



"BOARD CERTIFICATION:
Engage Excellence"

THE ABOHN REPORT

Fall 2024

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Volume 45

Issue 2

A Message from the ABOHN Chair *Karen Jewell, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, COHN-S*



Hello and welcome to the 2024 fall ABOHN newsletter!

I hope this finds you all well and safe. First, I would like to begin by saying **THANK YOU** to all OHNs! You do an amazing job making sure our workers are healthy. Second, I would like to thank ABOHN Board of Directors for allowing me the privilege to serve as Chair. I continue to learn and grow in occupational nursing every day and I have met some of the most awesome people in my journey.

The Board of Directors were able to meet in June in beautiful New Bedford, Massachusetts, for our semi-annual meeting. We welcomed three new members to the board: Rebecca Mischak, Ellen Connelly, and Alexis Williams (Public Member). Each are bringing new perspective to the board with vast amounts of experience. At the same time, we said, "so long" and **not goodbye** to four board members: Beth Dammann, Nathan Britt, Ginny Carlson and Ron Pearson (Public Member). These board members will be greatly missed and are extremely appreciated for their years of service to the board and the impact they made on the future success of ABOHN and our members.

ABOHN has been busy over the past several months with YOU, our candidates, applicants, and certification holders in mind. Our mission is to promote the standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing. With diligence, this is our focus with each endeavor. We are managing with sound financial prudence using funds creatively and judiciously. The board has performed a lot of work around the exam with the pass rates in mind and many hours from many volunteers went into this process. We could not do it without those of you who volunteer your time. Much of the last 2 years has been focused on the Practice Analysis, reviewing exam items, updating handbooks, exam development and standard setting. ALL current exam items have been reviewed for relevancy and accuracy, confirmed outline classification, improved and deleted some exam items, and any changes were placed back into pre-test mode. We would also like to welcome and thank our new testing provider, ASC, for their guidance and ensuring candidates receive their test scores quicker. ABOHN staff have completed the move to a 100% virtual office.

Did you know? ABOHN has partnered with ISU and CSU and their Occupational Safety Management Programs to offer work hour credit for their course work. Course work can now be used to offset the 3000 work hours needed to apply for certification in addition to other eligibility criteria. This allows for another path for credentialing!

I would be remiss if I didn't thank our Executive Director, Betty Sanisidro. She has spent tireless hours making our organization better than it was and continues to look for areas where we can improve for the sake of our certificants and applicants.

Looking forward, there is still a lot of work to be done and many OHNs and employers to reach and educate about the power of credentialing. ABOHN continues to seek opportunities to get in front of and network with as many people as possible to promote our goal of education and credentialing.



ABOHN's examinations are accredited by the National Commission of Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the certifying body of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence (ICE). ABOHN is a proud member of the American Board of Nursing Specialties (ABNS).



ABOHN 2024—2025 Board of Directors

ABOHN is governed by a Board of Directors composed of certified occupational health nurses and one public member that are selected to be representative of the community of certified occupational health nurses. The responsibilities of the Board include establishing criteria for certification and setting policies to maintain a valid certification program.



L-R, Betty Sanisidro (ED), Carole Cusack (MD), Karen Wilson, Nancy Cronenwett, Angela Smith, Kimberly Newton, Beth Dammann, Karen Jewell, Shannon Berryhill, Ginny Carlson, Ellen Connolly, Alexis Williams, Nathan Britt, Ron Pearson, Rebecca Mischak

Governing Council

Chair: Karen Jewell, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, COHN-S
Secretary: Nancy Cronenwett, BSN, RN, COHN-S
Treasurer: Angela Smith, MBA, BSN, RN, COHN-S
COHN-S Chair: Karen Wilson, BSN, MPH, RN, COHN-S
COHN Chair: Lisa Holmes, RN, MSN, NP, COHN-S
CM Chair: Kimberly Newton, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM

Directors

Shannon Berryhill, MS, BSN, RN, COHN-S/CM., CSWCP
Ellen Connolly RN, BSN, COHN
Rebecca Mischak MSN, APRN/CNP, COHN-S/CM
Alexis Williams MBA, MS (Public Member)

Welcome to our new Directors



Eileen Connolly RN, MSN, FNP-BC, COHN

Ellen is a board certified family nurse practitioner since 2011. She received her bachelor's degree from Lewis University in 2008 and her master's in science and nursing in 2011 from Pace University. She currently is employed as an occupational health nurse practitioner with Argonne National Laboratory in Lemont, IL. Prior to her current employment, she worked as an occupational health nurse in New York at Partners in Safety. She has received several safety impact awards within her organization. In her free time, Ellen likes to travel, spend time with family, friends, and her dog, Fitz. Ellen is excited to start as one of our newest board members and looks to inspire the next generation of occupational health nurses. Welcome Ellen!

Rebecca Mischak MSN, APRN/CNP, COHN-S/CM

Rebecca has over 35 years of experience in occupational health nursing in companies involving research and development, manufacturing, corporate and healthcare. Most recently, Rebecca has been employed at the University of Illinois at Chicago where she directs the Occupational Health Service for the campus which includes the UIC Police, Facilities Management, Biological Research Laboratory, and UI Health Hospital and Clinics. Her passion is to improve the work environment for all workers through program initiatives in injury prevention, regulatory surveillance, disaster management, fitness for duty and wellbeing to maintain and enhance the health of the worker. Over the years, Rebecca has served in the following areas: UIC Clinical Faculty, Occupational Health Management and Nurse Practitioner Program, President and Director of Education for the Chicago Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Director of Education for the Illinois Association of Occupational Health Nurses, AAOHN Clinical Practice Committee and ABOHN Item Writer team. Welcome Rebecca!



Anna Alexis Williams, MBA, MS

Anna is currently the Senior Personal Safety Expertise Manager at DOW, Inc located in Plaquemine, LA. Ms. Williams has worked in various industries including public utilities, pharmaceutical manufacturing, oil & gas, and chemical manufacturing. She has a B.S in Biology from Fairmont State College, M.S. in Safety Management from West Virginia University, and an MBA from Indiana University. Welcome Anna Alexis!

Retired Board Members

Beth Dammann, RN, MPH, COHN-S



Thank you Beth!

Beth began her journey on the ABOHN BOD in June 2020. ABOHN expresses immense gratitude for Beth's countless contributions & leadership during her terms! Notably Beth was instrumental in aligning the ABOHN Strategic Plan, updating the ABOHN Mission & Vision, streamlining and updating the ABOHN Principles & Values. Her steadfast dedication to OH and OHNs was palpable in everything she did and accomplished and she will be gravely missed! Over the past four years Beth has served on the following committees:

- Chair (2022-2024)
- Secretary (2021-2022)
- COHN Advisory
- Public Relations (Chair 2021-2022)
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Policy & Procedures/Bylaws.

Nathan Britt, MSN, APRN, NP-C, COHN-S



Thank you Nathan!

Nathan started on the ABOHN BOD in June 2020. ABOHN cannot thank Nathan enough for his impactful work and effort in maintaining the organizational financial strength and viability. Additionally, his work as the Nominations Committee Chair proved irreplaceable in recruiting, interviewing and selecting SME for our exam development committees and Board of Directors! Over the past four years Nathan has served on the following committees:

- Treasurer (Chair 2021-2023)
- COHN Advisory
- COHN-S Advisory
- Research
- Public Relations
- Finance (Chair 2021-2023)
- Nominations (Chair 2023-2024)

Ginny Carlson, RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN



Thank you Ginny!

Ginny began with ABOHN in June 2020. ABOHN whole heartedly thanks Ginny for the innumerable hours of dedication and volunteer work applied towards the ABOHN exam development tasks. Her efforts were invaluable in aligning and reducing the exam references, reclassifying the exam items to the new exam content outlines, updating references for exam items and generally keeping our exam advisory committees on task! Over the past four years Ginny has served on the following committees:

- COHN Advisory (Chair 2021-2022) & (2023-2024)
- COHN-S Advisory (Chair 2021-2023)
- Research
- Public Relations
- Finance
- Strategic Planning
- Policy & Procedures/Bylaws.

Ron Pearson MS, CIH, FAIHA (Public Member)



Thank you Ron!

Ron began his journey on the ABOHN BOD in June 2022. ABOHN thanks Ron for his thoughtful and significant contributions as our Public Member. Ron was consistent in sharing insightful business acumen and worked to ensure ABOHN remains fair and equitable to our applicants, candidates, and certified OHNs! Over the past two years Ron has served on the following committees:

- Research *
- Strategic Planning.

Thank You and Best of Luck in Your Future Ventures!

Retired Board of Directors

Award Winner—Ann M. Lachat Excellence in OHN**Catherine Field, RN, COHN**

Catherine became a nurse in 2002 after earning her associate's degree from the Community College of Baltimore County. Later on, in 2015, she earned my BSN from Notre Dame of Maryland University. Her employer at the time had a great partnership with the school and made it easy and affordable to get her degree, even as a single mom of two.

For the first 14 years of Catherine's career, she was an emergency room nurse. Catherine loved the fast pace and unpredictability of her days. After participating in a medical mission trip to Haiti with Notre Dame, she became interested in the operating room and made the switch to the OR but didn't feel like it was where she was meant to be.

Catherine made the jump to Occupational Health nursing in 2017 at Johns Hopkins Hospital and has never regretted it. While this is a totally different type of nursing than she was used to, Catherine loves the work. It lets her tap into many different parts of her personality and further develop her skillset such as critical thinking, problem solving, and working with other teams within the organization.

Catherine is the mother to two amazing young men. Colin, 24, is pursuing his PhD in Planetary Science at Purdue University. Christopher, 18, is a freshman at Towson University and is studying business.

When she's not working, Catherine enjoy running and fitness. Running is her passion and she is currently training for a second 50-mile race. Catherine also sits on the board of her local running club. Living an active and healthy lifestyle is very important to Catherine and helps her to be a better woman, mother, and nurse.

Congratulations Catherine!

Award Winner—Ada Mayo Stewart Excellence in OH Case Management**Laura Davis, MS, RN, COHN-S/CM, LNCC, CLCP**

Laura Davis has clinical experience as a Registered Nurse (RN) in medical/surgical care, ambulatory care, community health, occupational health, and case management. Ms. Davis has a bachelor's degree and a master's degree in nursing from Clemson University in Clemson, South Carolina. She served as an Occupational Health Nurse with State Farm Insurance in Frederick, Maryland for four years and as a Specialist, Medical Resources, to State Farm claim handlers, leadership, and defense counsel for 18 years and served as a Senior Liability Nurse Consultant for Complex Commercial Liability with Liberty Mutual Insurance in Lawrenceville, Georgia, for three years and transitioned to Worker's Compensation Telephonic Nurse Case Management for one year.



Laura currently works as a Nurse Researcher and Certified Life Care Planner (CLCP) at In-Quis Global, an evidence-based life care planning and vocational rehabilitation services company headquartered in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina. In addition to her board certifications in life care planning and occupational health nurse case management, Ms. Davis is also a board certified Legal Nurse Consultant (LNCC). She currently resides in Bethlehem, Georgia, and enjoys spending time with family in Clemson, teaching exercise classes at the gym, and sailboat racing.

Congratulations Laura!

2 Award Winner—Debra L. Fischer Gibbon Excellence in OHN

Liza Korry, BSN, RN, COHN-S



Liza (Taylor) Korry attended the University of Wisconsin - Milwaukee where she completed her Bachelor of Science in Nursing degree in 1996. After graduation, Liza gained several years of inpatient medical/ surgical, community, utilization review, and case management nursing experience while working in varied RN roles: Wheaton St. Joseph's Hospital, Milwaukee; Milwaukee Public Schools through Spectrum Services; American Mobile Nurses, assignments in CT, CA, and WI; Innovative Resource Group and iCare, Milwaukee; and Heartland Homecare and Hospice, metro Milwaukee.

When Liza moved to Illinois in 2002, she found her niche as an Occupational Health Nurse for Baxter Healthcare in Round Lake, IL. There she assisted local and global teams of Environmental Health and Safety professionals to deliver quality Occupational Health and Safety, population health, and wellness promotion programs. She was hooked on Occupational Health and Safety from that point on!

After Baxter, Liza worked in other related areas of Occupational Health, Safety, and Risk Management leadership and consulting with United Heartland Insurance, Lutheran Social Services of WI and Upper MI, and M3 Insurance. Currently, Liza is a Lead RN, Internal Occupational Health at Froedtert & Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. She feels fortunate to lead and assist a team of Occupational Health professionals as they serve the staff at this growing academic medical institution.

Liza lives in Wind Point, Wisconsin with her husband Tim, their son Joshua, two golden doodles-- Leo and Groot, Senegal parrot—Pogie, and guinea pig—Princess. In her free time she enjoys singing, writing, graphic design, photography, and traveling. Liza is honored and blessed to accept this award established in the name of Debra Lynn Fischer Gibbon, an Occupational Health Nurse who left an unforgettable legacy among her family, colleagues, and community.

Kristan Napier, MSN, RN, CEN, COHN-S

Kristan Napier began her occupational nursing career with Marathon Petroleum Company in 2019. Over the past 29 years Kris has worked in the emergency department of 3 different health systems, maintained Certification in Emergency Nursing since 2005. For 6 years Kris was the coordinator of a Forensic Program for a Level 1 trauma center, obtained the national certification in Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner for Adults, Adolescents and Pediatrics.

Kris is currently beginning her third year as an adjunct faculty member at the University of Findlay, teaching physician assistant students about addiction and the care of that patient population. Kris graduated from Capital University with a BSN in 1995 and from Chamberlin University with a MSN in 2020. Kris was awarded the Ohio Nurse of the Year in the Emergency Category from the March of Dimes in 2016.



Congratulations Kris!

Employer Recognition Award



Premise Health is the world's leading direct healthcare provider and one of the largest digital providers in the country, serving over 11 million eligible lives across more than 2,500 of the largest commercial and municipal employers in the U.S. Premise partners with its clients to offer fully connected care - in person and in the digital environment. It operates more than 800 onsite and nearsite wellness centers in 45 states and Guam, delivering care through the Digital Wellness Center and onsite, nearsite, mobile, and event solutions. Premise delivers value by simplifying complexity and breaking down barriers to give diverse member populations access to convenient, integrated, high-quality care. Premise offers more than 30 products, delivering the breadth and depth of care required to serve organizations' total populations. The result is healthcare that meets the needs of members and their families, helping them live healthier while lowering costs for organizations. Premise Health is a very worthy recipient of the ABOHN Employer Recognition award due to its sustained support of their occupational health nurses which includes support of the ABOHN credentials.

ABOHN received the submission from not one, but FIVE! ABOHN board certified OHNs!

- Lori Knowlton COHN-S/CM
- Matt Hale, COHN-S
- Kristine Cafferky COHN-S
- Beck Garcia, COHN-S and
- Lara Spaulding, COHN-S

In the application, it was evident that certification is encouraged and supported both monetarily and philosophically. Premise Health routinely supports their OHN's by granting funds to attend the AAOHN conferences, reimburses the costs of certification prep classes, application, exam, and maintenance fees as well as offers a slew of continuing education courses.

Premise Health proudly recognizes their OHNs company wide, in their monthly newsletter "The Beat" and through their "Praise" program on their Teams platform.

Once again, thank you to Premise Health for your support of occupational health nursing.

Honorable Mentions



ABOHN is proud and thrilled to recognize the following four companies who were awarded an ABOHN 2023 Employer Recognition Honorable Mention Certificate for their support and recognition of OHNs!

- **Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory**
Submitted by: Rangineh Bassir, ANP, COHN-S & Salena Quan, ANP-C, COHN-S
- **Johnson & Johnson**
Submitted by: Deana Chhun, RN, BSN, COHN-S
- **3M**
Submitted by: Sheila Ryan, RN, COHN
- **CPS Energy**
Submitted by: Jorge Vazquez, MBA, BSN, RN, COHN-S & Anna Serratos, RN, BSN, COHN-S

ABOHN thanks these wonderful organizations for everything they do to support the OH profession and OHNs everywhere!

*The 2024 ABOHN Employer Recognition Award Application will be coming soon to your inbox!
Please consider nominating your employer!*

ABOHN At-A-Glance

American Board for Occupational Health Nurses Statement of Financial Position December 2020 and 2021

Current Assets	2020	2021
Cash & Equivalents	\$483,189	\$276,229
Investment Securities	\$814,926	\$1,156,258
Deposits	\$1,403	\$1,403
Prepaid Expenses	\$17,289	\$6,743
Property and Equipment	\$1,143	\$888
Total Current Assets	\$1,317,950	\$1,441,521

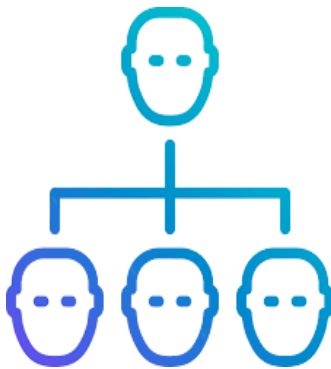
Liabilities and Net Assets	2020	2021
Accounts Payable	\$0	\$10,249
Net Assets	\$1,317,950	\$1,431,272
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$1,317,950	\$1,441,521

Certificant Status by Credential - 12/31/2023

Credential	Active	Inactive	Retired
COHN	722	12	90
COHN/CM	141	2	21
COHN-S	1447	23	499
COHN-S/CM	318	5	134
Total Dec 2021*	2628	42	744
Total Dec 2020	2842	43	682

* The total does not reflect Renewal and Recertifications that were received and processed after 12/31/2023.

Recruit a Colleague!



Do you want to encourage another occupational health nurse through the process of certification and at the same time have a **chance to win \$300?** Did you know that ABOHN relies on our credential holders to encourage certification and on average they are responsible for referring approximately 1/3 of ABOHN's yearly applicants?

Any ABOHN Board Certified OHN can recruit another RN working in occupational health through the certification process. Instruct the new applicant to note that you are the recruiting nurse in the appropriate area on the application form. Only one recruiting nurse can be noted per application. At the end of the year, there will be a random drawing to select a winner from those nurses who have recruited a colleague. Your credential (s) must be in good standing at the time of the drawing.

Thanks to all our Board Certified OHNs who encourage and mentor new applicants!

Cohort Class of 2019! Celebrating 5-year milestone of achieving Board Certification!

Congratulations to these Board Certified OHNs on their 5th anniversary of achieving the COHN, COHN-S, and CM! These Board Certified OHNs are listed as Active status as of the date of this publication.

COHN

Abenes, Samantha	Fernandez, Jennifer	Paciga, Laurette
Abrego, Marisol	Fleenor, Cathy	Pecson, Aizza
Alessa, Jillian	Fulkerson, Michael	Penton, Jonette
Alfabeto, Jodrich Aaron	Fung, Angela	Powers, Noreen
Bassett, Cherval	Graham, Stacey	Princiotto, Roberta
Birdwell, Desiree	Greenwood, Theresa	Radcliff, Charlene
Bond, Netanya	Haight, Jeffrey	Rayer, Karen
Brakeman, Jeremy	Hale, Jennifer	Salinas, Misty
Braun, Misty	Henry, Karen	Salman, Nofal
Brennan, Karen	Huber, Faye	Sams, Nicole
Campbell, Nelda	Johnson, Lindsay	Setzer, Lori
Chapman, Valerie	Jordan, Susan	Shrestha, Anu
Collingwood, Linde	Jusko, Margaret	Sielski, Becky
Compton, Doris	Karlosky, Danielle	Snyder, Donna
Comstock, Danielle	Keith, Mary Ann	Sterback, Clare
Crimarco, Virginia	Kirchoff, Colleen	Stinnett, Diana
Davis, Terri	Knight, Mindy	Vasquez, Christine
Davis, Ashley	Lefebvre, Martha	Walden, Ashley
Diekemper, Samantha	Marion, Charlene	White, Casey
Diveney, Jennifer	McCormick, Carla	Williams, Sharon
Doyan, Tiina	McCoy, Jennifer	Yarbrough, Dorothy
Du, Junrong	McGraw, Leanna	Young, Amber
Edstrom, Pamela	McKeown, Ashley	Ziegler, Sandra
Fannin, Barbra	Miller, Eva	
Farrar, Ann	Nethercote, Raquel	

COHN-S

Allison, Cheryl	Hagen, Adele	Marion, Jelencia
Ang, Bessie	Hale, Matthew	Mase, Tabe
Austin, Amanda	Hammond, Stephanie	McManus, Pauline
Bauer, Helen	Hanfelder, Mandi	Mendenhall, Carrie
Benjamin, Lynn	Harris, Nennan	Nardone, Regina
Bryant, Lisa	Hartzel, Paula	O'Regan, Kerri
Buckles, Robin	Hasson, Melissa	Powell, Elizabeth
Cabos, Christi	Hexum, Joyce	Reynolds, Laura
Caruso, Elizabeth	Howlett, Sabrina	Robinson, Martina
Causey, Linda	Hughes, Megan	Roy, Sheila
Cheung, Sze-keung	Ingram, Melissa	Salis, Seidatu
Clingenpeel, Dawn	Jewell, Karen	Schmidt, Karen
Coleman, Patricia	Johnson, Rebecca	Schumacher, Kevin
Collier, Amanda	Johnston, Deborah	Seeburger, Sara
Costello, Christopher	Kanthak, Martha	Shaw, Chrissy
Cronenwett, Nancy	Kelley, Jessica	Silakka, Marta
Cruz, Sheree	Kelly, Kathleen	Smith, Sedonia
Deitz, Rebekah	Kershner, Kaitlyn	Talwar, Kawalpreet
Dougherty, Frances	Kiker, Debra	Tippette, Wendy
Dromgoole, Jennifer	Kincaid, Marie	Tribble, Jennifer
Durkan, Virginia	King, Sarah	Trottman, David
Edward, Meg	Kolb, Monique	Volpe, Diane
Euell, Anita	Kropff, Kelly	Ward, Jennifer
Evans, Brenda	Kwon, Suyoung	Whelan, Marjorie
Fischer, Marlene	Landry, Melissa	Wilhelmsen, Kathleen
Frazier, Marie	Leidecker, Chrystal	Wilken, Kelly
Gibson, Jenna	Llagas, Reynante	Wilson, Jill
Gibson, Linda	Lockhart, Tammy	Wisniewski, Stacey
Gonzalez, Maranda	Lockett, James	Wojtak, Lisa
Green, Stacy	MacIsaac, Rebecca	
Grooms, Kori	Makurat-Coon, Christy	
Groover, Robin	Malone, Christine	
Grubbs, Katharine	Margrave, Sarah	

CM

Baron, Lisa	Eckhart, Dena	Lapp, Cora
Barveld, Sally	Gaca, Mary	Mourad, Carolyn
Blankenship, Beth	Haidet, Chad	Tropea, Lisa
Cooley, Kimberly	Hauschildt, Margaret	Uplinger, Sara
Delgado, Shari	Johnson, Cynthia	Wyzkiewicz, Pamela

Milestones!



www.abohn.org

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ABOHN Vision Statement

ABOHN Certification is recognized and valued as the standard to maximize the health, safety and well-being of workers worldwide.

ABOHN Mission Statement

ABOHN's mission is to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing

Principles and Values

To accomplish its mission and vision, and elevate the quality of occupational health nursing practice, ABOHN commits its resources to achieving the following principles and values:

- Develop and promote credentialing standards for professional occupational health nurses
- Establish a standard for occupational health nursing programs
- Empower occupational health nurses to continue professional education.
- Create value for employers, workers and occupational health professionals through certification.
- Publicly recognize individuals who have met credentialing standards
- Optimize partnerships with organizations that share the ABOHN mission and values.
- Perform the above unrestricted by consideration of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, or other legally protected category.

ABOHN Staff

Betty Sanisidro, DNP, MSN, RN, COHN-S, APHN-BC
Executive Director

Carole Cusack, MBA, ICE-CCP
Managing Director

Reine Salibi
Administrative Associate (Part-time)