

OBD COMMUNIQUE

77 South High Street, 18th Floor, Columbus, Ohio 43215-6119

Phone: (614)466-3291

FAX: (614)728-0723

Website: www.state.oh.us/obd/



Ohio Board of Dietetics

Chairperson: Dietitian Member

Claire Adkins, MA, RD, LD
Akron

Vice Chairperson: Public Member

Jonathan S. Hughes
Columbus

Dietitian Member

Lori K. Mooney, RD, LD
Dublin

Dietitian Member

Lorna Fuller, MS, RD, LD
Cleveland

Dietitian Educator Member

David H. Holben, PhD, RD, LD
Athens

Ohio Dietetic Association Liaison

Pat McKnight, MS, RD, LD
Columbus

Board Office Staff

Kay Mavko, MS, RD, LD
- Executive Secretary

Beth Shaffer, MS, RD, LD
- Compliance Specialist

Pat Cullen, BS
- Office Assistant

Assistant Attorney General

- Kelley Haddox

RENEWAL TIME IS HERE !!!

It hardly seems possible that it is time again to renew our licenses to practice dietetics! **Make sure that you don't throw out the lilac application in this mailing!** Please look at the form carefully because we've made some changes. Some of the sections are in a different order than before, and we have eliminated collecting information that is unnecessary. Be sure to fill the form out completely on both sides, and sign it where required.

If you are considering not renewing your license, read the Status Change section carefully. We have added more explanation in that part of the application. Requests for status change need to be submitted by the June 30 renewal deadline.

The Board requests that completed applications and fees be returned by May 31 in order to allow for adequate time to process them before current licenses expire.

**Your license actually expires on Sunday June 30!
Renewal applications must be postmarked on or before that date. (Most U.S. Post offices do not postmark mail on Sundays – so plan accordingly)**

Don't be late....it can be expensive, and it is a violation of the law to practice without a valid license.

**July 1 – August 15 the cost is \$80 renewal plus \$40 late fee
After August 15, the cost is \$165 to reinstate an expired license.**

If you are uncertain about any component of the renewal application or process, don't hesitate to contact OBD staff by phone, fax, or e-mail.



HOUSE BILL 314

Since the last Communique' newsletter HB 314 has appeared on the Commerce and Labor committee agenda once. At that hearing amendments were scheduled for introduction by the bill proponents, but none were introduced. Instead the proponents gave testimony, continuing to attack dietitians and the advice we provide to clients. They chided the credibility of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association, the value of public protection provided by dietetic licensure, and the constitutionality of the Ohio licensure law. They questioned the number of actions taken by the Ohio Board as compared to other states based on information collected by the state of Colorado.

A front page article also appeared in the Columbus Dispatch about the bill, containing information from both sides of the argument.

Representative Williams, Chairman of the Commerce and Labor committee requested that the Board meet with Representative Reidelbach, sponsor of the bill. At that meeting, it was apparent that neither side was willing to give up their position, but that the area of general nutrition education appears to surface as the component least well defined. Therefore, the Board has agreed to propose language for a general nutrition education exemption that would apply to the current law. It will also review the current exemptions in relation to general nutrition education, and analyze Ohio's scope of practice in relation to other states that license dietitians.

The legislature is on spring break, and it is uncertain if the bill will have any more activity soon. As long as the bill is still out there we must continue to be diligent.

The proponents are continuing to seek support for their position. **It remains vitally important for dietitians to contact their Ohio legislators to convince them to oppose HB 314. Even if you have contacted them before, do it again!!!** If you need more information, or help contacting your legislator, contact Kay Mavko at the Board office, or call Pat McKnight with the Ohio Dietetic Association.

YOU ASKED IT!

Q: Can dietitians write nutrition-related orders for patients?

A: Nothing in the Ohio dietitian licensure law authorizes or prohibits dietitians from writing nutrition orders. Authorizing order writing privileges is generally the responsibility of the governing body of the institution or agency.

The Board suggests that one should review other laws, rules, regulations and standards that a facility is subject to if considering the development of order writing privileges for dietitians. These include, but are not limited to, other professional licensure boards in Medicine, Nursing, Pharmacy, the Health Department and the Joint Commission on Accreditation for Healthcare Organizations, as well as federal laws which may apply.

Additionally, the Board recommends that you may wish to closely review the following articles in the January issue of the Journal of the American Dietetic Association which examine the topic:

“Development and Implementation of the Clinical Privileges for Dietitian Nutrition Order Writing Program at a Long-term Acute-care Hospital” and “Clinical Privileges: Missing Piece of the Puzzle for Clinical Standards that Elevate Responsibilities and Salaries for Registered Dietitians”