

## **What Has the House of Delegates Done for You and for Our Profession?**

The following series of stories provide delegates and members with an overview of the outcomes of House of Delegates Meetings. The House of Delegates is the deliberative body acting as the voice of members, which governs the profession and develops policy on major professional issues.

### **Story #8: The HOD Dialogue Session on the Visioning Report: Moving Forward-A Vision for Education, Credentialing and Practice**

On September 6, 2012, the Council on Future Practice released the Visioning Report: Moving Forward-A Vision for Education, Credentialing and Practice. This report was the basis for one of the dialogue sessions during the Fall 2012 HOD Meeting. The objectives for the session were to: understand the rationale behind the recommendations of the Visioning Report; provide reaction to the Visioning Report; be able to clarify and answer questions regarding the recommendations for Academy members; and, create suggestions for implementation of the Visioning Report recommendations.

This dialogue session did not result in a motion for approval by HOD. Rather, the focus of the session was to gather member input on the proposed recommendations from the Council on Future Practice. Following the meeting, the HOD Leadership Team reviewed the input received during the meeting along with the 600 comments submitted in advance of the meeting. This resulted in the development and release of a [HOD Fact Sheet: Council on Future Practice Visioning Report](#) (Visioning Report >Outcome of the Dialogue). The fact sheet provided an overview of the process used for conducting the dialogue session and answered several questions: 1) Some members have wondered, does this give the appearance that the Board of Directors, Council on Future Practice, ACEND and CDR are making decisions for the profession rather than the HOD governing the profession? 2) Why did the Board of Directors get involved in the credentialing framework for the DPD graduate? 3) What are the roles of ACEND, CDR and the Council on Future Practice with the new credential? 4) Will the Visioning Report be re-written based on HOD input? 5) If the HOD governs the profession, why are we not doing a motion on this issue? 6) What are the outcomes of the Fall HOD Meeting dialogue session on the Visioning Report? and, 7) What are the next steps following the HOD Meeting? Delegates were encouraged to distribute this fact sheet to the membership as follow-up to the Fall Meeting.

#### Outcomes of the Dialogue

- 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.

#### Steps Following the Fall HOD Meeting

- The pre-meeting reactions and the dialogue workbooks were consolidated and released to HOD.
- The pre-meeting reactions and dialogue summaries were reviewed by the ACEND, CDR, CFP and Education Committee in order to determine next steps.
- These consolidated summaries were discussed during the meeting of ACEND, CDR, CFP and Education Committee in [January 2013](#) (View Final Report).
- The questions identified by HOD during the dialogue session were answered by ACEND, CDR, CFP and Education Committee. These questions and answers were posted to the HOD Communications Platform during [October and November](#) (Member input).
- 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](#) was shared with HOD members in late February/early March 2013. This summary included an overall summation of the key feedback received during the dialogue session.

The December 2013 issue of the [Journal of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics](#) contained an article that combined the Visioning Report and the Joint Leaders Report. This article provided an update on the status of efforts to address the proposed recommendations.

**Story #9: The HOD Dialogue Session on Public Health Nutrition and Community Health Nutrition**

“Public Health Nutrition and Community Health Nutrition” was a second topic discussed during the Fall 2012 HOD Meeting. This dialogue session was requested by the Board of Directors Public Health Task Force as part of the Action Plan they created for promoting public health and community nutrition activities within the Academy. The objectives for the session were to: recognize, prepare for, and seize opportunities in public health nutrition and community nutrition; be leaders in public health nutrition and community nutrition by actively working in policy development, advocacy, assessment, assurance, environmental change, education, and programs and services; and, provide input on how to prepare members to meet the needs in public health nutrition and community nutrition.

The following motion was approved on November 13, 2012:

*Therefore, be it resolved that the House of Delegates establish a Public Health Nutrition/Community Nutrition Task Force comprised of members from the previous Board appointed Public Health Task Force and related DPGs. The task force will be charged to develop a plan for members and the Academy based on the HOD dialogue session, along with identifying gaps to be filled. The plan will provide direction on how members can prepare to become active in public health nutrition/community nutrition and the role the Academy can play to assist members in this effort. The task force will be requested to submit a plan by April 1, 2013 for approval.*

**Outcome of the Dialogue Session**

- A Public Health Nutrition/ Community Nutrition Task Force was formed and the following members were appointed: Margie Tate, chair; Helene Kent, Katrina Holt, Leigh Ann Edwards, Betsy Houghton and Jamie Stang.
- The task force finalized its [Action Plan](#) (Updates to Mega Issues> Public Health/ Community Nutrition Action Plan) for the House of Delegates in September 2013. The report was reviewed by the House Leadership Team in October 2013, and released to the HOD following the Fall 2013 HOD Meeting (November 2013).
- A Public Health/ Community Nutrition Committee of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics was formed as of June 1, 2014.

### **Story #10: The HOD Dialogue Session on Food and Nutrition Insecurity**

The HOD conducted a dialogue on the issue of “Food and Nutrition Insecurity” during the Spring 2013 Meeting. This topic was on the HOD Mega Issues List and was selected by the HOD Leadership Team as a result of the Academy’s role in a summit meeting in late June 2012 entitled “Future of Food: Food Security in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. The objectives for the dialogue session were to: raise Academy members’ awareness of the prevalence and consequences of food and nutrition insecurity for the nation, including current Academy initiatives; demonstrate commitment and inspire members to take action to improve food and nutrition security at local and state levels; and, act to support and promote the Academy’s policy and advocacy programs that improve food and nutrition security at the national level.

The following motion was approved on May 31, 2013:

*Therefore, be it resolved that the House of Delegates requests the following activities designed to increase member involvement be completed:*

- *Collaborate with the Foundation and Feeding America to create an electronic forum to share knowledge and information for members and consumers,*
- *Publication of articles detailing Academy member involvement and innovative solutions that address the issue,*
- *Development of educational and motivational programs (i.e., webinars, FNCE) for distribution throughout the Academy,*
- *Coordinate efforts with other Academy organizational units (i.e., ACEND, Foundation and LPPC).*

*And, the HOD requests the appointment of a Food and Nutrition Security Task Force composed of delegates, DPG members and other Academy organizational units to develop action plans and strategies based on delegate input (pre-, during and post Spring HOD Meeting) for each of the following:*

- *Members-individual members, DPGs, MIGs and Affiliates (internal)*
- *Professional Development (internal)*
- *Public Policy and Advocacy (internal and external)*
- *Partnerships/collaborations (external).*

### **Outcomes of the Dialogue**

- The Speaker of the HOD appointed a Food and Nutrition Security Task Force, which began meeting in September 2013.
- Members of the task force included: Michelle Marshall, MS, RD, LDN, chair; Meg M Bruening, PhD, MPH, RD; Sherry M Coleman Collins, MS, RD, LD; Dianne K Polly, JD, RDN, LDN; Rickelle Richards, PhD, MPH, RD; and Jessie Maurer, student member.
- The task force concluded its work in May 2014.
- The [Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan](#) (Updates to Mega Issues> Food and Nutrition Security Action Plan) resulting from the motion was shared with the HOD in the summer of 2014.
- A memo was sent to ACEND requesting more information about standards that might relate to food and nutrition insecurity in May 2013. ACEND responded to the memo on July 9, 2013 indicating that the standards are written to give the programs flexibility to design their curriculums as appropriate. Food Insecurity is covered broadly under Domain 3 of the Core Competencies -- *Clinical and Customer Services: development and delivery of information, products and services to individuals, groups and populations*, and Domain 4 -- *Practice Management and Use of Resources: strategic application of principles of management and system in the provision of services to individuals and organizations*. Both domains are reflected in the standards for the RD/RDN and DTR. Because of the importance of the issue of food

insecurity, the ACEND Board will request that the Standards Committee consider embedding this issue within the ACEND competencies and standards to increase the visibility of the topic.

- A memo was sent to LPPC requesting a revision to the 2012-2014 Priority Areas, Consumer and Community Issues #3: Quality food and nutrition through education, production, access and delivery- to reflect the Academy's commitment to this critically high visible area. The LPPC responded on June 24, 2013 indicating that the breadth of its policy efforts to address food and nutrition insecurity is significant. Food assistance programs that address food and nutrition insecurity are woven throughout the priorities document including five of the sections. The LPPC felt it is not necessary to make any changes to the current Legislative and Public Policy Priority Areas document as it has a significant focus on the issue of food and nutrition insecurity. Delegates were encouraged to review and better understand the document that provides direction to the Academy's legislative efforts. LPPC appreciated the opportunity to clarify the 2012 - 2014 Legislative and Public Policy Priority Areas and its role in addressing food and nutrition insecurity.