



Credentialing Excellence in Health Education

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Health Educator Job Analysis

Project Update – November 2008

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The national *Health Educator Job Analysis* project, which was announced in May of 2008, was initiated in August and is currently in progress. This 16-month project, guided by experts from the Professional Examination Service (PES) and the project steering committee (AAHE, SOPHE, and NCHEC leadership), is designed to meet recommendations from the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) for periodic analysis.

Approximately 65 volunteer health educators were selected from a pool of 200 nominees from across the nation to represent diverse demographics and practice settings. These volunteers are working through multiple stages of the project as task force members, telephone interview participants, independent reviewers, or survey pilot participants to help create a competency-based survey instrument for the job analysis. Findings from the *National Health Educator Competencies Update Project (CUP): 1998-2004*, recommendations from national leaders, and input provided from the various groups of volunteers about their current practice settings all serve as the framework for instrument development. The entire process to develop the instrument is being facilitated by representatives from PES, based on decades of experience with a multitude of professional licensing and certifying agencies. The task force had its first meeting in September of 2008, and will meet again in January and May of 2009.

The job analysis survey instrument will first be tested in a pilot study and then distributed in the spring of 2009 to a national stratified sample of approximately 4500 health educators representing diverse professional and demographic categories. Survey results and recommendations from the Health Educator Job Analysis Task Force are scheduled for completion by the fall of 2009. Once the data have been analyzed and PES has made its report, NCHEC will distribute the resulting information to the profession, and the Division Board for Certification of Health Education Specialists (DBCHEs) will incorporate any needed changes into future test items.