

**SOUTH CAROLINA PANEL FOR DIETETICS
PANEL MEETING MINUTES (WebEx)
March 6, 2024, at 10:00 A.M.**

Public Notice of this meeting was properly posted at the Dietetic Panel’s Office, Synergy Business Park, Kingstree Building, and 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.

Meeting Called to Order

Ms. Elizabeth Weikle, Chairperson called the meeting of the SC Panel of Dietetics to order at 10:01 am.

Approval of Agenda

Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman made a motion to approve the agenda. Ms. Elizabeth Weikle seconded the motion and it carried.

Introduction of Panel Members

- Elizabeth Weikle
- Robert Duffell-Hoffman

LLR staff present included: Kyle Tennis, Esq., Advice Counsel; Patrice Deas, Board Executive; Theresa Brown, Program Director; Jacquelyn White, Program Coordinator; Alexis Bell, Esq., ODC.

Others in attendance: Robin Reibold, Court Report; Arrianna Johnson, Tyler Livezey, Charla Burill, Jill Leshner.

Approval of Excused Absences

Ms. Elizabeth Weikle made a motion to approve the absence of Ms. Valerie Meador. Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried.

Approval of Panel Meeting Minutes

- a. Panel Meeting Minutes – September 19, 2023

Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman made a motion to approve the minutes for the September 19, 2023, Panel meeting. Ms. Elizabeth Weikle seconded the motion and it carried.

Staff Reports

- a. **OIE Statistical Report** – Ervin Bond – For Information – This report was for information purposes only and was given by Ms. Patrice Deas. From January 1, 2023 through December 31, 2023, there were 2 complaints received, 0 active investigations and 2 closed cases.
- b. **ODC Report** – Alexis Bell, Esq. – For Information – This report was for information purposes only and was given by Ms. Alexis Bell, Esq. There 0 open cases, 0 pending hearings and agreements,

0 pending closure, 0 closed, 0 appeals, 0 closed since September 27, 2023 and 0 closed since January 1, 2024

Panel Executive Report – Patrice Deas

a. Financial Report

Ms. Patrice Deas reported as of December 31, 2023, the cash balance for the Panel of Dietetics is \$409,178.65.

b. Total Number of Licensees

As of today, the Panel has 1,766 active licensees.

c. Statement of Economic Interest

Ms. Patrice Deas reported as a reminder, you must electronically file a Statement of Economic Interest with the South Carolina Ethics Commission no later than noon on March 30, 2024.

Old Business

a. Good Cause – Kyle Tennis

Mr. Kyle Tennis gave an update on the Section 40-1-80 which was updated May 2023. Licensees that get a complaint filed against them must receive certain information according to statute.

As explained at the last meeting, in May of 2023, the General Assembly passed a law, that amended one of the provisions in the Engine. S.C. Code Ann. § 40-1-80(B)(3) now requires that if a complaint is filed against a license, within 30 days after an investigation is initiated, the licensee must be sent the name of the complainant, unless the board believes good cause exists to withhold the name of the complainant.

At the last Panel meeting, the following question was asked regarding the good cause review process: “Does the good cause review process only apply to complaints filed against licensees?”

In reading the entire S.C. Code Ann. § 40-1-80 as a whole, it was determined that the legislative intent was for any person, whether licensed or unlicensed, that has a complaint filed against them to receive certain information, including the name of complainant, UNLESS good cause exists to withhold the name. Thus, the good cause review process would apply and be available for all complaints filed, whether the complaint is filed against a licensee or an unlicensed individual.

New Business

a. License Cards and Wall Certificates

Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman made a motion to only issue wall certificates and not pocket cards. Ms. Elizabeth Weikle seconded the motion and it carried.

b. Potential Licensure Compact Legislation

Ms. Arrianna Johnson, SC Academy of Nutrition & Dietetics, was joined with Ms. Charla Burill, Senior Director, State Legislative & Government Affairs. Among other benefits, Ms. Burill reported that the compact legislation increases mobility, making it easier to work across state

lines with the increased use of telehealth. It also supports military members and their families that relocate. Individuals do not have to participate in the compact.

Panel Elections

Ms. Elizabeth Weikle made a motion to nominate Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman as Chairperson. Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried.

Ms. Elizabeth Weikle made a motion to nominate herself as Vice Chairperson. Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman seconded the motion and it carried.

Legislative Update

Mr. Kyle Tennis reported bill H.3515, was filed in the House in January 2023 and remains in the House. Known as the “Entrepreneur Freedom Act,” it would de-regulate several professions governed by LLR, including Dietetics. If the bill doesn’t pass by May 2024, it will have to be refiled.

Mr. Tennis reported the second bill H.4823, was filed in the house in January 2024 and remains in the House. The bill, involves expediting the licensing process. It would require the applicant be notified of any application deficiencies within seven days, and also require approval within 14 days of the agency receiving the completed application with all deficiencies cured. Additionally, the bill would prohibit a state agency from implementing or enforcing against any person, any policy, or guideline, that has not been properly adopted as regulation. If the bill does not pass by May 2024, it will have to be refiled.

Adjournment

Mr. Robert Duffell-Hoffman made a motion to adjourn at 10:50 am. Ms. Elizabeth Weikle seconded the motion and it carried.