut for easier web address for the dietitian advisory group either for their own reference or for others. If you have any web updates, please send them to Nathan. He is also working on the Diversify Department of Health and Human Services. Social media content and getting other department a social media manager tool called Hootsuite. Laura mentioned she can't see the chat when she pulls it up. It says it's available for team members only so is there a way that you could get that available to the DHG maybe via email or something. Nathan will send it out.

7. Set dates of next Dietitian Advisory Group meeting.

Discussion on frequency of meetings, all agreed on quarterly meetings for now. Thursday's at 3:00 p.m. is also agreed upon the board members, Pam Wagner was not present at this time. August 18th at 3:00 p.m. will be the next meeting. Nikki will clean up the calendar, so no one is confused on the next meeting date or time.

8. 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.

Leticia making a correction regarding the proposed regulations, she will keep them open while looking into possible regulatory changes. The board members will need to meet soon then the scheduled August 18th 3:00 p.m. meeting to see the draft regulation changes, discuss, and make decision. Laura was okay with this.

9. Adjournment

*Motion to adjourn made by Cheryl Kapalka, 2nd by Annie Lindsay, all in favor.
Adjourned at 3:46 p.m.*