



**COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTORS
of
BRITISH COLUMBIA**

ANNUAL REPORTS

**KAMLOOPS, BC
OCTOBER 3, 2009**

REMINDER: Please bring this copy to the Annual Meeting

NOTES

**COMMITTEE REPORTS
FOR THE
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
COLLEGE OF CHIROPRACTORS OF BC
OCTOBER 3, 2009**

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NOTES



BOARD CHAIR

As the membership is aware, the chiropractic profession as all regulated health professions has now been transitioned under the new “Umbrella Legislation” of the Health Professions Act (“HPA”). This occurred for our profession as of March 1, 2009. As chiropractors, we continue as we did under the former Chiropractors Act to function under four separate documents - the HPA itself, Regulations, Bylaws, each of which are legislated, and the CCBC Professional Conduct Handbook (“PCH”).

The purpose of the PCH is to allow the College to deal with the unique aspects within the chiropractic scope to ensure the profession continues to serve the best interests of the public.

All members are responsible to be familiar with the Act, Regulations, Bylaws, and the Professional Conduct Handbook, which have recently been sent by mail and are also available at the CCBC site of www.bcchiro.com.

The HPA ensures the public that there is accountability and transparency with regard to regulation of health professions. It is, I believe a better administrative model than the previous legislative framework. The College remains committed to serving the interests of public protection while supporting the administrative needs of the profession.

A fundamental difference under the new model is the expanded role of the Registrar of the College. While members are free at any time to contact any member of the Board or any member of the various Committees, all regulatory functions and correspondence arising related to the Committees of the College now flow through the office of the Registrar. Information regarding the Registrar’s office can be viewed in the HPA and Bylaws.

The Registrar’s responsibilities include receiving communication and correspondence related to College matters. The Registrar’s Office when required refers matters to the College Committees. These Committees report their decisions to the Registrar. The College Board at its regular meetings receives reports from the Registrar and Committees as required. Public notice of College Board meetings is found on the CCBC site at www.bcchiro.com.

Please feel free to contact me as Chair of the Board at any time with questions or concerns at 250-765-7511 or hside@shaw.ca

Respectfully submitted,
P.G. (Patrick) Bickert, D.C., Board Chair



REGISTRAR'S REPORT

Registration

Number of Registrants as of August 01, 2009:

| | |
|-------------------------------|----------|
| - Full practising registrants | 948 |
| - Non-practising registrants | 83 |
| - Limited registrant | <u>1</u> |
| Total: | 1,032 |

New Registrants

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----------|
| - New graduate registrations | 23 |
| - Interprovincial registrations | 23 |
| - Basis of equivalency registrations | 1 |
| - Temporary registrations | 0 |
| - Limited registrations | 1 |
| - Student registrations | <u>0</u> |
| Total: | 48 |

Inclusion under the Health Professions Act (HPA) on March 01, 2009 initiated multiple changes impacting administration of the College. The Registrar is no longer elected but appointed as an employee of the Board. Responsibilities include the effective flow of communication between the public, registrants, and College Board and its committees.

The Registrar responsibilities include communication and coordination of the five Committees of the Board: the Registration Committee, the Inquiry Committee, the Discipline Committee, the Quality Assurance Committee and the Patient Relations Committee. Committee members are established by the Board and are composed of combinations of Government appointed public members of the Board, elected chiropractic Board members, appointed members of the public and appointed practitioners from the registrants at large. The Board Chair and the Registrar are ex-officio members of all the Committees of the Board. The Board Chair and the Registrar are ex-officio members of all the Committees of the Board. If you feel you have skills that you are willing to offer to the Board or its Committees please contact the Registrar's office.

Registration Committee

The registration committee is established consisting of 3 persons appointed by the Board, one of whom is an appointed public member. This Committee is charged with managing all applications for registration to the College.

Inquiry Committee

The inquiry committee is established consisting of 6 persons appointed by the board. The inquiry committee must include at least 2 public representatives, at least 1 of whom must be an appointed board member. The remainder are chiropractors. This Committee functions similarly to the previous Ethics and Discipline Committee but has a slightly expanded disciplinary role. They refer to the Discipline Committee, through issuance of a citation, activities requiring a significant level of discipline however they may negotiate consent orders prior to a hearing taking place.

Discipline Committee

The discipline committee is established consisting of 6 persons appointed by the board. The discipline committee must include at least 2 public representatives, at least 1 of whom must be an appointed board member. The remainder are elected or appointed chiropractors. This Committee, in groups of no less than three, conducts disciplinary hearings on behalf of the Board. This function used to occur at the Board level and the significant impact of the HPA is that the fine ceiling is \$50,000.

Quality Assurance Committee

The quality assurance committee is established consisting of 4 persons appointed by the board. The quality assurance committee must include at least 2 public representatives, at least one of whom must be an appointed board member. The remaining two are chiropractors.

The quality assurance committee is responsible for:

- (a) reviewing the standards of practice to enhance the quality of practice and to reduce incompetent, impaired or unethical practice among registrants;
- (b) administering a quality assurance program to promote high standards of practice among registrants;
- (c) assessing the clinical ability of registrants;
- (d) recommending courses to the board for approval;
- (e) collecting information from registrants in furtherance of the objects of this section;
- (f) establishing remedial procedures to assist registrants in identifying and correcting deficiencies in their clinical abilities or places of practice; and

- (g) reviewing all aspects of the management and conduct of health profession corporations to ensure their compliance, and the compliance of their registrant shareholders, with the *Act*, the regulations, these bylaws and the policies of the college.

Patient Relations Committee

The patient relations committee is established consisting of 3 persons appointed by the board. The patient relations committee must include at least 1 appointed board member and the remainder are chiropractors.

The patient relations committee must:

- (a) establish and maintain procedures by which the college deals with complaints of professional misconduct of a sexual nature;
- (b) monitor and periodically evaluate the operation of procedures established under paragraph (a);
- (c) develop and coordinate, for the college, educational programs on professional misconduct of a sexual nature for members and the public as required;
- (d) establish a patient relations program to prevent professional misconduct, including professional misconduct of a sexual nature;
- (e) develop guidelines for the conduct of registrants with their patients; and
- (f) provide information to the public regarding the college's complaint and disciplinary process.

All registrants are required to have their annual dues paid by the July 31st for the following year. Under the HPA, if they are not paid by July 31st you will be stricken from the record and may not practice on August 1st. You may not bill patients, WCB, ICBC or third party payers or have malpractice insurance coverage until you are reinstated. The reinstatement fee for not paying your dues on time is \$200. For the most part you all did very well in this first year of being required to fill out Form 4, application for renewal of registration. Dues and Form 4 are linked so until we receive both, you are not deemed registered.

The other major change to registration is the Declaration you are required to sign. It states you are compliant with Bylaws relating to all the registration requirements and are eligible for renewal. Continuing Education ("CE") hours are part of the requirements so in 2011 if your CE hours are not completed you should not be signing the declaration or applying for registration renewal until they are complete. Failure to complete by July 31st brings about automatic de-registration. There will be no grace. The reinstatement fee is \$200. In order to address this issue we are moving the deadline for completion of CE hours to June 30th. This allows the office staff to focus on registration in July not on CE hours.

All registrants should now have received the Bylaws and Professional Conduct Handbook that are HPA compliant. Should there be anything you're not sure of, it's much easier to ask questions first and avoid disciplinary action later. For your assistance, I may be reached at registrar@bcchiro.com.

Respectfully Submitted,
J. Blake Cameron, DC
Registrar

INQUIRY COMMITTEE REPORT

The Inquiry Committee replaced the previous Ethics and Discipline Committee following implementation of the Health Professions Act.

The Committee's process is controlled by the Health Professions Act, the Chiropractors Regulation, the Bylaws of the College of Chiropractors of BC and the College's Professional Conduct Handbook. All members have copies of these documents (and they are available online at www.bcchiro.com) and must be familiar with them.

The Inquiry Committee is made up of six people, including 4 chiropractors and 2 public representatives (one of whom is an appointed board member).

The Inquiry Committee (together with the Registrar) investigates the complaints received by the College. Upon completion of its investigation and having considered all information collected, the Committee will determine the disposition of the complaint. Section 33 of the Health Professions Act permits the Committee to dispose of a complaint by

- dismissing it;
- where acceptable to the complainant, arranging for an informal resolution between the complainant and the registrant;
- requesting that the registrant consent to a reprimand or appropriate undertaking;
or
- directing the Registrar to issue a citation for a hearing by the College's Discipline Committee.

Also, if a registrant consents to discipline requested by the Inquiry Committee or if the Committee directs the Registrar to issue a citation, it may award costs against the registrant for the investigation of the complaint in accordance with the tariff found in Schedule "D" of the College's Bylaws.

The Committee is also charged with reviewing and approving any proposals for consent resolution that may be made by a registrant after a citation has been issued for hearing of a complaint.

The Inquiry Committee members are:

Dr. Rob Turner, Chair
Dr. Douglas Wright, Vice-Chair
Dr. Lesley Taylor-Hughes
Dr. Shannon MacNeil
Ms. Beverley Hunter
Mr. Douglas Kellner

Ms. Hunter has recently advised she will have to leave the Inquiry Committee. Beverly has been a valuable asset to the Committee and the profession in general and we thank her for her time serving on the Committee.

Between August 1, 2008 and May 31, 2009, the Inquiry Committee (and prior to March 1, 2009 its predecessor, the Ethics & Discipline Committee) applied discipline in respect of 54 complaints, including:

- 13 complaints concerning billing practices
- 29 complaints concerning advertising
- 12 complaints concerning various other issues, such as office procedures, treatment standards, alleged injuries, licence issues and professional responsibilities.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Wright, D.C. Vice-chair

DISCIPLINE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Discipline Committee consists of six persons appointed by the CCBC Board. A minimum of two members of the committee must be public representatives, at least one of whom must be an appointed board member.

The members of the Discipline Committee work in panels of three to hear complaints against registrants that have been referred for hearing following investigation by the Inquiry Committee. After a hearing of the evidence, the committee makes decisions about the propriety of the registrant's professional conduct and any disciplinary action required to address that conduct.

Under the Health Professions Act, the College is required to provide public notice of discipline decisions rendered by the Discipline Committee, as well as, a registrant's consent to discipline after a citation to a hearing has been issued, or a consent or undertaking given in relation to a serious matter. The College is providing this notice by posting summaries of discipline on the College website (www.bcchiro.com). To provide the public with a complete discipline history, these postings will include equivalent level disciplinary decisions made prior to transition to the Health Professions Act.

No matters have been referred to the Discipline Committee since transition to the Health Professions Act and, therefore, no meetings or hearings by the Committee were required.

The Disciplinary Committee Members are:

Dr David Olson, Chair
Dr Dean Greenwood, Vice Chair
Ms. Patricia Lawrence
Mr. Derek Hall
Dr. Danielle Morgan
Dr. Natalie Williams

Respectfully submitted,
David Olson, DC, Chair



REGISTRATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Registration Committee reports on and recommends policies to the Board with respect to registration applications for Student, Temporary, Limited, Full and Non-practicing registration as well as renewal, conversion and reinstatement for current and former registrants. As required by the Health Professions Act and College Bylaws and policies the Committee reviews applications for registration, renewal and reinstatement and decides whether or not an applicant is eligible.

The Committee considered and rendered decisions on seventy-nine files. Fifty-seven candidates wrote the CCBC Jurisprudence Examination in the past year. The Examination has been revised to reflect the new Health Professions Act. The Committee highly recommends all members review the new Health Professions Act, Regulations, Bylaws, and Professional Conduct Handbook as it pertains to the practice of chiropractic.

The Committee also reviewed registration policies and made recommendations to the Board for revisions. Applicants who were refused registration by the Registration Committee had the option of appealing the committee's decision to the Health Professions Appeal Board.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Alderson, D.C., Chair



QUALITY ASSURANCE COMMITTEE REPORT

The Quality Assurance Committee is a new committee that is necessary as a result of Chiropractic becoming a regulated profession under the Health Professions Act. This took place in March of this year. This committee replaces any other committee that worked with the promotion of high standards of practice amongst the members.

The Committee is composed of four members. Two members are chiropractic board members and two members are from the public. One is a public board member and the other is from the general public.

At present, this committee works with continuing education and office inspections as part of the program for quality assurance. This is under review and further changes will be taking place in the next year. These changes will be posted on the website.

Respectfully submitted,
Gregg C. Anderson, D.C., Chair



PATIENT RELATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT

The Patient Relations Committee (“PRC”) is a newly formed committee of the College of Chiropractors of British Columbia under the HPA. This committee is composed of 3 members which currently are all CCBC board members. The mandate of this committee is as follows (taken from Part 1, section 19 of the By-laws of the HPA):

- establish and maintain procedures by which the college deals with complaints of professional misconduct of a sexual nature;
- monitor and periodically evaluate the operation of procedures established under paragraph (a);
- develop and coordinate, for the College, educational programs on professional misconduct of a sexual nature for members and the public as required;
- establish a patient relations program to prevent professional misconduct, including professional misconduct of a sexual nature;

- develop guidelines for the conduct of registrants with their patients; and
- provide information to the public regarding the college's complaint and disciplinary process.

The PRC has reviewed these requirements as listed by the HPA. The committee has approved the "Protocol for Sexual Misconduct Complaints" document updated May 2009 which will be included in our website to be viewed by both members and the public. Please also be advised that the CCBC Professional Conduct Handbook, as has been adopted with amendments, also outlines views of the CCBC of what constitutes sexual harassment and inappropriate conduct with patients. The committee is also undergoing review of educational programs for its members and will be making recommendations to the Board as appropriate.

Respectfully submitted,
Shannon Patterson, D.C.