

Board of Dietitians And Nutritionists



Newsletter

Fall 2008

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The mission of the Department of Health is to promote, protect, and improve the health of persons living in, working in, or visiting the state of Tennessee.

227 French Landing, Suite 300, Heritage Place MetroCenter, Nashville, TN 37243 • <http://www.tennessee.gov/health> Fax: (615)253-8724
Office Hours: Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Central Time (except State and Federal holidays) (615)532-5096 or 1-800-778-4123



Elizabeth "Libby" Miller

Health Related Boards

Elizabeth (Libby) Miller has been appointed as the new director of Health Related Boards. Ms. Miller is a licensed attorney. As of January 1, 2008, she moved to the Department of Health from the Department of Revenue where she served as senior tax counsel. Prior thereto, she was a partner at Blackburn and McCune in downtown Nashville where she managed the firm's largest client and was responsible for a staff of attorneys.

Ms. Miller is not new to health related law, having spent a large portion of her career in the federal sector at the Office of Hearings and Appeals of the Social Security Administration where administrative appeals of disability cases are heard. She started her law career as a litigator, but she chose to make a change when her children were young. Her daughter is now preparing to enter law school, and her son is living in Munich, where she hopes to visit soon.

***As of November 30, 2008, there were
1261 active Dietitian and Nutritionist
Examiners.**

Board of Dietitians and Nutritionists Board Meetings

March 5, 2009
September 17, 2009

EMERGENCY SYSTEM For Advanced Registration Of VOLUNTEER HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

--By: **Donna G. Tidwell, BSN, RN, EMT-P; Director of
EMS Personnel Licensure and Education**

Disasters bring out the best in us; however, unfortunately, they also bring out the worst. During 9/11, healthcare professionals responded to New York City and the Pentagon to provide their services. A concern came with verifying the credentials of nurses, physicians and other multiple health care professionals that volunteered to lend aid during this time of disaster.

Many Federal laws passed in the days after 9/11, including a federal law in 2002 that required states to establish, by August 2008, the capability for physicians, nurses, and other healthcare professionals to volunteer their assistance before a disaster occurs. This law created the *Emergency System for Advanced Registration of Volunteer Health Professionals (ESAR-VHP)*. States began to work toward this goal when in 2005 Hurricane Katrina came and again taught us the importance of having a way during a disaster to verify

credentials of health care professionals in order to properly utilize them.

The responsibility for ESAR-VHP lies with Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). The Tennessee Department of Health is working on several options for establishing this database for all healthcare providers. The plan is for a web-based system by which those wishing to volunteer during a disaster can pre-register so their credentials may be verified by the states or federal government at the time of the disaster.

The database will be linked with the licensing boards in Tennessee. In the event of a disaster anywhere, the database can be accessed by the appropriate personnel to verify that those volunteering have the appropriate credentials.

This project is important to Tennesseans as the state could be the recipient of multiple volunteers should the predicted earthquake in West Tennessee or some other overwhelming disaster occurs. A system that is nationally recognized with volunteers from across the United States would be able to assist us. Additionally, the state would not have the concern that the volunteers were not properly credentialed. This system will provide a means to verify credentials of nurses at one web site. In turn, other states where this state's providers might respond during a disaster could verify Tennessee licensees' credentials.

Tennessee has always lived up to its name as the volunteer state by providing assistance to other states in time of need like the hurricanes in Florida and other coastal states and floods in Louisiana. Soon, ESAR-VHP will make it easier and safer to dispatch qualified healthcare providers to areas of need and for healthcare providers to volunteer their services. When ESAR-VHP is live and running, consider signing up as a volunteer.



The Tennessee Department of Health is charged with the responsibility of regulating health care professionals to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of this state.

Regulation is accomplished through thirty (30) Health Related Boards which set qualifications for the licensure and continued competency of each regulated health professional. Each Board

sets standards for professional practice and is responsible for the discipline of those health professionals found guilty of violations of laws and regulations.

These measures are accomplished by three offices in the Department working in tandem. The offices are:

- **Division of Health Related Boards (HRB)** – This division provides administrative services for the Boards.
- **Office of Investigations** – This office is responsible for investigating complaints against any licensee. Investigations are usually based on complaints received from the public.
- **Office of General Counsel (OGC)** – This office provides legal advice to the entire Department of Health. OGC represents the Department in administrative hearings.

For further information, please use the contact information provided below:

Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners

Local (Nashville Calling Area) 615-532-5096
Nationwide (toll free) 1-800-778-4123 EXT. 25096
Tennessee Board of Dietitian /Nutritionist Examiners
227 French Landing, Suite 300
Heritage Place, MetroCenter
Nashville, TN. 37243

BOARD CONSULTANT GUIDELINES

Following a general protocol, Board consultants may be called upon to participate in the following:

- Review and evaluation of complaints filed with the Office of Investigations for alleged violations of the Practice Act and/or rules.
- Review of applications and supporting documents to make initial determination as to the eligibility/ineligibility for licensure.
- Review of continuing education documentation for compliance.

All work is strictly confidential and shall not be disclosed to anyone except the Board's authorized administrative staff, the Office of Investigations and the Office of General Counsel.

Qualification for a Board Consultant:

1. Current license issued by the board.
2. No discipline in this state or any state, jurisdiction or territory.
3. General knowledge or applied practice as detailed in the statutes, rules or the specified board/profession.
4. Resident and a legally practicing professional licensed for at least five years in the specified profession in this state.
5. Not regularly employed by nor a member of a governing body, training program, college or university program for the profession

Policies

Lapsed License

The Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners recognizes that an individual may inadvertently allow his/her license to expire. However, statute prohibits an individual from working as a Dietitian/Nutritionist unless he/she has an active and unrestricted license. While the board does not condone an individual working on an expired license, recognition is given to the fact that the problem does exist. As such, the board has adopted the following procedures for reinstatement of an expired or administratively revoked license.

- Immediately upon recognition that his/her license has expired, the individual must stop practicing and contact the board's administrative office to request a reinstatement application.
- Upon receipt of the reinstatement application, the individuals are to complete the application in its entirety, providing a detailed work history since the license expiration date. The application is to be signed, notarized, and returned to the board's administrative office along with any additional information and all fees specified in the instructions.
- Upon receipt of a completed reinstatement application, supporting documentation, including continuing education, and fees, the board administrator may immediately reinstate a license, which has been in an expired status for less than three months.
- If the reinstatement application received reflects in the work history that the individual has worked

in excess of three months on an expired license, the Board will present to the licensee, official notice which specifies payment of a fine in the amount of \$50 per month for every month in excess of three months from the expiration date, up to a maximum fine of \$300. Practice in excess of nine months on an expired license will result in the application for reinstatement being referred to the Office of Investigations.

Adopted by the Board of Dietitian/Nutritionist Examiners on the 21st day of March, 2002

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Called to Active Military Duty

PURPOSE: To protect licensees who are active in military service, who have been deployed for action and are not available to renew their licenses or to obtain required continuing education in a timely manner.

POLICY: The division shall allow special consideration for renewal of the licenses of military personnel who were called to active duty, and were unable to obtain required continuing education or to renew their license timely.

PROCEDURES:

A. Any licensee who held an active license with Health Related Boards at the time he/she was called to active duty in the military of the United States, and was unable to renew that license while on active duty, shall notify the appropriate board office in writing.

1. The licensee shall submit a letter stating the reason for non-renewal of the license was active duty in the U.S. Military.

2. Dates and proof of service shall be submitted to the office by the licensee.

B. Upon receipt of notification and proof of active service, the licensee shall be allowed to renew the license with no late renewal or penalty fees added to the cost of renewal.

1. A copy of all documentation regarding notification and proof of active service shall

be included in the permanent licensure file of the licensee.

C. A licensee whose license has been expired for one year or less shall not be required to complete required continuing education for renewal of the license at that time.

D. A licensee whose license has been expired for more than one year shall be required to obtain one-half of the required continuing education in order to have the license renewed.

New Licensed as of September 2008

LEAH FRANCES ALTFELD
JOSEPH W.E. BAILEY
DIANE SOLTESS BALL
PAMELA JEAN BASSETT
KIMBERLY ANN BAXTER
MARGARET A. BECK
PUJA BHAVINKUMAR BHALODIA
KATHARINE ELIZABETH BROSNAN
CASSIE RENEA BROWN
HOLLY JULIANA BRYANT
SANDRA JEAN CLEMENTS
SALLIE BELINDA COBB
HALEY RENA COLVIN
ANGELA LYNN CONNER
ANNE NEBERGALL DAVIS
HEATHER HELENE DE PUY
REBECCA PATRICIA DEARLOVE
AMBER NICOLE DIXON
KATHRYN FIENUP DONALDSON
SUSAN A. DOUGLAS
KIM L FLACK
AMY TAYLOR FLEURY
AMY MCCAIN FREEDMAN
DANIELLE BETH FULGHUM
TIFFANY MICHELLE GODSEY
AMANDA GALE GRAY
LYNN WEBSTER GREER
COURTNEY BETH GRYSZKO
ELIZABETH FIELD GUILLEMETTE
MADELEINE ANNE HAMILTON
WILSON ANDREW HARRIS III
ERIN MARIE HARTMANN
ASHLEY BROOKE HOTLE
ASHLEY LYNN HULSE
MARY BETH HYNEK
ALAINA ROZE JOHNSON
BRIAN KYLE JONES
RACHEL ANNE KELLEY

TAMMY CIACCIO KINGERY
DEBRA L KRIEMAN
CYNTHIA GIRARO LEHMAN
ANN COLLEEN MARIE
ANNA ELIZABETH MARSH
MICHELLE MARIE MASSEY
KAYLA ANN MATRUNICK
ALLISON HELEN MAURER
KIMBERLY B MCAULAY
NICOLE MARIE MCCANN
TARA ELIZABETH MCCANTS
SHANNON MCPHERSON MCMANUS
THOMAS STONE MCNEES
EMILY KRISTINE ORTO-MEDLEY
LEXANN TOMINELLO PATE
STEPHANIE LEIGH POWERS
COLLEEN ELIZABETH PRINCE
ALESHA MICHELLE REEVES
ASHLEY NICHOLE ROGERS
JONI FINTON ROSE
FONDA RHODES SHIPPER
JESSICA LYNNE SIEBER
DIANA ERICKSON SMITH
CAROLINE BROOKE SPIGNER
KELLEY MARIE STEEN
MONICA MAE STUDER
CHERKITRA ANQUINETTE SWANSON
MEGHANN SUMMERS TERRY
JOHN J TIBBETTS
ELIZABETH PHILLIPS TRAPP
MAHA VARADARAJAN
MYRTIS HARRINGTON WALKER
CATHLEEN ELIZABETH WEAVER
JESSICA LEIGH WILLIAMS

Reinstates as of September 2008

DIANE M. BENNETT
JOAN P. BOWDEN
DEBORAH SUE BOWLES
OSLO COLE LDN
MARGARET LYNN CYRUL
JORJA ERIN DIXON
KELLY GILL MCCASLAND
CYNTHIA ENGLISH MIDDLETON
DEANNA A RAGSDALE-LAWLOR
JAMES ARTHUR SPARKS
LESLIE VANHIMBERGEN
JANET E WALLACE
MARY GWENDOLYN WRIGHT

227 French Landing, Suite 300
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Tennessee Board of Dietitians and Nutritionists Board Members

Demetra “Dee” Pratt
Collierville, TN
Term Expiry Date: 06/30/11
Chair

Dr. Georgina M. Awipi
Nashville, TN
Term Expiry Date: 06/30/09
Board Member

Janet Skates
Kingsport, TN
Term Expiry Date: 06/30/10
Board Member

Liang-chu K. Daniel
Eads, TN
Term Expiry Date: 06/30/11
Board Member

Gwendolyn L. Blackman
Nashville, TN
Term Expiry Date: 06/30/10
Board Member

Carol Ann Miller
Nashville, TN
Term Expiry Date: 07/31/11
Board Citizen Member

Board Staff

Tomica Walker
AARB2
Board Administrator

Marva Swann
Administrative Director