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 Administrator

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 Related
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 Professional

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 Administrator

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 Nursing Home
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Staff:

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Eleanor L. Eines
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David Wagner, Esq.
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 General Counsel to
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Marian Ruth
 Investigator

Maryland Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators

Issue 30

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Annual Report

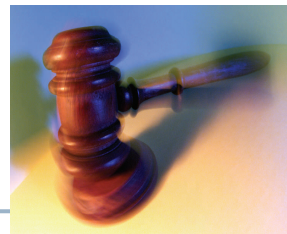
Attached is the Fiscal Year 2011 Annual Report for the Maryland Board of Examiners of Nursing Home Administrators. The report highlights the Board's activities and progress for the period of July 1, 2010 to June 30, 2011.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact the Board's office at: (410) 764-4750 or email hannigap@dhmh.state.md.us.

Disciplinary Actions

The Board suspended the Nursing Home Administrator license of Vinita Russell for three months, effective September 14, 2011. After the conclusion of the three month period of suspension, the Board will issue an order lifting the suspension and will place Ms. Russell on probation for a minimum of three years with conditions. The Board charged Ms. Russell with failing to meet substantially the standards of practice adopted by the

Board under §9-205 and §9-314(b)(3) of Health Occupations Article of the Annotated Code of Maryland. In addition, the Board concluded as a matter of law that Ms. Russell violated the following Code of Maryland Regulations: COMAR



10.33.01.15A(1), (2), (9) and (10), and COMAR 10.07.09.08C.

Changes to Regulations

During the regularly scheduled meeting on September 14, 2011, the Board approved several amendments to its 10.33.01 regulations. The passage of House Bill 114 during the 2010 legislative session required all health occupation boards to create sanctioning guidelines. The Board took this opportunity to review all of its disciplinary regulations, and drafted amendments that clarified procedures already followed by the Board, as well as incorporating the required sanctioning guidelines.

It is anticipated that the proposed amendments will be posted in the *Maryland Register* in November.

One particular regulation that does not pertain to the disciplinary sections, and may have an immediate impact on Nursing

Home Administrators is the abolishment of continuing education carry over hours.

Carry over hours were introduced by the Board when the renewal requirement was to complete 20 hours of continuing education each year for each biennial renewal instead of submitting a total of 40 hours for the renewal cycle. Completing 20 hours each year is no longer required, and with the availability of numerous on-line programs, there is no need to carry hours over from one renewal period to the next.

If you are interested in reviewing the proposed regulations prior to the posting in the *Maryland Register*, please contact this office, and we will be happy to provide a copy via email.

Board Vacancies

There is one vacancy on the Board for a geriatric social worker. The slot became available when the appointed member accepted a position outside of the field of long term care, making her ineligible for this particular category on the Board. If you know a geriatric social worker that would like to serve on the Board, please have him or her contact Anna Lieberman, in the Office of Appointments, via email at: alieberman@dhmh.state.md.us.

The term of a related health professional serving on the Board runs out April 22, 2012. An individual that fills this vacancy must be engaged actively in a profession that is concerned with the care of chronically ill, infirm, or aged individuals.

As information, Board members are expected to attend monthly meetings (usually held the second Wednesday of each month from 9:30 until approximately noon) and to actively participate on the various committees. Committee assignments may require additional meetings, tasks, or visiting nursing homes with trainees to monitor the progress of training programs. Board members are paid a \$75 per diem and are reimbursed for mileage.

By law, each Board member must be a United States citizen or have declared intent to become a citizen, and must have resided in this State for at least one year before appointment to the Board. A Board member may not be a registered lobbyist.

Please keep in mind the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene is committed to obtaining increased gender, geographic and minority representation on each of the Boards, Advisory Councils, Commissions and Task Forces. This helps ensure that decisions reached more adequately reflect the viewpoints of all populations being served.

Contact Anna Lieberman in the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene's Office of Appointments at (410) 767-4049, ALieberman@dhmh.state.md.us if you are interested in serving on the Board, and she will provide you with the necessary instructions and appointment request forms.

Dental Board Alert

The Dental Board has shared with this office a concern that has come up during one of their meetings, concerning dental hygienists planning to start businesses in nursing facilities wherein they will clean and care for the residents teeth. The Dental Board has asked that we alert Nursing Home Administrators that under HB 1302 (2010), a dental hygienist may not enter a nursing home and perform certain defined tasks without a written agreement with a supervising dentist. Regulations concerning this change in law are

currently being processed through the Department.

***Maryland Board of Examiners
of Nursing Home Administrators
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Initial findings made by the hygienist must be reported to the supervising dentist. After the initial visit, there must be an examination by the supervising dentist before the hygienist may see the patient again.