

BOARD OF DIETITIANS

Friday, March 22, 2019 at 12:00 PM
Public Minutes

Present: Jeanne Brown, Chair
Heather McMahon
Lisa Prospert
Dena Shields

Absent: Carole Palmer

ADMINISTRATIVE

1. Appearance by Board Counsel Jon D. Lavallee
2. The Board reviewed the minutes from the January 25, 2019 meeting. Motion by Jeanne Brown and second by Lisa Prospert to approve. AIF
3. Chair asked if everyone had turned in their financial disclosure; everyone did.
4. Chair stated her second term ends 12-6-19 and DS's term ends 12-6-19. DS stated that she would be interested in staying on the board. Heather McMahon's term is already expired and is attempting to be approved for a second term but this is still incomplete. Jeanne Brown indicated that she should be working with the Governor's office to get this approved.
5. The Board has selected meetings for future meetings as follows: Friday, May 17 11:00-4:00pm; Monday, June 24 8:00-12:00pm; and August 19 8:00-10:00a.m.
6. The Board is still unclear as to whether the renewal applications are able to be completed online.
7. Jeanne Brown provided a Declaratory Ruling on Registered Dietitians for the Board.
8. Jeanne Brown will draft a letter from the Board addressing the questions presented to the Board from Melissa Groves, RD, LD. The letter will reference Dietitian Professional licensing law 326:H-2 and 326:H-19. Letter will be drafted and forwarded to administrator.

QUESTIONS

- 1.) Question from Melissa Groves, RD, LD

It has recently come to my attention that there is a health coach / "nutritionist" in my area who is acting out of scope of practice. She is performing medical nutrition therapy, ordering and interpreting labs, performing 1-on-1 nutrition counseling and providing personalized diet and supplement recommendations.

A few months ago, I had received a call from the mother of a 12-year-old child with a digestive disorder, and told her I did not feel comfortable working with her, since I do not have experience working with pediatric patients and referred her to a local dietitian who does. Apparently, that did not stop this health coach from taking her on as a client.

I understand that the state licensure is in place to protect consumers, but what can be done about unlicensed practitioners performing medicine? And worse...on children?! Who goes after these people? Is it the board of dietitians? The board of medical doctors?

We are in an increasingly dangerous time with these unlicensed health coaches literally setting up shops and posing as "nutritionists." But, as long as they don't call themselves a dietitian, they're okay? Why do dietitians bother paying state licensing fees, then? Why did we pay to go through 5 years of school when we could do what we want with no certification?

Please let me know what can be done in this situation. Thank you for your time.

QUALIFICATIONS AND LICENSURE

The Board approved all nine (9)_renewal applications; Kimberly Chapman approved for reinstatement. Jeanne Brown motioned to accept approvals which was seconded by Lisa Prospert. AIF

Dena Shields made a motion to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Heather McMahon. AIF