

Verifying Dietitian Licenses Can be Done On-line

The Dietetic Practice Act as established in Chapter 4759 of the Ohio Revised Code is a mandatory practice act, which requires dietitians who practice to be licensed.

In Ohio, dietitian licenses expire annually on June 30. Practicing dietetics without a valid license, unless otherwise exempted, is a violation of Ohio law. Dietitians who practice prior to issuance of a license, or who practice on an expired license, are subject to sanctions by the Board as set forth in Section 4759.07 of the Ohio Revised Code. Practice without a valid license may also have implications for loss of reimbursement for services.

The Board recommends that all employers verify the license status of dietitians in their employ during July of each year, and that individual licensees verify that their renewal application has been processed by the Board if they have not received their FY 2009 license ID card by July 1. This can easily be accomplished at the Board's website: www.dietetics.ohio.gov by using the "License Verification" function.

OBD Now Requires Criminal Background Check for First Time Applicants

Recent legislation (HB 104) requires that beginning March 24, 2008 applicants for a license will need to complete a criminal background check through the Ohio Bureau of Criminal Identification and Investigation (BCII) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) prior to issuance of their first license to practice dietetics in Ohio. This new requirement DOES NOT apply to persons who already hold a license and are renewing, reactivating, or reinstating. Complete information about the requirement is posted on the OBD website www.dietetics.ohio.gov, under "Apply for a License" and "Background Check Procedures".

Claire Adkins Retires from the Board

On June 30, 2008 Claire Adkins will complete eight years of service as one of the dietitian members of the Ohio Board of Dietetics. Claire has actively supported the Board in many capacities – on the Application Committee, Education Committee, and Probable Review Panel. She has held leadership positions as both the Vice Chairman and Chairman of the Board during each of her terms. Claire's experience as a clinical dietitian and administrator assisted the Board in evaluating issues and determining the best approaches to practice and disciplinary issues. Her long tenure provided historic perspectives that were important. She will be missed by the Board members and staff, and we wish her well as she continues in her professional responsibilities at the Akron General Medical Center.

Dietitian Board Member Appointment

The Board is anticipating appointment of a new Dietitian member this summer for the term of July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2013. If you are interested in this position, please contact either Pat McKnight at the Ohio Dietetic Association (she will be recommending persons for appointment) or the Office of Governor Ted Strickland (where Board appointments are made).

Compliance Specialist Beth Shaffer Retires

It is with mixed feelings that the Board announces that long time staff member Beth Shaffer has retired from the OBD staff. Beth worked as the Compliance Specialist/Investigator for over 15 years, educating dietitians and the public about the laws related to the practice of dietetics in Ohio, investigating complaints, and preparing information for the Boards' consideration in enforcement matters. The work of investigators is exacting, sometimes tedious, and most times thankless—but Beth did it with real style. Beth's thorough knowledge of the Laws and Rules, her expertise as a clinical dietitian and counselor, and her ability to focus on the pertinent components of issues are all traits that have been of great benefit to the Board and to protecting consumers in Ohio. Beth was active in the Ohio Investigators Association and served as its' president in 1999. The Board members and staff will miss Beth greatly, but we are also excited for her as she enters a new phase and focus in her life.

Administrative Rule Changes

In the last Communique' newsletter licensees were informed about the Board's proposed changes to 29 of the Administrative Rules. Most of the proposed changes were enacted and became effective as of March 21, 2008. Due to some concerns, Rules 4759-2-01 Definitions and 4759-5-01 Supervision were withdrawn and will remain un-changed at this time. 81/2" by 11" copies of *The Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Dietetics in the State of Ohio* including the new amendments to the Administrative Rules are available by contacting the Board office, or may be downloaded from the OBD website www.dietetics.ohio.gov. New pocket sized handbooks will be printed in the future.