



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

August 2, 2023 BOARD MEETING
OPEN SESSION MINUTES

Meeting Held via Google Meet

Board Members Present:

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

Board Members Absent:

Sherry Williams, Department of Health
Lewis Brown, Consumer Member

Staff and Visitors:

Katherine Cummings, AAG, Board Counsel
James Merrow, Board Staff
Donna Zickefoose, Administrator I
Kimberly Link, MDH
Lillian Reese, Legislative Coordinator
Zakiyyah Holms, MDH

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 A.M. by Matthew Cumers, Board Chair.

AGENDA The Agenda was reviewed. Naomi Howell provided a motion to adopt the Agenda as submitted. Sarath Seneviratne 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 June 7, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes were reviewed. Naomi Howell made a motion to adopt the Minutes as submitted. Tonisha Melvin provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 2 Board Chair Report

2(a). Executive Director Position update –The Board will be conducting interviews for the now vacant Executive Director position. Three applicants will be interviewed. Matthew Cumers, Board Chair, Marie Savage, Executive Director of Dietetic Practice Board and Tonisha Melvin, Board secretary will conduct the interviews.

2(b). Introduction of new Board members – Mia Lowery, Local Government Representation, Kevin Barnaba, Private Industry Representation and Sarath Seneviratne, At Large Representation were all introduced and welcomed to the Board. Sherry Williams, MDH Representation was absent

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for this; her introduction will be at the October 4, 2023 meeting.

2(c). Election of Officers:

- Board Chair – Naomi Howell made a motion to nominate Matthew Cumers. Tonisha Melvin provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Matthew Cumers accepted the election of Board Chair.
- Board Vice Chair – Naomi Howell made a motion to nominate Kevin Barnaba. Bonnie Harbin provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Kevin Barnaba accepted the election of Board Vice Chair.
- Board Secretary – Naomi Howell made a motion to nominate Tonisha Melvin. Bonnie Harbin provided a 2nd to the motion. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained. Tonisha Melvin accepted the election of Board Secretary.

2(d). Board Committee members:

- Matthew Cumers and Kevin Barnaba volunteered for the Legislative/Regulations Committee.
- Bonnie Harbin and Mia Lowery volunteered for the Continuing Education Committee.

2(e). A meeting took place with I.T. to push forward with online applications, online renewals and credit card payments. The timeline is possibly January 2024. Updates on progress will be provided at future meetings.

2(f). Continuing Education Credit Audit – The Board discussed whether to change to an audit model for CEUs. The Board also discussed having a drop down list of Board accepted Sponsors for the submission of CEUs on a future online renewal application. The Legislative/Regulations Committee will draft possible regulation changes to adopt an audit model and to remove the requirement that training be received by the Board within 90 days of taking a training. Bonnie Harbin made a motion for regulation changes to adopt a continuing education audit and to remove the 90-day requirement. Sarath Seneviratne provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 3 Board Staff Report

3(a). James Merrow met with the fiscal officer and submitted a request to have an additional staff position added to the 2024 Budget. Before the budget is sent to the Governor’s Office the budget will be presented to the Board for review.

3(b). Statistics from the Licensing Database:

1. Active Seasonal Certificates – 33
2. Active Licensed Environmental Health Specialists - 537
3. Active In-Training Certificates – 131
4. Active Certificate of Eligibility Certificates – 195

3(g). Number of Exam passing scores since the prior meeting – 2

3(h). Number of failing scores since the prior meeting – 3

ITEM 4 Credentialing

No requests or issues at the meeting.

ITEM 5 Legislative/Regulations Committee:

5(a). The current proposed regulations have been signed off by the Secretary and are currently under review by the AELR.

The proposed Statutory changes are currently under review by the Department. These changes include the Apprenticeship Program and examination requirements.

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ITEM 6 Work Force Work Group

Bonnie Harbin and Mia Lowery volunteered to replace Matthew Cumers on the workforce workgroup. Naomi Howell reviewed the work force work group for the new Board members, and explained that a couple board members participate in the larger workforce work group, which seeks to improve the workforce, recruitment, and improvement of the salary structure. Bonnie volunteered to prepare Brochures for job fairs detailing the Board’s licensure requirements for Environmental Health Specialists. Bonnie Harbin made a motion for the creation of an informational pamphlet. Naomi Howell provided a 2nd to the motion. Vote 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

ITEM 7 Continuing Education Committee

Course Title Approved Credits

7(a). Below are the approved training courses that were reviewed and approved at the August 2, 2023 Board meeting. Kevin Barnaba made a motion to approve the training courses. Naomi Howell provided a 2nd to the motion passed. Vote 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained

- | Course Title | Approved Credits |
|---|-------------------------|
| 1. Approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation Section #MDAInt659 | - 1 |
| 2. For the Successful Completion of the Public Health Pest Control Course as Approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation Section #MDAInt678 | - 6 |
| 3. For the Successful Completion of the Setting up of Mosquito Control Program Course as approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation Section #MDAInt662 | -2 |
| 4. For the Successful Completion of the Mosquito Identification course as approved by the Maryland Department of Agriculture Pesticide Regulation Section #MDAInt559 | -6 |
| 5. AEC 2022 – Special Populations: Tribal Environmental Health Innovations – 1 | |
| 6. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: CIFOR, EIP-Ready, and NEARS, Oh My! Three Ways to Prepare for and Respond to Foodborne Illness Outbreaks – 1 | |
| 7. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: Ice Machine Contamination – How to Inspect Properly and Why it is Important | -1 |
| 8. AEC 2022 – Water Quality: The Importance of Membership Feedback for Developing Tools, Resources, and Trainings for the Private Water Network | -1 |
| 9. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: Employee-led Deep Cleans in Conjunction with Re-training and Reinforcement of Existing SSOP’s are Effective Listeria Monocytogene | -.5 |
| 10. AEC 2022- Water Quality: Protecting Private Wells from Every Angle A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Empowering Private Well Owners | -.5 |
| 11. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: NCEH A Qualitative Analysis of Events Preceding Clostridium Perfringens Outbreaks | -.5 |
| 12. AEC 2022 – Water Quality: Surveillance for Harmful Algal Bloom Events and Associated Human and Animal Illness One Health Harmful Algal Bloom System, United States | -.5 |
| 13. AEC 2022- Food Safety: Preventing Foodborne Illnesses Outbreaks with Effective Employee Hygiene, Cleaning and Sanitation Practices | - 1 |

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14. AEC 2022- Food Safety: The ABCs and Emojis of Restaurant Grading – Disclosing Inspection Results at Retail Food Establishments – 1
15. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: Effective Training Tools for Multicultural Operators - .5
16. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: NCEH Food Allergen Best Practices for Restaurants - .5
17. AEC 2022- Special Populations: Pilot Study SARA-CoV-2 Biosolid and Wastewater Analysis at U.S. Coast Guard Training Centers and Cutters – 1
18. AEC 2022- Water Quality: U.S. EPA Premise Plumbing Research Solutions to Environmental Challenges – 1.5
19. AEC 2018: Built Environments – Integrating Environmental Health, Structural Engineering and Floodplain Management for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resiliency – 1
20. AEC 2022 – Food Safety: Cost of Foodborne Illness – 1
21. RPSS 2022 – Day 1 General Session – 2
22. RPSS 2022 – Day 2 General Session – 2
23. RPSS 2022 – Day 3 Track 1 – Mentorship Programs (NACCHO) – 1
24. RPSS 2022 – Day 3 Track 2 – What Does a Retail Program Standards Coordinator Do? – 1
25. RPSS 2022 – Day 3 Track 3 – Retail Program Standards Networks/Champions – 1
26. Reducing Auto Body Paint Toxics, a Risk Reduction and Racial Equity Approach – 1
27. Impress Citizens, Drive Results: A How-To on the LIVES Restaurant Inspection Standards – 1
28. CASA 351th Quarterly Meeting - 4
29. The Future of Septic Systems in Rural Coastal Areas: Considering the Options – 1
30. 2021 NEHA AEC Part 3 Virtual Series – 8
31. US EPA Community Based Water Resiliency Case Study – 1
32. WRF TechLink: Smart Monitoring and Data Analytics – 1
33. Understanding Climate Change Impacts on Water Resources – 2
34. Water Research Foundation Webcast – 1
35. Position Specific – Planning Section Chief – 2.5
36. MOWPA O&M Service Provider Course Overview – 7
37. Conference for Food Protection 2023 Biennial Meeting – 24
38. Everything you wanted to know about PFAS but were afraid to ask: From the operator’s perspective – 2
39. Forging Relationships Between Water Utilities and Interdependent Sectors: An Important Step to Community Water Resilience – 1
40. FD8009W Curriculum: Fermentation At Retail – 2
41. FD190: Food Current Good Manufacturing Practice, Application, and Evidence Development – 3
42. Lead Service Lines – 1
43. Fentanyl Contamination: How Can We Clean it Up? – 1
44. Fermentation at Retail – 2
45. Custom Processing of Meats at Retail – 2
46. NEHA’s 2022 Annual Educational Conference (AEC) and Exhibition – 17.5
47. Special Processes at Retail – 1.5
48. 40-Hour OSHA HAZWOPER – 29 CFR 101.120 - 40
49. Green Stem: Sustainability Strategies for Industrial Watertube Boilers – 1
50. SWPI 101 – Introduction: The 10 Essential Environmental Public Health Services for Unregulated Drinking Water Programs – 1

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51. SWPI 102 – Assessment: Monitor Health – 1
52. SWPI 103 – Assessment: Diagnose and Investigate – 1
53. SWPI 108 – Assurance: Assuring a Competent Workforce – 1
54. SWPI 107 – Assurance: Linking People to Services – 1
55. SWPI 106 – Assurance: Laws and Regulations – 1
56. SWPI109: Assurance: Evaluation and Research – 1
57. Radiation Safety Officer Course – 26
58. Fats, Oils and Grease Pretreatment Training Course – 8
59. MP 102: Evidence Development – 46.33

ITEM 8 Status of Certificates and Licenses Processed:

8(a). Initial Licenses Issued (1)

1. Autumn Cornbrooks (5-12-23 exam)

8(b). License Reactivation (0)

8(c). Certificates of Eligibility Issued (15)

- | | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Bageru Ayana (Extended COE) | 11. Naya Wagner |
| 2. Jacob Irwin | 12. Jacqueline Lockwood |
| 3. Daniel Kushner (Extended COE) | 13. Motsko Tanner |
| 4. Andrew Arnett | 14. Pei Chun Wu |
| 5. Hayden Black | 15. Victoria Andro |
| 6. Sarah Gianotti | |
| 7. Micalya Valez | |
| 8. Mark Denoncourt | |
| 9. Pamela Benitez | |
| 10. Lendsy Alexander | |

8(d). In-Training Certificates Issued (7)

1. Daiya Jacobs
2. Andrew Arnett
3. Griffin Devlin
4. Alexandra Carton
5. Pamela Maloy
6. Motsko Tanner
7. Chandra Reiff

8(e). Seasonal/Summer/Youth Camp In-Training Certificates (8)

1. Andrew Kuehner
2. Joseph Lin
3. Savannah Kuta
4. Clark Adleman
5. Michael Cole-Burnett
6. Luis Rivera
7. Christopher Turner
8. Emily Turner

Matthew Cumers read the Presiding Officer's Statement for closing a meeting under the Open Meetings Act. At 11:05 a.m., Naomi Howell made a motion to close the Open Session. Tonisha Melvin provided a 2nd to the motion. Motion passed. 7 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstained.

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Closed Session Summary

Closed session was held from 11:07 a.m. to 11:22 a.m. on a closed session conference call line. The same Board members present for the open session were present for the closed session. The authority for the closed session was Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. § 3-305(b)(13) in order to discuss a request concerning license renewal that involved consideration of medical/psychological information that is prohibited from public disclosure pursuant to Md. Code Ann., Gen. Prov. §§ 4-329 and 4-333. The Board voted to deny issuance of a conditional license and to provide information to the licensee on his current inactive license and the requirements for reactivating a license.



Matthew Cumers,
Board Chair

Date: October 4, 2023