

Report of the Nebraska State Board of Health For 2013

Mission Statement: The Board of Health promotes and protects the health and safety of all people in Nebraska by providing expertise and advice on health issues, with input from health care providers and the public, to the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services and others regarding:

- Regulatory and legislative issues
- Professional boards
- Educational health programs
- Public health assessment, policy development, and assurance
- Communication/coordination

Vision: Healthy people in a healthy Nebraska.

**Staffed by the
Department of Health and Human Services
Division of Public Health**

http://dhhs.ne.gov/pages/reg_bdhealth.aspx

2013 BOARD OF HEALTH FACT SHEET

STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

- N.R.S. 71-2601 through 71-2611 (Revised July 1, 2007).

MEMBERSHIP and MEETINGS:

- 17 members appointed by the Governor for five year terms. One new member, Dr. Anthony Moravec, was appointed in October 2013 after the Veterinarian Member term expired for Dr. Evans. Shane Fleming, RN, MSN, was appointed January 2014 to fill a resignation created by Luisa Rounds, RN. Four members were reappointed.
- Officers are elected annually in November: Chair Dale Michels, MD; Vice Chair Daryl Wills, DC; and Secretary Paul Salansky, OD were all reappointed in Nov 2013.
- Meetings are held the third Monday of odd months, except fourth Monday in January.
- September 2013 the Board met in Lincoln as guests of the Nebraska Heart Hospital. As a cost saving measure, the May and July meetings were consolidated into one meeting held in June.
- 2014 meeting dates: January 27, March 24, June 16, September 22, and November 17.

PROFESSIONAL BOARD APPOINTMENTS:

- In 2013 there were 50 applicants; 32 interviews conducted; and 26 members appointed or reappointed to 22 different professional boards.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

- 2 sets were approved; and 6 sets were reviewed in 2013.

CREDENTIALING REVIEWS:

- 2013 reviews on Nurse Practitioners, Acupuncturists, Dental Anesthesia, and Optometry. 2014 reviews will include Radiologic Practitioner Assistants.

PUBLIC HEALTH, EDUCATION & LEGISLATION:

- Researched initiatives to develop position statements and prepare news articles.
- Received regular presentations by Bryson Bartels, DHHS Legislative Liaison.
- Received presentation from Lincoln Lancaster County Health Department.
- Recognized Camp CoHoLo, Camp SuperKids, and Buckboard Riding Academy.

REVIEW PANEL:

- There is an ad hoc committee to address the potential removal of professional board members for cause, in accordance with 184 NAC Ch. 6. The Review Panel completed an investigation that had started in November 2012. The details are confidential.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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Chair's Report
Nebraska State Board of Health - 2013
Dale Michels, M.D.

The Board of Health has worked actively in 2013 to fulfill its mission of "Healthy People in a Healthy Nebraska." As you will see in the following paragraphs we have attempted to represent Nebraska's citizens in the appointment of members of the Professional Boards charged with regulating health and other professionals in Nebraska. We have screened those applicants, monitored and supported or opposed legislation that could affect the health of Nebraskans and visitors to our great state, and served as the representative of all Nebraskans in the approval of Rules and Regulations that can affect each one of us. We are privileged to also serve as advisors on health issues that come before the Nebraska Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). It has been and remains a great opportunity to serve Nebraska's citizens. Highlights of 2013 include:

- *Regulatory and legislative issues*
 - The Rules and Regulations Committee reviews regulations that are slated for either approval or review by the BOH. The committee has been working to streamline the review process to improve the efficiency of the BOH regulation discussions. There is a lot of work underway to meet the requirements for new and revised regulations due to the Uniform Credentialing Act.
 - The Credentialing Review Committee, which reviews credentialing or scope of practice proposals, has been challenged this year by several impressive assignments.
 - The Public Health, Education and Legislation (PHEL) Committee provides a forum for the discussion of legislative issues.
 - At most Board of Health meetings, a DHHS representative updates the members about legislative issues.
 - Members share their profession's views of legislative issues and work collectively to craft positions that the entire board can support.
 - These Board of Health members testify in person or send letters of testimony on behalf of the Board of Health to convey our concerns on proposed legislation. This year Board of Health members testified or wrote letters about two introduced bills, while tracking an additional two introduced bills.

- *Professional Boards*
 - The Professional Boards Committee has been working diligently to meet the goals established in January 2013.
 - Each Board member serves as a liaison to specific professional boards and provides information to the rest of the committee and Board.
 - We have refined a screening process for the professional board applications out of respect for the time of both the applicant and the Board of Health members.
 - We processed 95% of the applications electronically, saving resources.

- *Educational health programs*
 - Besides providing a legislative discussion forum, the Public Health, Education and Legislation (PHEL) Committee offers a mechanism for ongoing board member development by scheduling presentations over topics related to public health assessment, policy development, and public health assurance.
 - The PHEL committee recognizes public health programs and providers who offer exemplary service via the Community Public Health Recognition program. This year the Board recognized Camp CoHoLo, Camp SuperKids, and Buckboard Riding Academy.
 - The Board of Health is very interested in helping educate the public about pertinent health issues that exist in this multi-faceted state.

- *Public health assessment, policy development, and assurance*
 - Besides participating in the work of the standing committees, several members serve as members of an ad hoc Review Panel that investigates when an issue concerning a board arises. When presented to the Board of Health, the Review Panel becomes “prosecutors” and the rest of the BOH becomes “jurors”.
 - The Board of Health is grateful to the DHHS staff members who continue to educate the members about the intricacies of public health.
 - March 2013: Update on the Tobacco Free Program in Nebraska: Jeff Soukup was invited by the Board to provide an update on the State Tobacco Program and any pending legislation. Highlights of his presentation included:
 - Tobacco Free Nebraska goals are to reduce morbidity and mortality from tobacco use. The Tobacco Quit Line receives about 3,000 calls per year.
 - They have had CDC funding since the early 1990s. They used to receive \$7M/year, and the current state appropriation is \$2.3M/year.
 - There were three introduced legislative bills this session: LB 131 regarding school property; LB 630 regarding in home day cares; and LB 439 regarding a price increase for cigarette packs. Raising the price usually results in less tobacco use.

- *Communication/coordination*
 - In January, the BOH invited key senators and legislative staff to a luncheon at the Nebraska Bar Foundation. The exchange of information and collegiality at these luncheons continue to surpass expectations. We appreciate the opportunity to communicate with the senators about Board of Health concerns and to provide them with advice on health care issues.
 - The BOH plans to continue to build communication bridges with professional boards and chairs. Several incumbent professional board members shared concerns about investigative timelines and decisions.

The people of Nebraska continue to be well served by the Board of Health. The Board continues to be committed to the citizens of Nebraska and, through its very dedicated members, continues to provide dedicated service to the citizens of this state. In addition, the DHHS staff continues to provide excellent seasoned support to make this possible, and we all applaud and thank them for their service.

NEBRASKA STATE BOARD OF HEALTH - MEMBERSHIP LIST

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http://dhhs.ne.gov/Pages/reg_bdhealth.aspx

Dates indicate expiration of terms

Updated: 1-22-14

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH – COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR 2014

Professional Boards	PHEL	Rules and Regs	Credentialing Review
Diane Jackson (Chair)	Roger Reamer (Chair)	Rich Robinson (Chair)	Debra Parsow (Chair)
Russ Hopp (Vice Chair)	Ken Kester (Vice)	Jeromy Warner (Vice)	Wayne Stuberg (Vice)
Janet Coleman	Ed Discoe	Russell Hopp	Janet Coleman
Tony Moravec	Shane Fleming	Ken Kester	Ed Discoe
Rich Robinson	Diane Jackson	Debra Parsow	Shane Fleming
Gary Westerman	Wayne Stuberg	Gary Westerman	Tony Moravec
John Tennity	Jeromy Warner		Roger Reamer
			John Tennity
Ex Officio:	Chair Dale Michels	Vice Chair Daryl Wills	Secretary Paul Salansky
Staff: Monica Gissler	Monica Gissler	Kay Pinkley	Ron Briel
Review Panel:	Ken Kester	Wayne Stuberg	Jeromy Warner

2014 Committee Objectives

Professional Boards Committee

- ✓ Continue the process of inviting professional board chairs to meet with the Committee.
- ✓ Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times.
- ✓ Continue to build and utilize the database of applicants who were excellent candidates.
- ✓ Continue to work with the professional organizations to increase the pool of applicants.
- ✓ Utilize the recently implemented peer evaluation process for incumbents for the 2010 interviews and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.
- ✓ Further define the role of the committee in mediating difficulties among professional board members.
- ✓ Improve upon and continue to use more efficient electronic means of processing application forms.

Public Health, Education, and Legislation Committee

- ✓ Provide information and education about selected health programs in Nebraska that promote public health and the prevention of health and behavioral health problems.
- ✓ Develop BOH position statements directed toward public health issues that affect Nebraskans.
- ✓ Review, select, prioritize and advocate for proposed legislation that enhances health of Nebraskan's citizens.
- ✓ Advocate and support legislative efforts to enhance opportunities for the education and development of health care professionals in Nebraska, especially in underserved areas.
- ✓ Help plan retreats and provide program content for special meetings of the Board of Health.
- ✓ Promote cooperative efforts with district health departments and other public health entities
- ✓ Honor those public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans

Rules and Regulations Committee

- ✓ Consider all regulations of the Division of Public Health prior to their presentation to the full Board.
- ✓ Review and recommend to the Board on approval of professional licensing regulations.
- ✓ Review and forward to the Board all other regulations of the Division.

Credentialing Review Committee

- ✓ Advise the Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing.
- ✓ Continue to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program.
- ✓ Screen and advise the BOH regarding members of upcoming technical review committees, and advise on which Board of Health members would be appropriate as chairpersons.

The BOH Chair (Gary Westerman, DDS), Vice-Chair (Daryl Wills, DC) and Secretary (Dale Michels, MD) are voting members on all standing committees. All members of the BOH are encouraged to attend interviews whenever possible. All members of the BOH may attend any committee meeting at any time, but only those assigned to the particular committee may vote unless the committee chair states otherwise.

mcg 1/21/14

State Board of Health
Rules and Regulations Committee

Annual Report for 2013

The State Board of Health is required by law to consider all rules and regulations of the DHHS Division of Public Health. Professional and occupational credentialing regulations are required to be adopted (or “approved”) by the Board. Other regulations of the Division of Public Health are required to be advised upon (or “reviewed”) by the Board.

To enhance discussion and improve efficiency of Board meetings, all Public Health regulations come before the Board’s Rules and Regulations Committee prior to the meeting of the full Board.

For 2013, Rules and Regulations Committee members were:

Ken Kester, PharmD, JD (Chair)
Rich Robinson, PE (Vice Chair)
Russell Hopp, DO
Debra Parsow (Public member)
Roger Reamer, MBA
Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP
Gary Westerman, DDS, MS

Staff support for the Rules and Regulations Committee is provided by Kay Pinkley, Regulation Coordinator, DHHS Legal Services.

Rules and Regulations Committee

Activities in 2013

January 28, 2013 Meeting. The Committee reviewed the following:

- 173 NAC 8 Access to, Reporting, and Sharing of Immunization Data for Public Health Purposes. *These regulations are currently being revised by the program in response to questions raised by the Attorney General.*
- 173 NAC 9 Electronic Reporting of Electronic Health Record Data for Public Health Syndromic Surveillance. *The committee requested a report following the February public hearing. A report was provided at the September 2012 meeting.*

March 18, 2013 Meeting. The Committee reviewed the following:

- 172 NAC 4 Credentialing Review Program. *These regulations were disapproved by the Attorney General November 26, 2013. The Licensure Unit is currently working on revising the regulations in response to the issue raised by the AG. The Board will be asked to review the revisions at a future meeting. Whether a second public hearing will be needed has not yet been determined.*
- 179 NAC 23-25 Public Water Systems. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor, and became effective June 11, 2013.*

June 17, 2013 Meeting. The Committee approved the following:

- 172 NAC 88 Licensure of Medicine and Surgery and Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and were submitted to the Governor on November 20, 2013.*
- 172 NAC 90 Licensure and Supervision of Physician Assistants. *These regulations were approved by the Attorney General and the Governor, and became effective September 3, 2013.*

Sept. 16, 2013 Meeting. Committee members reviewed the following:

- 173 NAC 9 Electronic Reporting of Electronic Health Record Data for Public Health Syndromic Surveillance. *These regulations were revised after the public hearing in response to the concern of the Nebraska Hospital Association that the data requirements were too extensive with too short a deadline. The NHA now supports the revised regulations, which are currently in the Director's office for final review prior to submission to the Attorney General.*

November 18, 2013 Meeting.

Committee members received a report from Helen Meeks, Licensure Unit Administrator, on recent decisions related to the regulations remaining to be promulgated under the UCA. The Department and the Governor's Policy Research Office (GPRO) have agreed on a new approach that will remove all procedural and statutory material from the regulations. A separate Procedure Guide will contain non-regulatory material.

The Committee reviewed a new model chapter (Genetic Counselors) and discussed in particular the section on Denied or Withdrawn Applications. Ms. Meeks indicated this section will receive another close look.

No individual chapters of regulations were approved or reviewed.

Goals for 2014

The Rules and Regulations Committee will continue to consider all regulations of the DHHS Division of Public Health prior to their presentation to the Board of Health.

This will include consideration for approval of additional professional and occupational credentialing regulations under the Uniform Credentialing Act (UCA). Of 59 total chapters of UCA regulations, 24 are complete and 32 remain. The status of three mental-health-related chapters remains uncertain due to ongoing discussion about language related to non-discrimination.

The Committee will also continue to review all other regulations of the Division of Public Health. This will include regulations of the following units of the Division: Community and Rural Health Planning; Epidemiology and Informatics; Environmental Health; Health Promotion; and Lifespan Health Services.

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To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: Janet Coleman, Chairperson of the Credentialing Review Committee
Subject: 2013 Annual Report of the Credentialing Review Committee of the Nebraska
State Board of Health
Date: November 18, 2013

Committee Duties and Responsibilities:

The 2012 assignment was to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, to assist the full Board generate its advice in the appointment of new technical review committees, and to assist the full Board appoint new members to the two credentialing review pools.

Current Committee Members:

Janet Coleman, (Chair); Roger Reamer, MBA; Wayne Stuberg, Ph.D., P.T.; John Tennity, D.P.M.; Deb Parsow; Ed Discoe, M.D.

Former Committee Members:

Jeromy Warner, PsyD, LP

Staff: Ron Briel

Goals for 2013 were as follows:

- 1) Advise the full Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing,
- 2) Continue to work towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program, and,
- 3) Screen and advise the Board regarding members of upcoming technical review committees, and advise on which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons. Screen and advise the Board regarding members of the two credentialing review pools.

Activities for 2013 were as follows:

During the January 28, 2013 bimonthly meeting of the Board the Committee members advised the full Board regarding the composition of the Licensed Acupuncturists' Technical Review Committee.

Also, during the January 28, 2013 bimonthly meeting of the Board the Committee members advised the full Board regarding the composition of the Optometrists' Technical Review Committee.

During their March 18, 2013 meeting, their June 17, 2013 meeting, and their September 16, 2013 meeting the Board Committee members interviewed candidates for the both credentialing review pools. Based on these interviews, twelve new members were appointed, seven new members to the Health Professional Pool and five new members to the Public Member Pool.

Also during the March 18, 2013 bimonthly meeting of the Board the Committee members advised the full Board regarding the composition of the Dental Anesthesia Technical Review Committee and the composition of the Dental Auxiliaries Technical Review Committee.

The Board Committee members held a special meeting on May 30, 2013 to review the Nurse Practitioner proposal and to advise the full Board regarding this proposal. The members of the full Board made their recommendations on this proposal on June 17, 2013.

The Board Committee members held a special meeting on August 30, 2013 to review the Acupuncturists' proposal and to advise the full Board regarding this proposal. The members of the full Board made their recommendations on this proposal on September 16, 2013. The members of the full Board also approved their nurse practitioner report generated during their June 17, 2013 meeting.

The Board Committee members held a special meeting on November 1, 2013 to review the Optometrists' proposal and to advise the full Board regarding this proposal. The members of the full Board made their recommendations on this proposal on November 18, 2013. The members of the full Board also approved their acupuncture report generated during their September 16, 2013 meeting.

Goals for 2014 are as follows:

- 1) Advise the full Board regarding proposals for either change in scope of practice or new credentialing,
- 2) Continue to work towards improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the Credentialing Review Program, and,
- 3) Screen and advise the Board regarding members of upcoming technical review committees, and advise on which Board members would be appropriate as chairpersons. Screen and advise the Board regarding members of the two credentialing review pools.

Activities for 2014 are as follows:

The 2014 assignment is to continue to work toward improving the efficiency of the Credentialing Review Program, to assist the full Board with any new credentialing reviews that arise, to assist the full Board generate its advice in the appointment of new technical review committees, and to assist the full Board appoint new members to the two credentialing review pools.

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: John Tenny, DPM, Chair, Professional Boards Committee
Subject: 2013 Annual Report of the Professional Boards Committee of the
Nebraska State Board of Health
Date: November 18, 2013

Committee Members:

John Tenny, DPM (Chair); Diane Jackson, APRN (Vice Chair); Janet Coleman, Public Member; Ted Evans, DVM; Rich Robinson, PE; Luisa Rounds, RN; and Gary Westerman, DDS.

Officers Ex-Officio Members: Chair Dale Michels, MC; Vice Chair Daryl Wills, DC; and Secretary Paul Salansky, OD.

Staff: Monica Gissler

Committee Duties and Responsibilities:

In November 2012, the current Committee Chair and members established the following goals for this committee in 2013:

- ✓ Continue the process of inviting professional board chairs to meet with the Committee.
- ✓ Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times.
- ✓ Continue to build and utilize the database of applicants who were excellent candidates.
- ✓ Continue to work with the professional organizations to increase the pool of applicants.
- ✓ Utilize the recently implemented peer evaluation process for incumbents for the 2010 interviews and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.
- ✓ Further define the role of the committee in mediating difficulties among professional board members.
- ✓ Improve upon and continue to use more efficient electronic means of processing application forms.

Activities for 2013:

January:

Committee members conducted 3 interviews this morning; one had been cancelled yesterday.

1. Review current and upcoming professional board vacancies: Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling and the Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists interviews will be conducted on March 18.
2. Professional Board Chair Invitations. We will invite professional board chairs based on the 2013 appointment schedule.
3. November 2013 Appointments: We will not need to hold a separate day of interviews in October 2013. We will interview public members in June, and on Sunday, September 15 in Lincoln.
4. Professional Board Relations. DHHS does not have a policy on professional boards making policy or position statements. Mr. Montgomery explained that when a board makes one, it does not have legal standing. Even if a representative from DHHS Legal is present and

involved – still no legal standing. Dr. Stuberg made a recommendation that professional boards not make policy statements that are not supported by DHHS.

5. What should be included in a tracking system for Professional Board applicants who are good candidates, but not appointed?

March:

Committee members conducted one interview this morning. The Committee recommends Marlene Schneider, BS, ACRPS, LADC of Omaha for reappointment to the term of 4/2/2013 through 11/30/2018.

Professional Board chair invitations and guidelines. Mr. Montgomery explained what it is that a Board of Health liaison does with regards to professional boards.

June:

Committee members conducted six interviews this morning, two of which were by telephone. The Committee recommends the following candidates:

Board of Advanced Practice Registered Nurses: Physician member with a CRNA relationship:
Arthur Molnar, MD, from Lincoln, for the term June 17, 2013 through November 30, 2017.

Board of Medicine and Surgery: Medical School Faculty Member
James W. Gigantelli, MD, FACS, of Omaha, for the term June 17, 2013 through November 30, 2016.

Board of Physical Therapy: Public Member
Thomas Victor, B.A., of Omaha, for the term June 17, 2013 through November 30, 2014.

August:

Committee members prescreened applicants. A total of 43 individuals applied and 26 were scheduled for interviews to fill 24 vacancies. In an effort to save printing and postage costs, applications were scanned into PDF files and sent electronically to committee members. There are also three vacancies for which there were no applicants: the Board of Environmental Health Specialists; Hearing Instrument Specialists; and the Board of Nursing. This year had the lowest amount of applicants per position in at least 15 years.

September:

Board of Alcohol and Drug Counseling:

Reappoint Natasha Robinson, LILMHP, LCSW, LADC of Omaha to the Psychiatrist, Psychologist, or Mental Health Practitioner Member-Mental Health Practitioner term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Cosmetology, Electrology, Esthetics, Nail Technology, and Body Art:

Reappoint Lyra Faltys of Howells to the Cosmetologist Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists:

Appoint Marc Brennan, PhD of Omaha to the Audiologist Member term of 11/18/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Massage Therapy:

Reappoint Kimberly Johnson, LMT of Lincoln to the Massage Therapist Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Appoint Brian Allison, MPA of Papillion to the Public Member term of 9/16/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Medical Nutrition Therapy:

Appoint Cristina Fernandez, MD of Omaha to the Physician Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Medical Radiography:

Reappoint Francine Oran, RMA(AMT), LRT, PBT(ASCPCM), BS, MA of Lincoln to the Medical Radiographer Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Medicine and Surgery:

Appoint Mark Goodman, MD of Omaha to the partial Medical School Faculty Member term through 11/30/2014

Reappoint Carl Smith, MS of Omaha to the Medical School Faculty Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Reappoint Judith Scott, DO of Omaha for the Osteopathic Physician Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Nursing:

Reappoint Maxine Guy, LPN of Omaha to the Practical Nurse Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Nursing Home Administration:

Appoint Kathryn Hajj, MD of Lincoln to the Physician Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Appoint Debra Sutton, RN, BS, NHA of Endicott to the Registered Nurse member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Reappoint Dean Schmid of Albion to the Public Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Optometry:

Appoint Robert Vandervort, OD of Omaha to the Optometrist Member partial term of 9/16/2013-11/30/2014.

Board of Pharmacy:

Appoint Jennifer King, BS, PharmD, RP of Omaha to the Hospital Pharmacist Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Psychology:

Reappoint Jerry Van Winkle, PsyD of Kearney to the Psychologist Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists:

Reappoint George Hanssen, REHS of Lincoln to the REHS member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Reappoint Scott Holmes, REHS of Lincoln to the REHS member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Reappoint Joyce Jensen, REHS of Lincoln to the REHS member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

November:

1. The following individuals were appointed, most with terms through November 30, 2018, unless indicated otherwise:

They interviewed three applicants to serve on two professional boards, and reviewed applications for incumbents seeking reappointment and who were not asked to come in for a personal interview. The following appointments were made:

Board of Hearing Instrument Specialists:

No applicants.

Board of Mental Health Practice:

Appoint Allison Reisbig, PhD, of Lincoln to the Marriage and Family Therapist Member term of 11/18/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Nursing:

Appoint Carl Bowman, JD of Lincoln to the Public Member term of 11/18/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Occupational Therapy:

Reappoint Linda Storz, OTR/L, CDRS of Lincoln to the Occupational Therapist Member term of 12/1/2013-11/30/2018.

Board of Registered Environmental Health Specialists:

No applicants.

Goals for 2014:

At their September meeting, the Committee discussed their goals for 2014.

1. Formalize and continue the process of inviting professional board chairs to meet with the Committee and discuss how their board functions and any concerns or issues they have that the Board of Health might address. Increase the number of board members maintaining contact with the assigned professional boards to enhance communication and clarify BOH members function at professional board meetings. Discuss possible consolidation or mergers of boards.
2. Utilize the prescreening process again to make the best use of our interview times. If the Board of Health conducts a regular meeting in 2014 outside of Lincoln, interviews may also be offered at this location on the previous day for the convenience of applicants. The prescreening process will be continue to be evaluated and revised as necessary. There are 53 scheduled professional board vacancies in 2014.
3. Continue to work with professional organizations to increase the pool of qualified applicants for positions.
4. Utilize the peer evaluation process for incumbents for the 2014 interviews and develop a method of obtaining feedback from board members and staff about the process.

5. Continue to build and utilize the data base of professional board applicants who were excellent candidates, but for various reasons were not appointed to the positions they were seeking. Continue to develop and use protocol for notification, content of the letter or to be handled on an individual basis based upon the Professional Board recommendations. These applicants should receive consideration for the Credentialing Review Pool or PREP.
6. Further define the role of the committee in mediating issues with professional board members.
7. Develop guidelines for the appointment of individuals who wish to serve concurrently on more than one Professional Board.

12/16/13

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Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee

To: Members of the Nebraska State Board of Health
From: Russell Hopp, DO, Committee Chair
Subject: 2013 Report of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee of the Nebraska State Board of Health
Date: November 18, 2013

Committee Members:

Russell Hopp, DO (Chair); Roger Reamer (Vice Chair); Ed Discoe, MD; Ted Evans, DVM; Diane Jackson, APRN; Ken Kester, PharmD, JD; Wayne Stuberg, PhD, PT; and Jeromy Warner, EdD.

Officers: Gary Westerman, DDS (Chair); Daryl Wills, DC (Vice Chair); and Dale Michels, MD (Secretary).

Staff: Monica Gissler

Committee Duties and Responsibilities:

The Public Health, Education, and Legislation (PHEL) Committee met in person five times and via conference call once during 2013 and worked toward the following committee objective: To identify and promote public education and legislation to enhance the health, mental health, and living environment of all residents of Nebraska.

Committee Objectives for 2014:

- ✓ Provide information and education about selected health programs in Nebraska that promote public health and the prevention of health and behavioral health problems.
- ✓ Develop BOH position statements directed toward public health issues that affect Nebraskans.
- ✓ Review, select, prioritize and advocate for proposed legislation that enhances health of Nebraskan's citizens.
- ✓ Advocate and support legislative efforts to enhance opportunities for the education and development of health care professionals in Nebraska, especially in underserved areas.
- ✓ Help plan retreats and provide program content for special meetings of the Board of Health.
- ✓ Promote cooperative efforts with district health departments and other public health entities
- ✓ Honor those public health programs that have worked to improve the lives of Nebraskans

Activities in 2013:

January:

Dr. Hopp, Chair of the Public Health, Education and Legislation Committee, listed bills of interest to his committee, as determined during a committee conference call held on January 25, 2013, and committee discussion held the morning of January 28th. Conference call participants included Dr. Hopp, Ms. Jackson and staff Monica Gissler.

Dr. Hopp explained the three categories that the Board of Health places legislative bill in: Category 1: Take action on; 2: Monitor and take possible action on, and 3: monitor.

BILL	INTRODUCER	BOARD OF HEALTH PRIORITIES 2013
187	Nelson	Appropriate funds to the Department of Health and Human Services to fund the Dental Health Director
243	Howard	Redefine nurse practitioner practice
428	Haar	Change permitted practice provisions for certified nurse midwives
484	Karpisek, Cook	Change dental hygienist training and authorized functions.
526	Howard	Change optometry licensure and certification to perform minor surgery and use pharmaceutical agents.
527	Howard	Change optometry licensure and certification to use pharmaceutical agents

Board of Health support means providing testimony or sending a letter stating any concerns. For each of the support and opposition bills listed above, the Board will send a letter and/or testify. To take a position on a legislative bill, a supermajority of 12 votes is required.

Dr. Hopp requested that LB 630 re the Clean Indoor Act be added to the list of bills to monitor (Category 2) to the Board of Health. No action on it at this time. LB 630 would require no smoking in in-home licensed day care centers, and their vehicles when being used to transport day care clients. All in favor by voice vote.

March:

Legislative Update:

- Bills added: LB 630 Clean Indoor Air Act (smoking in inhome daycares) (Kolowski); LB 131, LB 439, LB 440.

LB 505 Insurance Coverage of Autism Spectrum Disorders (Coash).

- Any other bills to add or drop? Call for vote on motion - voting yes: 14 (Coleman, Evans, Hopp, Jackson, Michels, Parsow, Reamer, Robinson, Salansky, Stuberg, Tennity, Warner, Westerman, Wills); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.
- Legislative Gathering: What do we want to do in 2014? It was suggested that staff explore options to meet or hold the luncheon in the Capitol building.
- Public Health Recognition – Camp CoHoLo. In 1984 Maureen Herrick, an Omaha housewife, viewed a national talk show's feature on a unique summer camp that hosted children with cancer and blood disorders. Because of their unique medical needs, the show's host noted that many children with cancer and blood disorders were deprived of the opportunity for a normal summer camp experience.

Maureen contacted Robyn Freeman, then the director of the Campfire USA Midlands Council, to see if a similar camp existed in Nebraska. Finding none, they contacted the head of the pediatric hematology/oncology department at Children's Hospital, sparking the birth of Camp CoHoLo. Camp CoHoLo held its first summer camp, a three-day event, in 1985 for 22 children.

CoHoLo is an acronym for **C**ourage, **H**ope and **L**ove, the guiding principles behind the formation of Camp CoHoLo. From its humble beginnings, Camp CoHoLo now hosts 140 to 160 children each July during an eight-day camp.

The summer camp is held at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center near Gretna. The 4-H Center features ten two-story cabins nestled within the wilderness and a large, air-conditioned lodge used for activities and meals. They also hold a Sibling Camp and a Winter Carnival.

In May 2005, Camp CoHoLo and its volunteers were awarded the Heartland Better Business Bureau Integrity Award for service to children in the region.

For the first ten years, Camp CoHoLo was entirely funded by the Variety Club of Nebraska. There is a \$15 registration fee for those campers who are able to pay it. Since 1995, Camp CoHoLo has depended upon the generosity of area businesses and individuals for financial support (see donor photo on the next page). Camp expenses each year total approximately \$75,000, with the largest outlays expended for food and the rental of the 4-H Center.

They target sick and recovering kids, their siblings, and their families. Children in remission since age two share the camp with newly diagnosed twelve-year-olds; regardless of the age of diagnosis, they all share a common bond. With their daily medications and special medical needs, these kids often didn't have an opportunity to attend camp before Camp CoHoLo was founded. They now host approximately 150 children each summer, as well as approximately 25 children each fall for a weekend sibling camp. They also have a Winter Carnival to provide the campers with an opportunity to get together with their camp buddies. Everyone is welcome, regardless of ability to pay. They are solely staffed by volunteers.

They accept tax deductible donations through the Bank of Yutan, and they maintain a Wish List on their website for various arts, crafts and activity supplies. Call for vote on motion - voting yes: 15 (Coleman, Discoe, Evans, Hopp, Jackson, Michels, Parsow, Reamer, Robinson, Salansky, Stuberg, Tennity, Warner, Westerman, Wills); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.

Dr. Stuberg reported that he presented the Public Health Recognition Award to Ted E. Bear Hollow.

June:

Legislative Update:

- Bills added: LB 630 Clean Indoor Air Act (smoking in inhome daycares) (Kolowski); LB 131, LB 439, LB 440.

LB 505 Insurance Coverage of Autism Spectrum Disorders (Coash).

- Any other bills to add or drop? Call for vote on motion - voting yes: 14 (Coleman, Evans, Hopp, Jackson, Michels, Parsow, Reamer, Robinson, Salansky, Stuberg, Tennity, Warner, Westerman, Wills); voting no: 0; not voting: 0. Motion carried.
- Legislative Gathering: What do we want to do in 2014? It was suggested that staff explore options to meet or hold the luncheon in the Capitol building.

Public Health Recognition – Camp Superkids is a summer residential camp for Nebraska children 7 to 14 with moderate to severe asthma. The Lung Association provides 24-hour care through an asthma and allergy specialist physician, experienced nurses and respiratory therapists. YMCA camp staff provide hiking, swimming, crafts, horse-riding and other adventures so central to a summer camp experience. Daily asthma educational sessions help to keep the children in school and on the playground where they belong, instead of in the hospital or doctor's office. It was founded in 1977. In 2013, Camp Superkids will be June 9-15, 2013, at YMCA's Camp Kitaki near South Bend. 60-100 youth attend each summer. By providing this safe and educational, yet fun experience, Camp SuperKids helps kids to increase their lifelong asthma management skills and decrease the impact of asthma on their life. Asthma can limit a person's quality of life and even be life threatening. There is no cure for asthma. It is the leading serious chronic childhood illness. The good news is that asthma can be controlled through education and proper treatment. Camp Superkids is a step in the right direction. By learning how to better self-manage their illness, kids miss less school and enjoy a better quality of life.

Children with asthma might have a difficult time at a regular camp. Camp SuperKids provides 24-hour medical care through volunteer doctors, nurses and therapists to ensure their specific medical needs are met. YMCA camp staff provide traditional camp experiences, like horse-riding, swimming, hiking, crafts, and other adventures, to ensure their kid needs are met!

The camp is made possible through generous donations of foundations, corporations, and individuals. Their goal is that no child is ever turned away from camp due to lack of funds. They work with scholarships and other types of financial aid. They also partner with school districts, nonprofit organizations, hospitals, health clinics, volunteers and businesses. One of their biggest partners is the Lincoln YMCA Camp Kitaki. To get involved with this group, contact Patrick Foster at pfoster@breathehealthy.org.

September:

Legislative Luncheon – To be held on January 27, 2014 at the Nebraska State Capitol building.

The PHEL Committee tentatively set the date to screen legislative bills via conference call on January 24. The Legislative calendar has not been set yet, so this could change.

Public Health Recognition Award: Since 1998, Buckboard Therapeutic Riding Academy - located in Gering, Nebraska - has been offering equine-assisted activities and pleasure horseback riding to disabled adults and children. They started with the goal of providing all disabled persons, young and old with the opportunity to experience the healing power of Therapeutic Riding. Buckboard offers therapeutic and pleasure. This program combines instruction in traditional horsemanship skills with the concepts of physical therapy. We have assisted hundreds of disabled persons through our unique combination of therapy riding, riding instruction, and recreational riding.

The program provides services tailored to meet the specific needs of each individual rider, regardless of age or disability. Buckboard continues to empower individuals with the beauty of horses and is only able to do so by the generous support of its volunteers and donors.

Riding has proven effective as recreational therapy in the treatment of the following disabilities: Cerebral Palsy, Autism, Spina Bifida, Deafness, Blindness, Amputees, Multiple Sclerosis, Learning Disabilities, Mental Retardation, Down Syndrome, Developmental Delay, Muscular Dystrophy, Emotional Disturbance, Paraplegics, and others.

Riders are referred by doctors, teachers, therapists, family, and friends. The program provides services to meet the specific needs of each individual rider, regardless of age or disability. Volunteers are a crucial part of the services Buckboard provides, and there are many opportunities available for ordinary citizens to contribute their time and enthusiasm. Buckboard operates on a 16-week schedule during the warmer months.

November:

There will be a PHEL conference call on January 23, 2014 to discuss introduced bills. There will be a legislative luncheon on January 27th.

Committee Objectives for 2014:

Continue the work from 2013. There are many deserving public health programs taking place across the state. We would like to recognize more of these programs and share the news of their good work.

November 20, 2013