

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH REGISTRATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
Registration Process Subcommittee
Tuesday March 29, 2016
10:30 pm – 12 noon

Subcommittee Members Present

Mr. Dave Conway, REHS, Director of Environmental Health, Mariposa County, Chair of Subcommittee
Mr. John Watkins, REHS, University Faculty, Adjunct Professor, Loma Linda University
Mr. Lawrence Fay, REHS, CCDEH Member, Director of Santa Barbara County
Ms. Sarah Crossman, REHS, Public Sector REHS
Ms. Graciela Garcia, REHS, CEHA Representative, Ventura County

Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program Staff Present

Ms. Veronica L. Malloy, REHS, EHS Registration Program Administrator

Subcommittee Members Absent

Ms. Catherine Caldwell, MS, Senate Rules Committee Appointee

Guests attending

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

NEHA Exam Format – Veronica

Ms. Malloy reported the opinion of the CDPH legal team on Health and Safety code section as follows:

“Per HSC 106725, there is no requirement that an out of state applicant take the CA exam, but the out of state requirements have to be consistent with the CA requirements – so if the department determines the NEHA exam is consistent with the CA exam, then it would be sufficient for registration purposes.”

Ms. Malloy and Mr. Stephen Nakagawa of CPS HR Consulting participated in a phone conversation with Carol Newlin and TJ Gerber on Thursday February 11. She reported some of the exam format differences to the subcommittee:

- *Course by course evaluations for NEHA applicants is based primarily on the major course of college study (natural, environmental, physical or health science courses are all considered science courses). NEHA charges \$50 for transcript evaluation in addition to an application and an exam fee.*
- *The math requirement for NEHA can be satisfied with any college level course (for example: statistics, algebra, trigonometry or calculus)*
- *The exam questions are developed by a group of volunteers from partner organizations who gather whenever the test needs an update. The test was updated in 2006 to include Emergency Preparedness questions, then again in 2014 to include question on environmental health tracking and climate change. The scoring for the 2014 exam was also changed to a 3-digit score rather than a percentage.*
- *The NEHA exam has two different “levels”. If an applicant applies to NEHA, they can take the exam every 90 days, states with their own exam have their own retake rules. If they take the exam in a state that has their own test, the applicant must apply for reciprocity to NEHA to work in another state that only recognizes the NEHA exam.*

- *The exam is made up of 250 questions including 25 questions known as “pilot” questions. These same 250 questions are used at each exam until the exam is updated or changed. Performance statistics are collected on the pilot questions and based on their validity, they are either thrown out or entered into the next updated exam upon approval of the exam panel.*

Mr. Conway also had a phone conversation with Carol Newlin regarding reciprocity and from his meeting notes, he added the following comments:

*Per Carol Newlin NEHA is conducting a survey of State requirements. Contact person for information regarding the Survey is TJay Gerber TGerber@neha.org
NEHA offers reciprocity with CA only for those REHS’s that took the PES exam prior to 1992. Approximately 1/3 of the States do not have any Environmental Health Program.
In some states when NEHA took over the registration program they offered “Open window reciprocity” to the existing EHS’s working in the State. They simply paid the fees and were granted the REHS regardless of education.*

The NEHA Exam/Content Areas are located on the NEHA website
<http://www.neha.org/professional-development/credentials/rehs-rs>

ACTION ITEM: Ms. Malloy will coordinate a meeting between Stephen Nakagawa and TJay Gerber to discuss the NEHA and California exam content equivalency. Stephen will report his findings back to CDPH REHS Program.