

**South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation  
South Carolina Panel for Dietetics Panel Meeting Minutes  
October 11, 2021 at 10:00 am**

Public notice of this meeting was properly posted at the S.C. Panel for Dietetics office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, on the Panel website and provided to all requesting persons, organizations, and news media in compliance with Section 30-4-80 of the South Carolina Freedom of Information Act.

**PANEL MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Kay MacInnis, RD, Chairperson  
Elizabeth Weikle, RD  
Valerie Meador, RD

**SCLLR STAFF PRESENT:**

Kyle Tennis, Esquire, Office of Advice Counsel  
Meredith Buttler, Administrator  
Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator  
Tina Brown, Esquire, Office of Disciplinary Counsel  
Byron Ray, Office of Investigation and Enforcement  
Doris Cochran, Investigator, Office of Investigation and Enforcement  
Bianca Smith, Investigator, Office of Investigations and Enforcement  
Amanda Branham, Chief Investigator, Office of Investigation and Enforcement  
Christa Bell, Deputy Director, Office of Investigations and Enforcement

**PUBLIC MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Tina Behles, Capital City Court Reporting

**CALL TO ORDER:** Kay MacInnis, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 10:02 am.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion:** To accepted the agenda  
Meador/Weikle/Approved.

**APPROVAL OF EXCUSED ABSENCES**

**Motion:** To approve Rebecca Wrenn due to family emergency  
Weikle/Meador/ Approved.

**STAFF REPORTS:**

Administrator Meredith Buttler reported the Panel has 1350 active licenses and 13 pending applications. Since the last meeting, 74 licenses have been issued. The current account balance as of August 31, 2021 is \$315,603.00. Ms. Buttler introduced Ms. Jacquelyn White who has joined the Panel staff as the Program Coordinator in September 2021. The Panel office still has not received any word regarding appointment for the remaining seats. Nominations were submitted

by the Association and Ms. Buttler reminded the Panel that the Senate must also confirm all nominees. Nominees are encouraged to contact the Governor's Office directly regarding updates.

#### Office of Investigations and Enforcement Report

Ms. Bell introduced new Chief Investigator, Amanda Branham. On behalf of Ms. Branham, Ms. Bell reported for the period of January 1, 2021, to October 1, 2021, the Panel has received 4 complaints, 4 cases were opened, 2 cases have been closed, and there are currently no active investigations.

Ms. Bell presented the IRC recommendations for 4 cases for dismissal.

**Motion:** To approve 4 cases for dismissal  
Weikle/Meador/ Approved.

#### Office of Disciplinary Counsel

Ms. Brown, reported there are no cases at this time.

#### **PANEL MEMBER TRAINING:**

Mr. Tennis, Ms. Bell and Ms. Brown conducted the Panel Member Training. Ms. Bell presented training covering the investigative process, investigative review and integrity of the process. Ms. Brown presented the Panel with an overview of the disciplinary process and ways in which cases may be resolved. Mr. Tennis provide additional information on panel member duties and responsibilities.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

##### Discussion of SC Code of Law 40-20-40

Pursuant to the Panel's duty to advise the department in the development of statutory revisions per S.C. Code Ann. §40-20-50, Mr. Tennis presented the Panel with recommendation for changes to the statute outlining panel member terms. Because the Panel only meets twice a year, it is being recommended that the panel member term be extended from two to four years. This would allow the Panel to better leverage the knowledge and expertise of the Panel members and maintain consistency in decision-making.

**Motion:** To approve the statutory suggestions as presented.  
Weikle/Meador/ Approved.

##### Amendment: SC Code of Law 40-20-60

Ms. Buttler presented the Panel with recommendations for changes to the statutes regarding educational requirements for licensure. The changes are to bring the state requirements in alignment with the national trends and changes to CDR's eligibility education requirement. CDR's eligibility requiring a graduate degree instead of a baccalaureate degree will take effect January 1, 2024. Ms. Buttler presented research of other national certifying entities that all require graduate degrees as minimum requirements. The educational change would bring SC in alignment with the national requirements and assist with licensure portability.

**Motion:** To table the topic to allow Panel members to further review the information.  
Meador/Weikle/ Approved.

The Panel will schedule a special call meeting within (2) months via Webex.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Amendment: SC Regulations 40-5.1, 40-5.2, 40-5.3, 40-6, 40-7, 40-8:

Ms. Buttler presented the Panel with recommend amendments to the specified Regulations. The amendments would remove redundant information and bring the regulations into better conformance with the statutes.

**Motion:** To table the item for discussion at the special call meeting.  
Meador/Weikle/ Approved.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

There were no public comments

**ANNOUCEMENTS:**

The next South Carolina Panel for Dietetics Meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022

**ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion:** To adjourn the meeting  
Weikle/Meador/ Approved.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:48 a.m.