



Ohio Board of Dietetics
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Good Bye from Kay Mavko

After working at the best job I can imagine for over 13 years I have decided to leave the Ohio Board of Dietetics to spend more time with my family, to engage in some volunteer activities, and to travel a little. I sincerely thank all of the wonderful Board members, licensed dietitians who I have had the privilege of serving, and the staff at OBD who all helped make this job professionally and personally rewarding. I will miss each of you, and wish you all the very best!

Welcome Karen A. Dion

The Ohio Board of Dietetics welcomes Karen A. Dion MBA, RD, LD, who has been hired to serve in the role of Executive Secretary (Director) of the agency beginning on 3/1/2010. Karen has been previously employed in various staff and management positions in the Women, Infants and Children (WIC) program at the local and state levels in Ohio. Karen is a graduate of the Kent State University Nutrition and Dietetics program and completed her Dietetic Internship at Family Health Council in Pittsburgh (presently Adagio Health). She comes to OBD with a broad knowledge-base in community nutrition programming and management, and brings skills and knowledge of state processes and government structure that will benefit the Board. Karen grew up in Northeast Ohio and lives in Columbus with her husband and young son.

Desktop/communiqué 3/10

OBD Wants to Stay Connected with YOU!

In order to stay connected with licensees and to control costs, the Board approved developing a computer based "list serv". We plan to not only post future Communiqué' newsletters, important new information on administrative rules, and continuing education programs on the website, but to also "blast mail" information to those enrolled on the list serv.

We will be collecting e-mail addresses during FY 2011 license renewal on the application forms but hope to get a head start on gathering the e-mail addresses by adding a link to our website where you can sign up now. Please go to www.dietetics.ohio.gov and look for the blinking arrow pointing to "Join Mailing List" at the bottom left side of the homepage to enroll on the listserv.

New Practice Information Available

The Board website now includes 2 new Guidelines to assist dietitians - Guideline H - Nutrition Care Process, and Guideline I - Assessing Competency. These practice guidelines should help licensees understand and meet the recently revised Standards of Practice related to working with dietetic technicians, and nutrition assistants.

Additionally, we have posted 2 sample Competency Assessment tools. One was developed by an Ohio company, Dietary Solutions, who kindly agreed to share the information with other dietitians, and the second sample comes from Florida, where they are working to help their licensees develop appropriate competency assessment tools.

If anyone has more samples that they are willing to share with the Board or suggestions for other links that they feel will be helpful when developing competency assessment tools we will be glad to post the information.

Have you Moved?

If you have moved recently and have not updated your address with OBD, please do so ASAP so that in April your license renewal application will be mailed correctly . You can find a Change of Address form on the website, and fax or mail it to us.

HB 442 - Regarding Alternative Practitioners is Back....Again! :(

Representative Kenny Yuko, (D) who represents Euclid, South Euclid, Richmond Heights, and Collinwood (Cleveland) is sponsoring HB 442 which would permit alternative and complementary practitioners to engage in almost all of the practice of dietetics, and many of the other licensed health professions (Medicine, Nursing, Psychology, Pharmacy, Chiropractic, etc.) without being required to meet any minimum requirements for education, training, or competency. Additionally these practitioners would have no required minimum standards for their practices, or realistic oversight when consumers are harmed or duped by unproven, potentially dangerous treatments.

The proponents of the legislation still call it the "Health Freedom bill" but acknowledge that it is a "safe harbor act" to provide the practitioner with a "safe harbor" for their business activities without regard for public safety, health or efficacy of treatments.

The bill would also amend the dietetics practice act in Ohio and permit anyone to call oneself a "nutritionist, or nutrition counselor" or any other words or titles they want to make up to appear as a nutrition expert. It permits anyone to perform nutrition assessment, counseling, education and to provide medical nutrition therapy - whether they have any reasonable education in nutrition or not.

It is important that licensed dietitians and all medical professionals urge their elected Ohio Representatives and Senators to oppose this very dangerous bill. Write, e-mail or call your legislator's office today and leave a message about the potential danger and long term cost to Ohioans that this bill poses.

Please contact Karen Dion at OBD, or Pat McKnight through the Ohio Dietetic Association to discuss this issue or help you contact your legislators.