

ISSUE

34

Summer
& Fall
2020



North Carolina Board of Dietetics/Nutrition

Deadlines

Renewal Open:

January 1 – March 31

Late Renewal (Additional

Late fee):

April 1 – May 31

License Lapse:

June 1

All License Needs:

Licensee Gateway:

gateway.ncbdn.org



Contact:

NCBDN

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Board Positions for 2020-2021

Each year, the NCBDN votes to fill the officer positions within the Board. This year's vote took place at our July 1, 2020 Board meeting and our officers for 2020-2021 are:

Chair: Dr. Ananya Sen

Vice Chair: Amanda S. Holliday, MS, RDN, LDN

Treasurer: Amy Beros, MBA

Secretary: Analia Camarasa, MS, CNS, LN

Lapsed Licensees - 2020

This year has been unlike any other. With the pandemic affecting all on some level, the NCBDN worked to be flexible throughout this previous renewal season. Supported by emergency action taken by our Governor and legislators, the Board elected not to collect any late fees from licensees who renewed late. Additionally, for some licensees whose licenses lapsed due to circumstances related to the coronavirus, if they contacted the Board with this information, the Board allowed these individuals to renew rather than requiring them to reapply and reinstate their license for the full licensure fee. At this point, the NC Board of Dietetics/Nutrition currently has 3,340 Active licensees. As we look ahead to the 2021 renewal season, we presently have 63 licensees from our 2020 renewal season who are lapsed and who have not informed the Board of their status. The Board attempted to contact these individuals to ensure that they were aware of their lapsed licensed status. The NCBDN recognizes this number of lapsed licensees is significantly higher than in previous years. Thus, please note, although we are now closer to the 2021 renewal season than we are the 2020 renewal season, if your license lapsed in 2020 and your Lapsed status is due to a pandemic-related crisis in your life, please contact the Board directly with your circumstances at info@ncbdn.org. Cases will be reviewed on an individual basis.



To relinquish a license and remain in good standing, licensees should log into our licensee gateway system, click on their Lapsed license, and request Relinquished status under the area called “Options.” If a licensee is Lapsed but has retired, following these instructions to relinquish one’s license is the appropriate choice. Persons not able to use the online system to Relinquish their license may write the Board via email (info@ncbdn.org) or USPS to inform the NCBDN that they wish to Relinquish.

Board Member Transitions

Shelia Garner Link, MS, RD, LDN, served six years on the NCBDN with her second term ending on June 30, 2020. While serving on the NCBDN Shelia served for three years as the Board secretary, and for two years as the Board Chair. Shelia’s leadership on the Board, dedication to the profession, and breadth of experience has been extremely valuable and will be greatly missed. Shelia’s vacancy has been filled by newly appointed Board member, Christie Nicholson, MS, RD, LDN.

Christie Nicholson, MS, RD, LDN was appointed to the NCBDN as of June 30, 2020. In 1998, Christie founded Nutrition Plus located in Greenville, NC. She is a North Carolina native, and attended East Carolina University, where she earned both her Bachelor of Science and her Masters of Science in Nutrition. As an East Carolina University alumnus, she supported nutrition education by starting the Nutrition Plus Scholarship. Christie belongs to several DPGs of AND, including Dietetics in Health Care Communities, Business and Communications and Medical Management. She served as an officer of the North Carolina Dietetic Association Foundation, and has experience previously serving on the NCBDN.

Kim Iles, MS, RD, LDN, outgoing Treasurer and Board member representing private practice, served on the Board for three years. Kim’s wealth of knowledge in the private practice sector, as well as expertise in areas of billing, insurance, and Medicaid has been a huge asset to the Board and to the licensees we serve. Kim’s vacancy has been filled by newly appointed Board member, Patricia Pitts, MS, RD, LDN.

Patricia E. Pitts, MS, RD, LDN was appointed to the NCBDN as of June 30, 2020. Patricia is a recent transplant from Memphis, Tennessee. Before moving to North Carolina, she received a BS in Health and Human Performance with a concentration in dietetics along with an MS in Clinical Nutrition, both from the University of Memphis. In order to expand her skills, after completing her dietetic internship, she attended L’Ecole Culinaire and earned an Associate of Occupational Studies in Culinary Arts and a Diploma in Culinary Essentials. Following this education, she had the privilege of working as a private chef and caterer, which helped develop her expertise in culinary nutrition techniques. Patricia’s clinical nutrition foundation was further established at the Memphis VA Medical Center where she provided inpatient and outpatient nutrition services and helped create the Healthy Teaching Kitchen clinics. Patricia’s clinical and culinary nutrition experience has made her a sought-after speaker for a range of audiences.

Since being in the Charlotte area, Patricia has enjoyed volunteering on the Charlotte Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics Board as one of the webmasters and now in her new role as the Diversity Chair. She currently works at the VA Medical Center Salisbury-Charlotte HCC as a clinical dietitian/nutritionist and does consulting work through NutriMental Nuggets, LLC.

Incomplete Background Checks

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and the temporary closure of many agencies that perform the statutorily required fingerprint-based background check service, the NCBDN allowed **applicants after April 7, 2020 through early September** to elect to authorize the NCBDN to complete a non-fingerprint based criminal history investigation through CastleBranch Corporation, to temporarily complete their licensure requirements. Applicants were only able to complete this temporary process if they agreed to complete the mandatory fingerprinted background check at a later date, as specified by the Board. Applicants who applied after April 7th through early September of this year agreed to these terms if they elected to complete the temporary process.

Although multiple email reminders have been sent, to date, the NCBDN still has 115 licensees who are required to complete this fingerprinted background check. Please be aware, the NCBDN, at its September 23, 2020 Board meeting decided that all applicants who elected to complete the temporary background check, **must have the statutorily required fingerprinted check completed by December 31, 2020**. Thus, by this date, licensees must have submitted either:

A completed *Electronic Fingerprint Submission Release of Information* with your signature and the signature of the person who took and transmitted your fingerprints via LiveScan;

OR

A completed *Authority for Release of Information Form* and two completed FD-258 fingerprint cards.

All pertinent instructions for obtaining the statutorily required fingerprint-based background check are posted on our website on the page titled Criminal Background Check, under the menu “Licensees and Applicants.” The link is: <https://www.ncbdn.org/criminal-background-check>.

Renewal season will begin on January 1, 2021. You will not be able to renew your license if you have not submitted to the NCBDN the completed *Electronic Fingerprint Submission Release of Information* OR a completed *Authority for Release of Information* and two FD-258 cards.

Some law enforcement agencies may have a significant wait-time to schedule an appointment. However, by taking action now, there should be ample time to ensure an appointment can be obtained in order to meet the December 31, 2020 deadline. If your local law enforcement agency cannot accommodate an appointment that will allow you to meet the deadline, the NC State Bureau of Investigation (SBI) is permitting use of private fingerprinting agencies, so long as those agencies can provide fingerprints on FD-258 cards. If using a private entity instead of a law enforcement agency, you should NOT allow the private entity to transmit your prints digitally, but rather follow the “Out of State, Ink Card process” noted on our website referenced above.

Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact our office at info@ncbdn.org.

Covid-19 News and Updates

The Board continues to monitor Governor Cooper’s direction for the state of North Carolina and act accordingly. Please monitor our website for further updates and information at: <https://www.ncbdn.org/ncbdn-news>