

**ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST REGISTRATION COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

***Tuesday September 13, 2011
10:00 AM – 2:00 PM***

University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) Campus
Dean's Conference Room
16-059 Community Health Sciences Building
405 Hilgard Avenue, Los Angeles 90095

Members Present:

Ms. Terri Williams, Registered Environmental Health Specialist (REHS), California Conference of Directors of Environment Health (CCDEH) Chair, – arrived at 10:40 am
Mr. Todd Frantz, REHS, Secretary, Private Sector Representative
Ms. Marcy Barnett, REHS, California Environmental Health Association (CEHA) Representative
Ms. Alicia Enriquez, REHS, Public Sector Member at Large
Ms. Catherine Caldwell, MS, Senate Rules Committee Appointee, newly appointed
Dr. Dean Kelaita, M.D., Health Officer, Calaveras County, California Conference of Local Health Officers (CCLHO)
Dr. Lal Mian, Ph.D., REHS, University Representative – arrived at 11:00 am
Mr. Glenn Takeoka, REHS, Chief, Environmental Management Branch, Executive Officer
QUORUM ESTABLISHED

Environmental Health Specialist Registration Program Staff Present:

Ms. Robin Belle Hook, REHS, Environmental Health Services Section Chief
Ms. Veronica Malloy, REHS, Program Administrator

Guests

Dr. Richard Jackson, Ph.D. UCLA

Members Absent

Dr. Antonio Machado, Ph.D., REHS, University Representative

Opening Remarks

Dr. Richard Jackson welcomed the committee to the UCLA campus and introduced Courtney Klipp. Ms. Klipp is the Internship Coordinator for the UCLA Masters' Degree Program. Despite tuition, university staff reductions, and substantial reductions in financial support for the university, Dr. Jackson explained that the internship program is a vital part of the REHS program and complimented Ms. Klipp's hard work and dedication to the student body. Dr. Jackson and various members of his university team joined the committee later to explain the UCLA Program.

Glenn Takeoka discussed the difficulty of conducting committee business and disciplinary proceedings by conference call. Glenn recommended that every member of the committee make an effort to attend these meetings in person.

Election of 2011-2012 Officers

Mr. Todd Frantz accepted the position of Secretary as nominated during the April 18, 2011, meeting.

Approval of the Minutes from the April 18, 2011 Meeting

Mr. Frantz opened the meeting at 10:35 am in Ms. Williams' absence and asked the members to review the minutes from the April 18, 2011, meeting.

Ms. Enriquez pointed out a missing word on the middle of Page 3. The minutes will be amended to include "directions" after the word "explicit" in the Proctor Manual for the REHS Exam Update section.

Ms. Caldwell recommended committee Action Items be listed in a separate section of the minutes.

Mr. Frantz welcomed Ms. Caldwell and asked about her background. Ms. Caldwell's academic background is in Environmental Policy. She worked in the field of land conservation primarily in public land acquisition and management.

Ms. Williams arrived and announced her official position as Assistant Deputy Director with Los Angeles County Department of Environmental Health after working for the San Bernardino Environmental Health Department since 1980. Ms. Williams took the leadership of the meeting from Mr. Frantz.

Ms. Barnett requested a check of her exact date of expiration.

Ms. Enriquez also asked for the committee to check her term expiration date.

Dr. Kelaita moved to approve the minutes, Mr. Takeoka seconded, Ms. Caldwell, Mr. Frantz, and Ms. Enriquez abstained. The April 18, 2011, minutes were approved.

CDPH Environmental Management Branch Update

Glenn Takeoka, Executive Officer

Mr. Takeoka announced the new Director of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH) – Dr. Ron Chapman. Dr. Chapman worked in Solano County, was previously a Branch Chief with CDPH, worked for a foundation, and held the position of Chair of CCLHO. Mr. Takeoka announced two new Deputy Directors, Kathleen Billingsley in Policy and Programs and Daniel Kim, formerly from Sacramento and San Francisco County. Dr. Kevin Reilly is no longer with the program. Mr. Takeoka explained Dr. Chapman believes the department needs to create a new identity and is trying to develop stronger leadership by soliciting more participation in policy making. He is working to improve the administrative processes within the department. The current challenges include getting vendor and outside contracts and regulation changes approved in a timely manner. Dr. Chapman is currently involved in a public health agency accreditation process and is developing an emphasis on operational planning. San Diego and Los Angeles are in the process right now. Dr. Chapman spoke at the CCDEH CDPH forum in Sacramento and left a positive impression on all those in attendance.

Mr. Takeoka announced the legislative session has ended and the Governor would be reviewing the proposed laws.

Update Continuing Education and Accreditation Agencies

Robin Belle Hook, Chief Environmental Health Services Section

Ms. Hook announced that the first cycle of continuing education verification is well underway. A process is in place to undergo audits of 10% of incoming registrations. Certificates of completion should only be sent in on request. Very few applicants have to take additional classes. Next year, the forms will change to accommodate additional items for reporting. Ms. Malloy will be running a query on the REHS database in October 2011 to list all the active REHSs that have yet to send in their biennial renewal or their continuing education verification forms. This list will be sent to all training coordinators and directors. Many REHSs have yet to submit because the county pays for all the employees with one check and everyone listed on the check must have their contact hours complete before payment. Ms. Williams suggested that the program involve the county training coordinators in the process. Mr. Takeoka explained that a copy of any correspondence sent out as part of the continuing

education program outreach is kept for future reference. Ms. Enriquez suggested we have the list available before the next CCDEH meeting scheduled for the week of September 26 – 30.

Ms. Hook outlined the conference call discussion on the accreditation process with the cities, counties and other organizations. She explained a few of the changes that were discussed including the use of electronic signatures, the need for agencies to submit proposals for safety classes, driver training courses and to the program for approval

Virtual Microbiology laboratory, Trident University International Micro100L

Ms. Malloy introduced the topic that was continued from the April 2011 meeting. Frank Gomez wanted the committee to consider the option of a laboratory class in microbiology to meet the educational requirements for the REHS program. The class has been offered for 10 years and is currently part of the curriculum at McMurray University in Abilene, Texas. It was developed by Gary Wilson, Professor of Biology, and undergoes periodic content updates. TUI has used it for the last three years and is available for non-microbiology majors. Ms. Malloy asked for volunteers from the committee to review an online presentation given by Mr. Gomez in the coming months. Mr. Frantz, Dr. Mian, Ms. Enriquez, Dr. Kelaita, and Ms. Caldwell are interested.

Student Fellowship Opportunity

Ms. Barnett introduced a fellowship opportunity open to undergraduate and graduate students who have shown outstanding contributions to the public health profession. The Society for Public Health Education (SOPHE) offers a \$1500 stipend, a free one-year student membership and a complimentary registration for the annual SOPHE meeting. SOPHE is based in D.C., but students applying for fellowship may be from any location. Details were included on a flyer distributed at the meeting. The Fellowship is offered every year, applications are due in September.

Recruitment for Vacant Public Sector Member-at-Large Registration Committee position

Mr. Takeoka stated that an email is to go out to REHSs in public sector positions to notify them of the public sector vacancy due to Ms. Enriquez's term expiration. The note will request some basic information including why they want to be on the committee. Alicia thanked the committee for their work over the years and offered to help recruit as many candidates as possible including supporting staff from her own program should they choose to apply.

University Curriculum Approval Decisions

UCLA presentation members: Dr. Richard Jackson, Dr. Hillary Godwin – Faculty, Dr. Kurt Eckart – Curriculum Committee, Rebecca Greenberg – Student Affairs, Courtney Klipp – Internship Coordinator, Barbara Houser – Finance Director, Jane Valentine REHS – Past REHS Administrator, Dr. Tom Hatfield, REHS – UCLA Faculty, Andrew Sou – student advisor

Dr. Mian expressed concerns regarding the core curriculum. He stated that even though UCLA has moved the two Foundation of Environmental Health Specialist courses (200A and 200B) under the required course list, it is still hard to know what is covered despite having read the syllabus. He also feels that the courses that are left under the electives will not help students pass the REHS test and adds there are many disciplines and core environmental health topics missing from the selection. He inquired as to the number of REHSs on staff at the university. Dr. Jackson answered there are three.

Ms. Barnett added that she supports the idea of Public Health and Environmental Health trained students

Ms. Williams asked if the 12 EH units are weighed to prepare students for the REHS exam. Dr. Godwin explained that they are not right now, but the faculty is evaluating the alignment and could say they can take up to 4 units in any one area.

Mr. Frantz asked if the faculty has developed the advisement form yet.

Dr. Kelaita appreciated the changes they have made but understood Dr. Mian's concern regarding the EH courses.

Ms. Williams thinks the university should be responsible for identifying that environmental health needs are being met.

Mr. Frantz moved to approve the UCLA program based on the fact that it meets the statutory requirements, but added that the recommendation made in the report be a part of the approval. Ms. Caldwell seconded the motion. The motion passed: 6 members in favor; 1 opposed.

San Diego State University (SDSU)

Ms. Malloy stated that SDSU has asked for changes to their program as described in the memo to the committee dated September 13, 2011. There was no discussion. Ms. Caldwell moved to approve, Dr. Kelaita seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Action Items

1. The REHS program will develop a list of all active REHSs that have not paid their renewal prior to the date of the CCDEH conference scheduled on September 26 – 30 and distribute the list to all Training Coordinators and Directors.
2. Ms. Malloy will set up an online meeting with Dr. Frank Gomez and other committee members to review the proposed virtual microbiology lab course.
3. The REHS program will work with UCLA to design the advisement form, update the list of course electives and attach Table 6 into the UCLA Final report

The next meeting will be Monday April 2, 2012 – 9:00 am to noon

ADJOURN

Ms. Enriquez moved. Mr. Frantz seconded. No one opposed. Adjourned at 2:11 pm