

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION COMMITTEE (EHSRC)
FINAL MINUTES

Wednesday October 18, 2017
10:00 am – 1:30 pm

Conference Call Line

Members Present:

Mr. Eric Trevena, Section Chief, Environmental Services Section, CDPH
Ms. Graciela Garcia, REHS, CA Environmental Health Association
Mr. David Conway, REHS, Director, Mariposa County Health Department
Ms. Rosa Santana, Senate Rules Committee Appointee
Mr. Joseph LaCava, Speaker of the Assembly Representative
Ms. Sarah Crossman, REHS, Public Member

Members Absent:

Executive Officer, California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Environmental Management Branch Chief
Mr. Lawrence Fay, Director of Environmental Health, Santa Barbara County
Mr. Carlos Menes, CP-FS, Senior Manager Food Safety – Sodexo, Private Industry
Dr. Michael J. Sullivan, University Faculty, Professor of Environmental and Occupational Health, California State University, Northridge

Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program Staff Present:

Veronica L. Malloy, REHS/RS, Program Administrator

Visitors

Ms. Rebecca Ng, Director of Environmental Health, Marin County

Opening

Mr. Conway called the meeting to order at 10:11 am
A quorum was established.

Appointment of 2017-2018 Officers

No new officers appointed. Two committee positions remain vacant:
CCLHO Health Officer
University Professor

Approval of Minutes from April 13, 2017

All members received a copy of the minutes. No additions or comments were received. Mr. LaCava made a motion to approve the minutes as written, the motion was seconded by Ms. Crossman, all were in favor, none opposed. The motion passes, minutes were approved.

CDPH Environmental Management Branch Update

Eric Trevena, Chief, Environmental Health Services Section

Mr. Trevena informed the committee that Mr. Yamada is still on an extended vacation but will be back in November 2017 and has yet to make a decision regarding his retirement. Mr. Ron Pilorin and Mr. Trevena are sharing the responsibility of the Branch Chief in his absence. The Division of Radiation Safety and Environmental Management (DRSEM) has hired Mr. Anthony Chu as the new Division Chief.

Environmental Health Services Section Update

Eric Trevena, Section Chief

Shellfish program: Mr. Trevena explained the shellfish quarantine that runs from April through October will be lifted on October 31st at midnight. Recent tests for PSP are at very low levels or are undetectable. He indicated the seasonality is fluctuating due to increases in ocean temperatures which may change the timing of the quarantine in the future.

Radon Program: Continued federal funding of this program is still a concern, however, CDPH is still offering free radon tests kits. Recently, the California Geological Society in conjunction with CDPH has released online interactive radon maps at the following website <http://maps.conservation.ca.gov/cgs/radon/>

REHS Program: Mr. Trevena read from the REHS Program Talking Points that were provided to the committee members as an attachment.

Institutions Program: Mr. Trevena mentions that the contract with Cal Poly SLO is still underway.

Recreational Health: The pool regulation package was approved and published into the Building Code and will take effect in July 2018. The language on the diarrhea sign indicates a “perceived standard of care” for the pool operator, this will be amended to put responsibility back on the pool user. The signs will be replaced as they disintegrate. Ms. Crossman requested a copy of the amended language.

Partial Credit for CEU During a Multiday Conference: Mr. Conway asked about receiving partial credit for a keynote speaker during the recent CCDEH multi day conference. He explained that the keynote speaker was scheduled to speak for 1 hour but time was cut to half hour (30 minutes). He wanted to know if partial credit can be awarded, understanding that one credit can be awarded for 50 minutes of continuing education. After some discussion, it was agreed that during multi-day conferences, the total time can be adjusted.

Educational and Professional Standards Subcommittee Report

Ms. Sarah Crossman, MS, Public Sector REHS

The subcommittee was given two transcript evaluations challenges to review.

The first request was to determine if a combination of a research proposal and a course at CSU Fresno (CHEM 150) can be substituted for General Inorganic Chemistry Lecture and Laboratory. Ms. Crossman explained the CHEM 150 course is biochemistry and the research proposal does not meet inorganic chemistry course requirements. Mr. Conway and Ms. Garcia agreed. All were in favor of denying the request for the substitution.

The second request was to determine if a course in Environmental Microbiology (ENST 432) from the University of Maryland can substitute for General Microbiology Lecture. After reviewing the syllabus, Mr. Conway mentioned this is an “elective” course and Dr. Sullivan agreed it does not meet the rigor and content of a course in General Microbiology Lecture. The members agreed to award science credit, but not a substitution for General Microbiology Lecture.

Registration Process Subcommittee

Mr. Dave Conway, REHS, Director, Mariposa County

Academic Record Review: The registration process subcommittee was asked to evaluate the academic record of two applicants who have their PhD.

The first applicant taught General Microbiology at Binn College for a semester where she developed presentation for lecture and laboratory. She was also responsible for summarizing student performance in the classroom setting. She requested credit for General Microbiology Lecture in light of her teaching experience. The committee would like to review the student and peer evaluations. The Educational and Professional Standards subcommittee will review her record and make their recommendations. The second applicant was recently hired at CSU Fresno in the Environmental and Occupational Health Department. His academic record was reviewed by CPS HR Consultant and shown to be lacking in the 30 semester units of basic science coursework. All the members agreed that the educational requirements must be met by all applicants before sitting for the exam and that an advanced degree should not be the deciding factor.

Reciprocity: CCDEH will send a letter to CDPH describing concerns that the California Health & Safety Code (CH&S) section 106725 seems to allow for reciprocity, but there is no guidance on how the process would move an application forward. Mr. Conway mentions that NEHA registers many sanitarians in 45 states, and because of the lack of good candidates for middle management positions, he would request that CDPH look into how they can attract some of these qualified candidates.

County Training Plan: Pursuant to CH&SC section 106625, a candidate must be registered within 3 years being hired as a trainee. A recent training plan was submitted and listed all the program elements, however, a trainee may not be able to meet all the requirements of it in 3 years. Dr. Sullivan made a motion that training plans must meet the minimum program elements in light of the three year rule, Ms. Crossman seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion carried.

Interpretation of California Health and Safety Code Section 106670 (retake rule): Pursuant to this section an applicant who fails to pass the written examination on the third attempts shall not be eligible to reexamine until two years have passed from the date of the 3rd exam. Reapplication shall be made by submitting a new application with the required fee. After much discussion, Dr. Sullivan made a motion to require all applicants submit a new application and fee before the 4th attempt, Ms. Garcia seconded, all in favor, none opposed, motion carries.

CCDEH Professional Promotions Subcommittee

Ms. Rebecca Ng, Director, Marin County

In the absence of Mr. Larry Fay, Ms. Ng gave a list of accomplishments and future tasks that are currently underway in the CCDEH Professional Promotions

Committee. She explained the group is working on an updated Career Guide, a Human Element Brochure, a Competency Survey for the REHS, an EH Technician survey as a “step ladder” to becoming an REHS and a reciprocity pathway. Their outreach efforts to establish an Option V program at CSU East Bay continues and they have also met with staff at Sonoma State last month. Many of the members who are Sacramento State alumni are eager to reestablish an environmental health program on campus. They will soon send along a letter to CDPH outlining core principles to reciprocity and request a process be put into place in light of the difficulty in hiring mid-level management. Ms. Ng explained they are working on a program in Management Training through CEHA.

Ongoing Items and Announcements

The ongoing review and possible approval of curriculum from 3 campuses continues:

Cal Baptist University – nothing new has been submitted

CSU East Bay – CDPH continues to work with the faculty and staff and hopes to have a curriculum in place by Fall 2019

CSU Fresno received their accreditation and are scheduled for a final visit by the review team on November 14 2017 (see Mr. Trevena’s talking points).

New Business

Discussion on REHS Exam Format – Dr. Sullivan recently took and passed the REHS exam and noted many of the questions focused on practical, field experience rather than environmental principles and knowledge of environmental health program areas. He suggested that the exam be divided into 2 parts, much like the CIH (Certified Industrial Hygienist) exam. If a person passes either part, they would only have to retest for one and not both. Dr. Sullivan explained that the benefit of doing this would put more inspectors in the field sooner. Mr LaCava added that registration exams have discretion to change format, but many exams have a fairly high bar and all candidates must understand a broad range of knowledge.

Next Meeting: April 2018 - TBD

ADJOURN at 1:43 pm