

**Oregon Health Licensing Agency (OHLA)
Environmental Health Registration Board
Minutes of August 13, 2008**

MEMBERS PRESENT Michael Kucinski, Chairperson, Environmental Health Specialist
Russell Hanson, Environmental Health Specialist
Herbert Hirst, Public Member

MEMBERS EXCUSED Paul Cieslak, Environmental Health Specialist
Ellen Laymon, Vice-chair, Environmental Health Specialist
Richard Maher, Environmental Health Specialist

STAFF PRESENT Patricia Allbritton, Policy and Strategic Planning Division Manager
Kraig Bohot, Communications Coordinator
Richard McNew, Administrative Services Division Manager
Lisa Murphy, Board and Qualification Specialist

PUBLIC PRESENT Gary Van Derveen, REHS

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Michael Kucinski, called the telephone conference call meeting of the Environmental Health Registration Board to order at 1:14 pm, August 13, 2008, at the Oregon Health Licensing Agency, Rhoades Conference Room, 700 Summer St. NE, Salem, Oregon, under a roll call vote. A quorum of the Board was not present.

BUSINESS

Ms. Allbritton stated the purpose of the meeting is to permanently adopt the administrative rules. She reported Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Hearing was filed with the Secretary of States Office on June 13th 2008 and posted in the Oregon Bulletin on July 1, 2008. She said that OHLA stakeholders were provided opportunity to comment on the fee changes during the administrative rules hearing held on July 23, 2008, noting that the independent hearing officer's report was available for review.

Ms. Allbritton outlined all the fee changes including a uniform two year license renewal, reduced fees for authorization to practice, an increase in fees for exams and other services, and the aligning of the continuing education requirements with the two year license renewal. She stated that the first phase of implementing the permanent rule adoption was deferred from September 1, 2008 to October 1, 2008 to allow for technical change-over. Mr. Kucinski asked for a summary of the permanent adoption of administrative rules related to fees and the two year registration cycle.

Ms. Allbritton stated the Agency addressed the new cost allocation methodology based on specific criteria – number of licensing units or types of programs, application complexity, number of examinations, examination complexity, renewal review, inspections, complaints, risk factor, regulatory oversight and monitoring, and total number of registrants.

The Agency modified two other proposed fees. A licensee can now request a duplicate copy which allows individuals who work at multiple locations to post their license without having to

carry one to each address. The Agency also modified the late fee to \$25 for the first month in expired status and \$10 per month thereafter while in expired status. Ms. Allbritton also explained a dormant status that is now being implemented.

Mr. Hirst asked if retirees must pay for a 2 year registration, even if they are retiring within a year of renewal. Mr. McNew stated the Agency would not make concessions for these individuals. Mr. Hanson stated many retirees do consulting work and would probably keep their registration current.

Mr. Van Derveen from the public audience commented that the national average for an Environmental Health license is \$35 - \$65, with most states recognizing the NEHA examination. Mr. McNew stated it is difficult to compare Oregon to other states because the Legislation mandates many services in Oregon. Ms. Allbritton added the number of Environmental Health registrants are too low to bring the cost down. Oregon has a generalist licensure where other states license for specific areas.

Mr. Kucinski asked the status of the outreach discussed at the last board meeting. Ms. Allbritton stated Mr. Bohot will have information available at the State Career Fair in September and will start implementing outreach to Environmental Health organizations and associations.

No motion was made due to a lack of quorum.

Ms. Allbritton requested individual support for the Permanent Rule Adoption. Mr. Kucinski, Mr. Hanson and Mr. Hirst responded in support.

Mr. Kucinski said he would like to take the time to further evaluate using NEHA as a qualifier and Ms. Allbritton said the Agency would provide a comparison about a national certification. The OHLA has two programs, Athletic Trainers and Respiratory Therapists with national certification. Ms. Allbritton explained the national certification for Athletic Trainers is NATABOC and OHLA has accepted their certification. For Respiratory Therapists, the national certification is NBRC and the Agency works with them in certification. Their fees are lower than Environmental Health Specialists because of the number of licensees, about 1400.

Mr. Hirst was concerned the commitment to the state of Oregon might slacken if there is only a national registry and none at state level. Mr. Kucinski still feels obligated to look at a national certification for Environmental Health Registration board.

Meeting adjourned at 1:59 pm.

I attest that the Environmental Health Registration Board minutes of August 13, 2008, are a true and accurate reflection of the matters discussed and the views of the participants.

Lisa A. Murphy, Board and Qualifications Specialist

Date

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