



MARYLAND BOARD OF ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALISTS
4201 Patterson Avenue, Baltimore, MD 21215

DECEMBER 4, 2024 BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Meeting Held via Google Meet

Board Members Present:

Sherry Williams, Department of Health
Tonisha Melvin, Board Secretary, Consumer Member
Naomi Howell, Department of the Environment Member
Mia Lowery, Local Government
Bonnie Harbin, At Large
Sarath Seneviratne, At Large
Kevin Barnaba, Private Industry

Board Members Absent:

Esther Peter, Consumer Member

Staff and Visitors:

Katherine Cummings, Board Counsel
James Merrow, Executive Director
Donna Zickefoose, Administrator I
Zakiyyah Holms, MDH
Tony Lattanzi, MDH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:02 A.M. by Sherry Williams, Board Chair. Board Chair welcomed Katherine Cummings back from her leave. Sherry Williams made amendments to agenda items 2(a) for Guest Tony Lattanzi to discuss streamlining for qualified applicants and 3(a) to discuss draft Regulations for the apprenticeship program. James Merrow added 4(f) to provide updates on the continuing education audit.

AGENDA Naomi Howell made a motion to adopt the agenda as amended. Sarath Senevirante provided a 2nd to the Motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 1 Review of the Prior Meeting Open Session Meeting Minutes

1(a). The October 2, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Naomi Howell Made a motion to adopt the Minutes as submitted. Sarath Senevirante provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

ITEM 2 Board Chair Report

2(a). Sherry Williams introduced Tony Lattanzia and informed the Board of Mr. Lattanzia's concern with hiring qualified applicants. Mr. Lattanzia expressed his concern with qualified applicants for hiring in the sector of food products who should be eligible for licensure. He is looking for an avenue to hire individuals who do not meet the Board's requirement for licensure. A case study will be sent to Sherry Williams and James Merrow to review. James Merrow advised that this is an HR involvement.

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ITEM 3 Legislative/Regulations Committee

Sherry Williams and Naomi Howell will serve on the Committee, and Kevin Barnaba will assist if needed. James Merrow and the Committee will begin to work on draft regulations for the apprenticeship program.

ITEM 4 Executive Director Report

4(a). Esther Peter, Consumer Representation, was not present for this meeting. Information was received that she was having an issue joining the meeting. Board staff will address and assist her with the issue.

4(b). Local Health Department Representation position remains vacant. There has been no word from the Governor's appointment office.

4(c). John Pizzurro has joined the Board's Investigator's team with Troy Pumphrey.

4(d). Board members were reminded of the New Board Member Ethics Training.

4(e). 30 audit letters have been sent out. 25 licensees met the audit. The remaining 5 licensees will be sent a 2nd letter with a time frame to respond.

ITEM 5 Work Force Work Group/Joint Apprenticeship Program

Naomi Howell had no report on the workforce. The focus is on the apprenticeship program moving forward.

ITEM 6 Credentialing

6(a). Sadie Gowens and her supervisor submitted letters to the Board requesting an in-training certificate extension. Bonnie Harbin made a motion to grant a one-time 6-month extension. Sarath Senevirante provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

ITEM 7 Continuing Education Committee

No Report.

ITEM 8 Statistics from the Licensing Database

- Active Seasonal Certificates – 19
- Active Licensed Environmental Health Specialists – 484
- Active In-Training Certificates – 102
- Active Certificate of Eligibility Certificates – 166

ITEM 9 Exams

- Number of passing scores since the October 2, 2024 meeting – 4
- Number of failing scores since the October 2, 2024 meeting – 8

ITEM 10 Status of Certificates and Licenses Processed:

10(a). Initial Licenses Issued (1)

1. Ari Cacopardo

10(b). License Reactivation (0)

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10(c). Certificates of Eligibility Issued (18)

1. Asha Amollo
2. Godfred Opoku
3. Lean Thweatt
4. Kayla Johnson
5. Sherifat Rufai
6. Odochi Egesia
7. JaMya McNeal
8. Andrea Civil
9. Taryn Peksa
10. Matthew Collinson
11. Owen Keys
12. Stacey Carver
13. Emmanuel Diyoke
14. Shiakh Ali
15. David Henry
16. Marianna Peplinski
17. Finan Adamson
18. Toya Raffington-Garrett

10(d). In-Training Certificates Issued (3)

1. William Cheatham
2. Nicholas Papavasiliou
3. Odochi Egesia


10(e). Seasonal/Summer/Youth Camp In-Training Certificates (0)

Sarath Seneviratne made a motion to close the Open Session. Naomi Howell provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. Vote 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

Meeting adjourned 11:19 a.m.



Sherry Williams,
Board Chair



James Merrow,
Executive Director

Date: February 5, 2025

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