

## Council on Future Practice Visioning Report: Moving Forward-A Vision for Education, Credentialing and Practice

# HOD Fact Sheet

House of Delegates

Fall 2012

The House of Delegates (HOD) conducted a dialogue on the Visioning Report: Moving Forward-A Vision for Education, Credentialing and Practice on October 5, 2012. The purpose of the dialogue session was for delegates and members to:

1. Provide reaction to the Visioning Report.
2. Create suggestions for implementation of the Visioning Report recommendations.

The following is an overview of the process for conducting this dialogue session, the outcomes and the next steps.

### Overview of the Process for Conducting this Dialogue Session

The purpose of the House of Delegates is to govern the profession of dietetics. As part of the House's role in governing the profession, the following steps were taken for conducting the dialogue session on the Visioning Report.

1. Release a backgrounder on the topic for dialogue: On September 6<sup>th</sup>, the Visioning Report was released to HOD and the membership.
2. Solicit input to the backgrounder: Members were asked to submit their reactions on the report to the Council on Future Practice's (CFP) electronic mailbox.
3. Review the member feedback: The reactions received were posted to the HOD Communications Platform on September 14, 21 and 28. The reactions were also shared with CFP for their review. The comments from September 6-28 can be accessed [here](#).
4. Conduct a dialogue on the topic: This was conducted on October 5, 2012 in Philadelphia, PA during the Fall 2012 HOD Meeting, which included delegates and members. Over 210 individuals participated attended this dialogue session.
5. At the end of a dialogue session, based on the feedback, a series of steps are identified: The next steps and outcomes are noted at the end of this document.

### Answers to Questions Delegates and Members Posed about the Process Used for this Dialogue Session

1. **Some members have wondered, does this give the appearance that the Board of Directors (BOD), CFP, ACEND and CDR are making decisions for the profession rather than the HOD governing the profession?**
  - The Board has an obligation of duty to the Academy to address issues that impact both the organization and profession since they set the strategic direction. An example would be the internship shortage.
  - The House's role is to govern the profession and therefore, it was necessary to conduct a dialogue session on the Visioning Report. Part of HOD's role is to provide input on issues such as the future of education, credentialing and practice.
  - The CFP's role was to develop the Visioning Report, which is a charge given to them by the HOD as a result of the Phase 2 Future Practice and Education Task Force. This task force recommended the creation of the Council to conduct a visioning process to identify the future needs for practice, education and credentialing in collaboration with ACEND and CDR.
  - Both ACEND and CDR are autonomous organizational units.
  - ACEND is responsible for governing the educational preparation of students and sets the standards for educational preparation.

- CDR is responsible for governing the credentialing processes for dietetics and sets the standards for credentialing practitioners.

**2. Why did the Board of Directors get involved in the credentialing framework for the DPD graduate?**

- Three years ago, when the BOD was made aware of the dire situation with internship matching, they felt the obligation of duty to address this issue.
- The Board commissioned an Alternative Pathways Workgroup in 2010 as a response to the internship shortage. They felt a need to provide support to ACEND and CDR in moving quickly to address this shortage.
- An outcome of the Alternative Pathways Workgroup was the identification of the Independent Supervised Practice Program which ACEND has been working to implement. And, the second outcome was the possibility of a new credential for DPD graduates who do not get an internship.
- The Board's role was to approve the report from the Workgroup regarding a new credentialing framework. The BOD indicated their support for this route to obtain a credential for the DPD graduate who does not seek an internship or is unable to obtain one.
- However, ACEND and CDR are working to determine whether to implement this new credential, and if so, how to implement.

**3. What are the roles of the CFP, ACEND and CDR with the new credential?**

- The CFP desired the input of the House of Delegates as it related to the new credential and included it in the Visioning Report. They felt that in order to move forward, the HOD's input would be useful for ACEND and CDR to determine changes to the educational preparation and credentialing that would be beneficial to the profession.
- ACEND, CDR and CFP realized that the plans for proceeding would be more fully developed by the input of HOD. Member feedback will facilitate a better outcome for how to shape educational preparation and credentialing for the future.
- In this situation, all organizational units have been collaborating and communicating information that will inform the development of a potential new credential.

**4. Will the Visioning Report be re-written based on HOD input?**

- The Visioning Report will not be re-written. The CFP was charged to conduct a visioning report on behalf of the profession. The Visioning Report was published as a result of this charge.
- The Visioning Report recommendations were not prepared for approval by the HOD, but rather to engage the HOD in a discussion about how to best implement them, if implementation is appropriate.
- We also want to emphasize that the recommendations in the visioning report were not mandates to employers, universities or community colleges.

**5. If the HOD governs the profession, why are we not doing motions on this issue?**

- The HOD does not need a motion to provide input or direction. In the past, there have been dialogue sessions that did not result in a motion or set of motions. During the Spring 2011 Virtual HOD Meeting, a dialogue session was conducted on identification of mega issues. No motion was crafted; rather, HOD provided input on the prioritization of the list. During the Fall 2010 HOD Meeting, a dialogue session was conducted on the Code of Ethics. The results of the dialogue session were used by the Ethics Committee to finalize the Code and no motion was developed.

**6. What are the outcomes of the Fall HOD Meeting dialogue session on the Visioning Report?**

- The HOD indicated its support for Dietetic Technician Education Programs, and the value of DTRs as an important part of the food and nutrition team.
- The HOD noted the importance of developing increased opportunities for supervised practice for the undergraduate, graduate programs, and internships. Solutions discussed included increasing the number of preceptors (maybe with rewards) and simulations.

- The HOD expressed the need for more opportunities to collaborate between community colleges and universities to allow a student to move from a DTR all the way to a doctorate degree.
- The HOD expressed its desire for a student entering a RD program to secure the necessary supervised practice.
- The HOD noted that diversity in the profession must continue to grow within our dietetics education programs.
- The HOD noted that we consider all aspects of licensure and potential impact for the profession with the proposed changes.
- The HOD expressed its support for opportunities to prepare practitioners at all levels of the [Dietetics Career Development Guide](#).
- The HOD noted the need for models and toolkits to be developed by dietetics and nutrition education programs that demonstrate how to implement the recommendations, if and when they are implemented. Also, models from other allied health professions should be examined for application.
- The HOD noted that technology applications need to be considered as part of the implementation.

## **7. What are the next steps following the HOD Meeting?**

- The pre-meeting reactions and the dialogue workbooks will be consolidated and released to HOD.
- The pre-meeting reactions and dialogue summaries will be reviewed by the ACEND, CDR, CFP and Education Committee in order to determine next steps.
- These consolidated summaries will be discussed during the meeting of ACEND, CDR, CFP and Education Committee in January 2013.
- The questions identified by HOD during the dialogue session will be answered by ACEND, CDR, CFP and Education Committee. These questions and answers will be posted to the HOD Communications Platform during October and November. Please share this information with your constituents when it becomes available.
- Some recommendations might move on for implementation within the coming years and others might be acted upon in a shorter time frame; some recommendations might not move forward; or, some recommendations might require more investigation in order to consider implementation.
- A summary of the January meeting will be shared with HOD members in late February/early March 2013. This summary may include an overall summation of the key feedback received during the dialogue session.