

Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian Registration Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

DATE: June 2, 2021

MINUTES PREPARED BY: Tracie Zerwas

LOCATION: Due to COVID-19 meeting was held via videoconference

Council Members Present

- Charles Dierker, R.S., MDH, State Member – Chair
- Lynn Moore, R.S., City of Bloomington, City Member – Vice Chair
- Duane Hudson, R.S., Hennepin County, County Member
- Nikki Coler, Public Member
- Raymond Starin, R.S., MDA, State Member
- Neile Reider, Industry

Council Member Absent

- Robert Anderson, Public Member

MDH Staff Members Present

- Jim Topie, R.S., Sanitarian Registration Program Coordinator
- Tracie Zerwas, State Program Admin. Tech Specialist

Guest

- Linda Prail, MDH, Food, Pools, and Lodging Services Section Rules Coordinator
- Nick Anderson, MDH Legal Unit

Call to Order

Charles Dierker

- Charles called the meeting to order and took rollcall.

Approval of the Agenda

Charles Dierker

- A motion was made to approve the day's agenda.

Motion: Lynn Moore

Seconded: Charles Dierker

MSC

Approval of Minutes of March 10, 2021

Charles Dierker

- A motion was made to approve the minutes of March 10, 2021.

Motion: Nikki Coler

Seconded: Lynn Moore

MSC

MDH Updates

Jim provided a brief update on the reopening of businesses after Covid and informed the Council that many staff are retiring and shifting jobs.

Linda Prail, MDH Rules Coordinator informed the Council that she is planning on getting the rule revisions to the Revisor for a final version. She will then post the revisions on the MDH website. Linda also informed the Council that Jim Topie has been working on writing the SONAR.

New Business

A. Rule Revision Topic Under Definition of REHS/RS

i. Create EH Program Areas List for MDH Website

- Jim read a revised version of REHS/RS program topic areas. Jim informed the Council that once this list was compiled the list would be posted on the MDH website.
- The Council reviewed the list and made the following suggestions:
 - Tattoo professionals are referred to as body art.
 - Health care and congregate care is referred to as institutional care.
 - Check with Maria King at HRD about institutional health.
- A motion was made to table this list until further information could be gathered.

Motion: Duane Hudson

Seconded: Lynn Moore

MSC

B. Rule Revision Topic Under Criteria for Acceptable CE Activity

i. Possible Amendments to Expand CE Courses to Align More with NEHA

- Jim informed the Council that NEHA accepts different continuing education credits that we currently do not and asked if we wanted to follow NEHA?

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- Duane inquired as to whether this Council can decide what continuing education credits are accepted from those that are not accepted.
- A motion was made to table this topic until MDH legal could find out if this Council has the powers to change continuing education requirements.

Motion: Duane Hudson

Seconded: Lynn Moore

MSC

C. Rule Revision Topics for the SONAR

i. A description of any alternative methods for achieving the purpose of the proposed rule that were seriously considered by the agency and the reasons why they were rejected in favor of the proposed rule.

- Jim informed the Council that he had been working on the “Regulatory Analysis” section in the SONAR. Jim asked the Council what outcomes there would be if MDH turned the rule over to NEHA? What benefits are there to having MDH provide this credential verses NEHA?
 - Cost, however, we may need to think about raising the fee
 - Customer service for registrant and direct customer service with the Council
 - Local delegation agreements would need to be re-written
- Jim then asked what are the benefits to having only the NEHA credential?
 - Ease of moving state to state
 - NEHA has more tracks to registration
- A motion was made in support of the alternative items written in the SONAR that keeps the program at the local level verses the national level.

Motion: Duane Hudson

Seconded: Raymond Starin

MSC

ii. 4695.2930 Initial Registration, Subp. 3. Three (or more) tracks for initial registration.

- Jim informed the Council that the proposed rule language has been expanded to include three tracks to registration and by eliminating the supervisor credential will open the field to more diverse applicants. Jim then asked the Council if there were other ideas as to how we could be more inclusive with this rule?

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- The Council discussed the possibility of an associate degree apprenticeship system. An apprenticeship system would provide a connection to higher pay because of the credential. However, it was determined this would not align with the delegation agreements that the locals have with the state.
- The Council agreed to keep the standard within the rule and suggested an apprenticeship system be put into policy at the state level. This would be an intermediate step to registration, but the applicant must eventually meet the requirements of the rule and pass the exam. Hennepin County currently has a similar system.

D. Title of this Advisory Council Discussion

- Jim stated that the current name of the advisory council is Environmental Health Specialist/Sanitarian Advisory Council and asked if there were any objections to renaming the council to Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian to align with the REHS/RS credential.
- The Council agreed that the official title of this council should be Registered Environmental Health Specialist/Registered Sanitarian Advisory Council.

Review of Science Course List

- The Council reviewed the Science Course List and had no changes or additions at this time.

Approval of Candidates for Registration/Examination

Katherine U. Estervig

Katherine Estervig has a B.S. degree in Environmental Public Health from the University of Wisconsin – Eau Claire and meets the one-year of supervised employment. Katherine is approved to take the examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the candidate may be approved for registration.

Motion: Lynn Moore
Seconded: Nikki Coler
MSC

Alex E. Halvorson

Alex Halvorson has a B.A. degree in Biology from the University of Minnesota – Morris and meets the one-year of supervised employment. Alex is approved to take the examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, the candidate may be approved for registration.

Motion: Lynn Moore

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Seconded: Duane Hudson
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Candidates Applying for Reciprocity

None at this time.

Old Business

Side-by-Side Rule Revision Language Review

- Jim asked the Council to revisit the possibility of eliminating the use of birthdates in the rule as the expiration date.
- The Council was open to any changes to the language and asked MDH to bring new proposed language back to them.

Other Issues

No additional items at this time.

Next meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 16, 2021 and will be held remotely.

A motion was made to adjourn.

Motion: Lynn Moore
Seconded: Duane Hudson
MSC

Minnesota Department of Health
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