

Report of Findings and Recommendations
By the
Board of Health
on the Application for Credentialing
of the
Nebraska Association of Naturopathic Physicians
to the
Director of Health
and the
Nebraska Legislature

February 10, 1987

Introduction

The Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act created a three-tier process for the review of proposals pertaining to the credentialing of health occupations. These three tiers are the technical review committees, the Board of Health, and the Director of Health. The Board of Health reviews specific proposals for credentialing only after the technical committees have completed their reports on these proposals. After the Board completes its reports on the proposals, these reports, and those of the technical committees are presented to the Director of Health, who in turn prepares his own report on them. All reports are submitted to the Legislature for its consideration.

Each of these three review bodies issues reports that represent the advice of their membership on the proposals in question. Each report is a separate, independent response to the proposals, and is in no way dependent upon the reports that have preceded it.

The Board of Health reviews credentialing proposals only after receiving a preliminary recommendation on each proposal from an advisory committee selected from its own membership. This committee met on January 6, 1987, in order to give the full board its advice on the proposal of the naturopathic physicians. The full Board of Health met on January 12, 1987, and formulated its own, independent report on this proposal. The following pages constitute the body of this report.

Recommendations

In their application the Nebraska Association of Naturopathic Physicians sought licensure for those Naturopathic Physicians who meet the standards set forth in their proposal. The technical committee decided not to recommend the regulation of Naturopathic Physicians at this time. The Board of Health also recommended that legislation credentialing Naturopathic Physicians not be enacted at this time.

Discussion

The Board took formal votes on the three criteria of the Nebraska Regulation of Health Professions Act. However, there was no formal discussion on either criterion one or criterion two. The Board voted eight to five in favor of a motion by Dr. Schenken to support the Technical Committee finding that the unregulated practice of Naturopathy can clearly harm the public health and welfare, and that the potential for harm is not remote or dependent upon tenuous argument. Voting aye were Nelson, Coleman, Gilmore, Powell, Bartels, Quinn, Rhodes, and Schneider. Voting nay were Hilkeemann, Masek, Clark, Schenken, and Kenney. Brown-Arfmann and Adickes were absent. By this action, the Board determined that there is harm to the public inherent in the current practice situation as regards naturopathic medicine.

The Board voted eight to five in favor of a motion by Dr. Schenken to support the technical committee finding that the public needs and can reasonably be expected to benefit from an assurance of initial and continuing professional ability on the part of Naturopathic Physicians. Voting aye were Nelson, Coleman, Gilmore, Powell, Bartels, Quinn, Rhodes, and Schneider. Voting nay were Hilkeemann, Masek, Clark, Schenken, and Kenney. Brown-Arfmann and Adickes were absent. By this