



OBD COMMUNIQUE

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OHIO BOARD OF DIETETICS
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Enclosed with this Newsletter is your FY 2009 License ID CARD!

Please check your license ID card to make sure that the expiration date is June 30, 2009 and that your name is correct. If errors appear on it, please contact the Board office.

Verifying Dietitian Licenses

Employers of dietitians should verify the status of dietitians on or shortly after July 1 each year to be certain that each individual is currently licensed to practice. Practicing dietetics without a current license is technically a violation of Ohio law, and could also result in loss of reimbursement revenues for nutrition services from third party payers.

The status of dietitian licenses can be verified on-line using the Ohio Board of Dietetics website at www.dietetics.ohio.gov. Select "License Verification" and follow the directions to link to the License Look-up function. Enter the dietitian's last name or license number to find the correct licensee and verify their current status. (The website is a bit touchy...if you type in too much information it may not result in a correct "hit".)

A dietitian whose record indicates an "Active" status is currently licensed to practice. "Active in Renewal - Paid" and "Active in Renewal - Incomplete" indicates that the Board is in receipt of an application for renewal but the license has not yet been issued. "Expired" and "Inactive" status indicates that the dietitian is not currently licensed to practice in Ohio.

If you have questions about the status of your own license or the license of a dietitian employee, feel free to contact the Board office at (614) 466-3291.

Mary Frances (Francie) Astrom Appointed to the Ohio Board of Dietetics

Mary Frances (Francie) Astrom was recently appointed by Governor Ted Strickland to fill one of the dietitian member seats on the Ohio Board of Dietetics that was vacated by Cynthia Blocksom when she completed her term in July of 2007. Ms. Astrom will serve until 6/30/2012.

Francie earned a BS in Foods and Nutrition from Southern Illinois University and a Masters of Science in Human Nutrition from Northern Illinois University. She completed a pre-planned dietetic traineeship at Copley Memorial Hospital in Aurora Illinois. Francie has been a Registered Dietitian since 1973 and has held both an Illinois license and Ohio license to practice dietetics.

Francie previously worked as the manager of a maternal-fetal medicine program and as a perinatal nutrition specialist in Illinois. Currently, she works in WellWorks, the Ohio University wellness program, providing direct nutrition education and group programs for the OU community. She is also currently coordinating a campus wide health screening for OU faculty and staff members.

ADA Updates Standards of Practice in Nutritional Care and Standards of Professional Practice for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians Registered and Develops Definition of “Supervision”.

The changes that have been proposed by the American Dietetic Association to the minimum Standards of Practice (SOP) in Nutritional Care and the Standards of Professional Practice (SOPP) for Registered Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians Registered were approved by the House of Delegates in April 2008. These standards changes were made to add emphasis to the importance of compliance with regulatory standards; define supervision; and clearly delineate the differences between the RD and the DTR standards of practice in nutrition care.

The ADA standards are a minimum standard that is relied upon particularly in areas that may not have licensure or other forms of state regulation. In states like Ohio with licensure and defined standards of practice (section 4759-6 of the Ohio Administrative code) the state jurisdiction is layered over the association standards and the State Laws and Rules prevail.

Therefore, in Ohio the current Laws and Rules regarding Standards of Practice, and Scope of Practice for Dietitians and Dietetic Technicians continue to be in effect even though ADA standards have changed.

Ohio law does state that the Board will make Standards of Practice rules that are consistent with those adopted by the American Dietetic Association, so in this regard the Board will review the newly revised SOP / SOPP and Supervision definition. A subcommittee of the Board will be engaged to consider the content of the ADA changes and potential for amendment or changes to Ohio Administrative Rules.

Until such time as any new Rule amendments would be proposed...If such amendments are proposed.... The current Scope of Practice for Dietitians, Dietetic Technicians and Standards of Practice that are incorporated into the Laws and Rules Governing the Practice of Dietetics in the State of Ohio will remain in effect. Additional information about the scope of practice for Dietetic Technicians and supervision by Dietitians can be found in Guidelines G and A published by the Board and available on the Board website at www.dietetics.ohio.gov under the selection “Guidelines and Bulletins”.

Donald Davis Joins the Board Staff as Compliance Specialist

The Board is happy to welcome Donald E. (Don) Davis BS, RD, LD to the staff as Compliance Specialist. Don brings over 12 years of experience practicing dietetics in a variety of settings. He has worked as a hospital clinical and community dietitian, and as a consultant dietitian in long-term care. Don has experience providing therapeutic nutritional services and weight loss counseling at Central Ohio Nutrition Center and he has worked as an administrative dietitian at Life Care Alliance. Don’s broad practice background and skills in supervision, research, policy development and regulatory compliance should transfer to the practice analysis, education, and enforcement components of his position with the Board. Outside of the office, Don and his dietitian wife Misty keep busy raising two young children and working on their home in Hebron Ohio.

Board Meetings Schedule for 2008

The regular Board meetings scheduled for the remainder of calendar 2008 are:

July 18, 2008
September 19, 2008
November 7, 2008

All meetings are open to the public. For agendas and location see the OBD website at www.dietetics.ohio.gov.