ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (EHSRC)
DRAFT MINUTES

August 5, 2013
10:00 AM – 12:00 PM

California Department of Public Health
1616 Capitol Ave, Building 174
Shasta Conference Room
Sacramento

Members Present:
Ms. Terri Williams, REHS, Assistant Director of Environmental Health, California Conference of Environmental Health (CCDEH) Chair
Mr. Dean D. Peterson, PE, REHS, California Conference of Directors of Environmental Health
Mr. Kelvin Yamada, Executive Officer, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Environmental Management Branch Chief
Mr. Todd Frantz, REHS, Public Sector Member at Large
Ms. Catherine Caldwell, MS, Senate Rules Committee Appointee
Dr. Antonio Machado, Ph.D., REHS, University Representative
Ms. Sarah Crossman, REHS, Public Sector Member at Large
Ms. Graciela Garcia, REHS, CA Environmental Health Association
Dr. Lal Mian, Ph.D., REHS, University Representative
QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program Staff Present:
Mark Jeude, REHS, Chief, Environmental Health Services Section, Environmental Management Branch
Rachel Genus, Office Technician, Environmental Management Branch

Members Absent:
Dr. Charles Mosher, MPH M.D., Health Officer, Mariposa County, California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO)
Ms. Veronica Malloy, REHS, Program Administrator, CA Department of Public Health

Election of 2013-2014 Officers

The newly appointed CEHA Representative member, Ms. Graciela Garcia, joined the EHSRC for her first meeting. Ms. Garcia was appointed on June 28, 2013 and will serve a first term ending January 1, 2016.

Mr. Dean Peterson and Ms. Terri Williams have first term expirations ending on January 1, 2014. Mr. Peterson moved for Ms. Williams to stay on for a second term. Mr. Dean Peterson communicated that he would not continue to a second term.

Dr. Lal Mian, Dr. Antonio Machado and Mr. Todd Frantz all have second term expirations ending January 1, 2014.

DRAFT

Ms. Catherine Caldwell reminded all members that there is a year "grace period" after the completion of a term in order to find a replacement.

Dr. Mian mentioned that there was an appropriate candidate named Robert Thelan (sp) for replacement from CSUSB that should be completing his Ph.D. in fall of 2015.

It was brought up by all to possibly stagger appointees in order to avoid having many leave at once.

Ms. Sarah Crossman asked if someone could serve their two terms and then switch positions on the Committee and stay on the Committee. The group commented this action would defeat the spirit of having term limits.

Ms. Veronica Malloy will seek out nominations from members at the next meeting. Notifications will be sent out to members to look for potential replacements.

Approval of Minutes from April 1, 2013 meeting

Ms. Williams called the meeting to order at 10:03. Mr. Peterson moved to approve the minutes, Dr. Machado seconded, one abstention, the rest were in favor. The April 1, 2013 minutes were approved.

CDPH Environmental Management Branch Update

Kelvin Yamada, Executive Officer

Mr. Yamada announced the pending split of the Environmental Management Division and the Drinking Water Program. With the pending governor approval of Assembly Bill 145, the split is planned to take effect on July 1, 2014. The Drinking Water Program will be relocated under the CalEPA. The Environmental Management Division would remain under CDPH. Mr. Yamada explained that there would be some financial fall out as a result of the split, because there are shared resources in the two Divisions. Ms. Crossman asked if this could impact the fees that the REHS program charges. Mr. Yamada believed that this would not be impacted. Ms. Williams expanded a little on what Mr. Yamada said by adding that CCDH did not get all that they had hoped for, but most of their important points remained in the bill language.

Continuing Education and Accrediting Agency Update

Mr. Mark Jeude, REHS, Chief, Environmental Management Branch

Mr. Jeude stated there are presently 51 Accreditation Agencies approved to offer continuing education units. Audits were sent to all with a deadline of July 1st. All but four responded. Mr. Jeude stated that the lack of response could be because they determined that it was not financially worthwhile. He communicated that letters were sent to those four to remind them, before an action is taken to take away the accreditation. Mr. Jeude stated that the audits consist of a questionnaire that asks for course descriptions, requirements and a request for a list of recognized providers. Mr. Jeude stated the 2013 REHS Biennial Renewals were sent in July and that the department has received many already. It was clarified to the Committee that an REHS can elect to become a Retiree if certain qualifications are met. That would make them eligible to reactivate their registration if they paid the fee and complete the 24 units of continuing education. If they do not choose retired status and fall into suspension for

DRAFT

more than three years, their registration is revoked and they would have to take the REHS Exam again to reactivate their registration.
Mostly favorable reviews have been given for the continuing education. There are a few stragglers that are not completing the CEU on time, but it is minimal. Registration is not renewed until the CEU's have been completed.

Registration Process Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee members include Mr. Peterson, Ms. Williams, Ms. Caldwell, and Ms. Crossman. Veronica Malloy is present at all phone conference meetings as an REHS program staff member. The subcommittee recommendations from June 18 2013 and June 24 2013 meetings were distributed to all EHSRC members prior to this meeting.
The 2012 and 2013 Biennial Renewal Forms and new application includes a question about disclosure of prior criminal convictions. From the applications and 2012 renewals, 11 convictions were copied and distributed to the committee members for a decision on accepting a renewal or applicant. The REHS Program also received 1 complaint regarding a current registrant. These 12 actions are included in a "confidential case file" and committee determinations are due back to Ms. Malloy in 10 business days. The Committee needs to determine if the convictions and complaint is grounds for revocation, suspension or prevention of initial registration.

The committee members reviewed the final versions of the two designs for the Code of Ethics; one for existing REHS's and one for incoming REHS's. The Certificates will be distributed by the county environmental health director to their REHS's and the others would be sent by Ms. Veronica Malloy. These would include private industry, Committee Members, and any others that are not working for a public entity as an REHS, but holds a Registration. Ms. Crossman presented the design of the two certificates. Dr. Machado motioned to approve the two determination forms for the disclosure of criminal convictions and the two Code of Ethics certificate designs as well as to make a commitment to review and create a hearing process for those with criminal convictions. Dr. Mian seconded, all were in favor. The determination forms, Code of Ethics certificate designs were approved.

The Committee also needed to develop guidelines for informal hearings. Veronica Malloy was looking into the process and it is recommended that the EHSRC Committee make a commitment to review and establish a hearing process.

Educational and Professional Standards Subcommittee Report

The subcommittee members include Dr. Machado, Dr. Mian and Ms. Crossman. Veronica Malloy is present at all phone conferences as an REHS program staff member. The subcommittee recommendations from May 10, May 24, July 5 and July 8 2013 were distributed to all EHSRC members prior to this meeting.

Dr. Machado wanted to address an email from Mr. Doug Turner received on July 31, 2013. His letter was questioning the approval of college courses as "basic science" versus "applied science" in regards to the REHS Program. Mr. Turner had concerns about the Program lowering its standards. Dr. Machado and others disagreed with Mr. Turner, but said that he wished that he were there to clarify the issue. The Statute which governs the Program differentiates basic/applied science and is clear on how the

DRAFT

courses are accepted for approval. Committee members felt that a phone conversation with Mr. Turner was necessary to clarify the situation and ease his concerns. Committee members also felt that a letter should be drafted to clarify that the Statute had not changed.

The committee discussed that Cal State Fullerton would like to become an Option V school and were looking for ways to achieve that. The subcommittee reported that they reviewed the biology courses listed and decided that they needed to add an additional biology course to meet the 45 science unit requirement for an Option V school.

The committee also looked at the approved curriculum for San Diego State University which used to have a 2 course requirement (PA301 and PH605) for 4 units total to satisfy the Public Health Administration course requirement. Three years ago, PH 605 was changed to a 3 unit course and the school asked if they could eliminate the PA301 as a requirement. The committee reviewed the new syllabus of PA605 and determined that it was adequate to satisfy the requirement.

The committee looked at several courses from the Southern California University of Health Sciences in order to determine if they should be approved to satisfy the requirements for REHS core science courses. The courses are:

i. Human Biology 1 and 2 with a lab – approved for science credit
ii. Anatomy and Physiology 1 and 2 with a lab – approved for science credit
iii. Physics 1 and 2 with a lab – approved for General Physics requirement
iv. Chemistry for pre-nursing students – approved for science credit
v. Organic Chemistry 1 and 2 with a lab – approved for Organic Chemistry requirement
vi. Biochemistry – approved for science credit

The subcommittee reviewed the case of one student that needed 1 unit for the 30 unit requirement. The Subcommittee agreed that this student could complete the unit by doing 15 hours of continuing education through an approved Accreditation Agency. Ms. Crossman agreed to supervise the student with this and clarified that the continuing education units could not be used for anything other than to satisfy this requirement.

The subcommittee reviewed several courses from UC San Francisco, one from UC Berkeley and 2 from San Diego State in order to determine if they meet requirements for the program. After review, the subcommittee recommends that all of the courses be approved for science credit, but not to meet the statutory requirements.

The subcommittee recommended 1) the elimination of course PA301 in satisfying the Public Health Administration requirement at SDSU 2) approval of courses at Southern California University of Health Science as courses for science or REHS requirement credit 3) approving the completion of 15 units of continuing education to satisfy 1 completion of 1 science unit for student in Riverside County 4) the addition of 1 additional biology course at Cal State Fullerton in order to upgrade them to Option V and 5) approval of multiple courses (listed above) as satisfying science credit for the REHS Program.

Dr. Machado moved to approve the above recommendations, Dr. Mian seconded. Ms. Caldwell wanted clarification on how many courses were seeking approval from UC

DRAFT

San Francisco (Dr. Machado said 4, but he misspoke). The number was clarified (11). All were in favor and the motion passed.

Discussion Items

NEHA Reciprocity – Ms. Williams started the discussion by stating that Directors and Training Coordinators are consistently approached by people in the field and asked why California does not have NEHA reciprocity. This was put on the agenda to clarify why we have different standards. Mr. Frantz explained that the statute defining the Program is so specific with what is required to be an REHS and that NEHA has lower standards. Ms. Williams and Ms. Crossman asked what the registration process would be for an applicant from out of state who meets all of the educational requirements and has experience in the environmental field. The Committee as a whole stated that the REHS exam would still need to be taken, as the statute dictates. Ms. Williams asked if we could get historical data clarifying why we do what we do. Mr. Frantz read from the statute; the test must be taken. Any change to that would require a legislative change. Dr. Machado stated that the test should not be difficult for someone who had the correct educational background and any experience in the field. Ms. Williams recommended that the committee not do anything formally unless CCDEH want to pursue looking at it. Reciprocity could not be granted, even if the Program wanted to do it. It would require legislative change. The Committee would like a policy statement to give to the Counties so that they can have a consistent response when asked why there is not NEHA reciprocity.

Complaint and Disciplinary Hearing Process Review – Mr. Jeude handed out the "confidential case documents" and went over the instructions to all committee members. Each folder contains the information on 10 applicants or registrants with convictions and one formal complaint. The forms were intentionally left vague so that each Committee member could remain unbiased. Committee members were asked to abstain from reviewing a case if they recognize the case or feel that they know the person. The Committee members will have 10 business days (until August 19th) to make determinations on each case. They should fill out either the Complaint Determination Form or the Conviction Determination Form for each one. Please mail the whole red folder back to the EHS Registration office. Ms. Williams clarified the requirement of confidentiality for the Committee in general, and specifically for this issue.

Postage Stamp Project – Ms. Williams reported that there is no new news.

REHS Self Ink Stamp Design – Mr. Jeude and Ms. Genus both stated the Veronica Malloy has a design, but is still working on vendors with cost.

Last Clarification - Mr. Peterson looked at the Committee guidelines and stated that Committee members are given a 1 year grace period (in order to find a replacement) after each term, so that theoretically if someone served two 4-year terms, they could actually serve 10 years. He also thanked the Committee and said that getting involved was a great experience. Ms. Williams thanked him from the group.

Next meeting is scheduled for .Wednesday, April 3 at the 2014 CEHA AES in Napa

ADJOURNED AT 12:00

DRAFT