

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation (SCLLR)
South Carolina Panel for Dietetics
Meeting Minutes
June 11, 2010

Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, Room 204
110 Centerview Drive, Columbia, South Carolina 29210

PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:

Rona B. Ewart, MEd, RD, Panel Chair
Nancy R. Taylor, MS, RD, Vice Chair
Phyllis A. Allen, MPH, RD
G. Robert Bowers, RD, MBA

EXCUSED ABSENCE:

Karen G. Schwartz, MS, RD

VACANT POSITION(S):

Professional Member (One)
Public Member (One)

LLR STAFF PRESENT:

Sheridon Spoon, Office of General Counsel
Angie M. Combs, Administrator
Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Assistant

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the South Carolina Panel for Dietetics office and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the 1976 South Carolina Code, as amended, relating to the Freedom of Information Act. A quorum was present at all times.

PANEL MEETING CALL TO ORDER/ATTENDANCE: The meeting was called to order at 10:15 a.m. by Panel Chair, Rona Ewart.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA: The agenda for the June 11, 2010 Regular Board Meeting was presented for review and approval. A **motion** was made by Ms. Allen to accept the order of the Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor and passed.

APPROVAL OF BOARD MEETING MINUTES: A **motion** was made by Mr. Bowers to accept the January 22, 2010 minutes as written. A motion was seconded by Ms. Allen and passed.

REPORTS / INFORMATION

Administrative Report: Ms. Combs reported there are 797 South Carolina licensed dietitians; 702 reside in South Carolina.

LLR Office of Licensure and Compliance (OLC) Update: The Office of Licensure and Compliance is now processing all initial license applications and renewals.

Office of Investigations and Enforcement (OIE) Report: There are no complaints currently under investigation at this time.

Office of General Counsel (OGC): There are no Dietetic Panel cases residing in OGC.

Financial Report: State agencies are facing budget cuts. In addition to the required 10% being submitted annually to the General Fund, LLR gave back nine million dollars with anticipation that additional cuts will be made.

Panel Appointments Update: A letter from the South Carolina Dietetic Association was submitted to the Office of the Governor expressing that all current members serve a second two-year term and recommending two dietitians that would be eligible to fill a vacant seat on the Panel.

Web Site Newsletter/E-mail Blast: A newsletter by the South Carolina Panel for Dietetics that provides valuable information can now be found on the Board's Web site at www.llr.state.sc.us/POL/Dietetics/. Licensees can change an address, renew a license, review their profession's Laws and Regulations, see a listing of Board members, view past meeting minutes, review how a complaint is processed, etc. The Agency has the capability to generate e-mail blasts to licensees.

S.C. Dietetic Association Meeting: Ms. Combs reported that she was invited to be part of a round table discussion on licensure at the SC Dietetic Association meeting that was held in May in Columbia, SC. Ms. Combs expressed this was a very enjoyable and valuable experience. The possibility of preparing a brochure with highlights of license requirements, disciplinary information, exemptions, etc., was discussed.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Unlicensed Registered Dietitians: The Panel requested that Ms. Combs obtain a set of labels from the Commission on Dietetic Registration (CDR) of Registered Dietitians with a South Carolina address for the purpose of cross referencing the CDR list with the LLR licensure list. It was recommended to send a licensure information letter to Registered Dietitians who are not licensed in South Carolina. Discussion followed concerning moving to the enforcement stage. Investigations can be initiated by the Administrator; an unlicensed individual would have an opportunity to offer a response before ordered to cease the practice of dietetics. **Motion:** Ms. Taylor made a motion to cross-reference dietitians who are registered with the CDR for comparison to dietitians who are licensed in South Carolina; a letter would be sent to individuals registered but not licensed. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bowers and passed. **Motion:** Mr. Bowers made a motion to begin investigation of two dietitians who have been identified as possibly breaching the Licensure Practice Act. The motion was seconded by Ms. Taylor and passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Practice of Dietetics Electronically: The topic of unlicensed persons providing nutritional information electronically to consumers in South Carolina was discussed. When the consumer is in-state the acceptable practice is the dietitian is to be licensed in South Carolina; jurisdiction is based upon where the consumer is located. Enforcement begins with an investigator establishing factual testimony of unlicensed practice, followed by a Cease and Desist Order issued by the Panel. Non-compliance of the Order would result in an injunctive proceeding in the Administrative Law Court.

Future Meeting Dates: The Panel has met its requirement of two meetings per year for calendar year 2010; Friday, February 11, 2011 was established as the next meeting date.

Announcements

The next scheduled Panel Meeting is February 11, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Kingtree Building, Room 204, Columbia, South Carolina.

There being no further business or announcements, Ms. Ewart adjourned the meeting at 11:10 a.m.

Meeting recorded and minutes transcribed by Janice D. Meetze, Administrative Assistant.

Minutes reviewed and edited by Angie M. Combs, Administrator.

Minutes presented to the Panel for final approval.