

NORTH CAROLINA BOARD OF DIETETICS/NUTRITION
BOARD MEETING
3:30 PM
1135 KILDAIRE FARM ROAD, SUITE 200
CARY, NC 27511

[ELECTRONIC ONLY MEETING]

OPEN MINUTES: June 23, 2021

Board Members Present: Ananya Sen, Patricia Pitts, Analia Camarasa
Director: Charla Burill, Executive Director
Ex-Officio: Marnie Jones, Administrative Specialist
Guests: Traci Hobson, ANA (formerly BCNS) legislative representative

Call to Order

Dr. Sen called the meeting to order at 3:35 P.M. A quorum was present. Dr. Sen asked if there were any conflicts. None declared. Dr. Sen called roll call for minutes attendance verification: Analia Camarasa – Here, Patricia Pitts – Here, and Dr. Ananya Sen, presiding. Analia motioned to approve the agenda as presented. Patricia seconded the motion. All approved.

21 NCAC 17. 0303 - Supervision

- Charla refreshed the Rules Committee of the discussion the Committee last had regarding their concerns with LN applicants and their supervised practice experience. The main concerns were a lack of true direct supervision, as well as how some applicants have only worked with their own private practice clients resulting in a lack of complex clinical patient care to learn from (very little actual MNT occurring), as well as a lack of being able to model practice after a supervisor in the field.
- Charla showed the Board on screen some draft edits to .303 using language partially derived from work on a Michigan bill, and partially other North Carolina regulations requiring direct supervision. Unlike Michigan’s proposed bill, it was noted, that NC has a requirement of “direct supervision” for students completing their supervised practice with NC patients. Direct supervision is the highest standard of supervision, yet the regulations have somewhat watered down the definition of “direct supervision.” This left the Board concerned about the quality of supervised practice experiences being completed under this pathway.
- Charla noted that in (2) the draft insert regarding “...that requires physically touching the patient and is either physically onsite and present...” is there to address situations such as students placing NG tubes and the new proposed ACEND learning standards for 2022, which require training in bedside swallow studies.
- Patricia raised the concern that since all of our licensees are licensed to provide the same scope of practice, why are CNS applicants not held to the same standards of direct supervision, as it is understood, as RDN applicants?
- Dr. Sen commented that with medical students or nurse practitioner students, while at first the student shadows the supervisor, as their learning increases, so does their autonomy from the

supervisor. However, the student still goes back to the supervising physician and discusses the plan before it is implemented. Whereas for many LN applicants, they have been autonomous from the beginning of their experience. The Board discussed how a true planned supervised practice experience just is not possible, if done correctly, with an applicant's own patients.

- Charla emphasized concern that there seems to be a disconnect with supervisors regarding the level of responsibility and liability they are taking on when they choose to supervise a student. For those only checking in with students days, sometimes weeks, after the nutrition care was provided, they do not seem to realize that as the supervisor they are responsible for those patients. It is not clear how they are maintaining responsibility when they are not approving care plans before they are implemented.
- Patricia raised the concern of whether the student may have a conflict of interest if they are treating their own patients/clients, AND using those paid hours to serve as their supervised practice experience – is their supervised practice more about building their health coaching business or getting the high-level clinical experience licensure requires?
- Dr. Sen invited Traci Hobson to comment and provide some context. Ms. Hobson did not yet have any comments to share at this time other than yes, the BCNS organization is working collaboratively with Pepin Tuma of the AND on the language of the MI bill, and that she would like to review this with BCNS.
- Charla recapped the process for writing rules, indicating that the language is far from final even at this point. Dr. Sen commented that she felt comfortable with the language that was presented.
- Regarding the student identifying him or herself as such, Patricia also discussed the concern that the student also needs to clearly identify who their supervisor is, such that a patient could contact them if desired.
- In .303 (2) it was discussed that we may want to add the word “secure” before the description of “... two-way audiovisual ...”

21 NCAC 17. 0104 – Applications

- Charla noted that .104 addresses all applicants, not just those doing their internships in NC. This is important to note, as many Board members have been concerned because the definition of “direct supervision” only addresses students completing their supervised practice in NC, but many applicants complete their supervised practice out of state and have very different standards. She tentatively noted that we could use the word “responsibility” in place of “access” making clearer the requirement that the supervisor is taking responsibility for all patients under the students care.
- Charla asked Traci if she could find out if BCNS is working towards getting programmatic accreditation for their supervised practice programs or at least standardizing the supervised practice requirements more so that there is not so much inconsistency between applicants.
- Analia, Dr. Sen and Patricia all voiced concerns that we should not have different sets of standards for supervision students completing their supervised practice in NC versus applicants who completed their supervised practice in a different state. Analia emphasized that all applicants, once licensed, are putting North Carolina citizens at risk if not properly trained, and thus it should not matter if the applicant completed their supervised practice in NC or out of state, they all should be held to the same standards.
- Given the voiced concerns regarding all applicants, Charla indicated to Traci that she would appreciate input and insight as to the direction BCNS is taking with supervised practice across the country. Traci indicated she did not have more information at this time but would work towards collaborating in the weeks ahead. Thus, Charla advised the Committee to put further discussion on pause until more collaboration was had.

21 NCAC 17. 0101 – Definitions

Charla indicated that ACEND is changing its standards to include requirements for training in bedside swallow studies, but this is not clearly addressed in the scope of practice. Reviewing the Speech Language Pathology Act, Charla noted that it has a specific carve out for OT and PT to do activities related to Speech. This concerns Charla that dietetics/nutrition may also require such a carve out before the Board could amend its definition of “nutrition assessment” to include swallow studies. Charla reached out to the Speech board to see where they stood with possibly including dietitians and nutritionists in that carve out. The Speech Board’s director indicated she would follow up with their attorney and Board. Charla will follow up with the committee when she hears back.

The committee set the next meeting date for July 22 from 4pm – 5pm. Marnie will send out the details.

Public Comment – Dr. Sen

Dr. Sen asked if there was any public comment. Traci Hobson indicated she had no additional comment at this time.

Analia motioned to adjourn the meeting. Patricia seconded the motion. No discussion. Roll call for approval; Analia- yes, Patricia – yes, Dr. Sen – yes. Meeting adjourned at 4:55 P.M.