Breathing Matters Newsletter Retires

After more than ten years, our Breathing Matters newsletter is retiring. The Board has established a new efficient means to provide information to you through the use of its e-mail outreach program. This method of delivering information to inform and educate the respiratory care community on current Board updates, trends, and news items related to respiratory care will replace the distribution of the Board’s current newsletter beginning in 2014. That’s right, this is the last edition of Breathing Matters you will receive in the mail!

Sign up today to continue to receive important updates and information from the Board! It’s simple. Visit [www.rcb.ca.gov](http://www.rcb.ca.gov) and click on the link “Subscribe to Our E-mail List.” You may use this same link to unsubscribe at any time. Be sure to contact the Board’s office if you need assistance.

Each issue of Breathing Matters contains important information about the profession and the activities of the Board. For your convenience, all issues of Breathing Matters for the past ten years will remain available on the Board’s Web site at [www.rcb.ca.gov/media_outreach/newsletters.shtml](http://www.rcb.ca.gov/media_outreach/newsletters.shtml).

Board Moves to Establish RRT as Minimum Requirement for Licensure

On February 1, 2013, after a presentation made by several members of the California Society for Respiratory Care, the Respiratory Care Board of California (Board) passed a motion to recognize the Registered Respiratory Therapist (RRT) examination as the minimum requirement for licensure. The Board’s proposed implementation date of January 1, 2015, is contingent upon gaining authority through the legislative process.

What will this new requirement mean for you? As currently proposed if you are:

- An applicant and have not yet received a license, you must either 1) show evidence that you passed the Certified Respiratory Therapist (CRT) exam prior to January 1, 2015, or 2) pass the RRT exam thereafter.
- A holder of a current respiratory care practitioner license that has NOT cancelled, you will not be required to do anything.
- A holder of a cancelled respiratory care practitioner license who is planning to reapply for licensure you will need to 1) show evidence of passing the CRT exam prior to January 1, 2015, or 2) pass the RRT exam thereafter.

This new proposal is a natural transition in line with the elimination of entry-level education programs in 2012 pursuant to revised standards of the Committee on Accreditation for Respiratory Care (CoARC) and the restructuring of the CRT and RRT examinations by the National Board for Respiratory Care (NBRC) (also expected to be in place January 1, 2015).
Board Welcomes New Members

The Board recently welcomed three new members, making it the first time in nearly a decade that all nine Board member positions are filled. Please join the Board in welcoming its new members!

Mary Ellen Early was appointed to the Respiratory Care Board in April 2013 by Governor Edmund G. Brown Jr. Ms. Early was an information technology security analyst at Valley Presbyterian Hospital from 2007 to July 2013, and also served in other IT positions at Valley Presbyterian Hospital from 1972 to 2007. Ms. Early was a ward clerk at Riveredge Hospital in 1972, and was a nurse aide at Loretto Hospital from 1969 to 1972. Ms. Early received her bachelor’s degree in psychology from the University of California, Los Angeles, where she participates in the Governmental Affairs Advocacy Program, and previously served as a public member with the California Board of Psychology.

BreEZe System Now Available

The RCB was among one of the first licensing boards to transition to the new Department of Consumer Affairs (DCA) updated computer system, called BreEZe, which replaced licensing and enforcement legacy systems that were more than 20 years old. Staff dedicated countless resources toward the transition to BreEZe which finally launched in October 2013. All boards and bureaus under DCA will be transitioned to the new system over the next 18 months. Once completed, BreEZe will be one of the largest online enterprise licensing and enforcement solutions in the world, bringing improved access to our services, greater ease of use for our stakeholders and improved back-office functionality that will greatly enhance our licensing and enforcement efficiency.

Now, users can:

- Renew a license in real time.
- Make payments with a major credit card in a secure environment.
- Make an address change in real time.
- Request a duplicate license.
- Request an out-of-state license verification.
- Verify a license.
- File a complaint.

Once the system is fully functional, additional services that will be available will include the ability to:

- Apply for an initial license.
- Track the status of an application or licensing request.
- Track the status of a complaint.

For additional information, please visit [www.breeze.ca.gov](http://www.breeze.ca.gov), and watch for future updates as enhanced features become available.
Board Welcomes New Members (continued from page 2)

Laura C. Romero, Ph.D., currently serves as a President and Chief Executive Officer of Brillante Strategies, a public affairs and professional development consulting firm. Prior to this position, she worked at Los Angeles Universal Preschool for over two years focusing on corporate relations. Dr. Romero also worked at UCLA for 10 years in various capacities. She taught a UCLA Fiat Lux seminar titled, “Civic Engagement in Los Angeles,” and worked as assistant director at the UCLA Higher Education Research Institute and assistant director of Local Government and Community Relations at UCLA for over eight years. At the Office of Government and Community Relations (GCR), she successfully promoted UCLA’s tripartite mission of research, teaching, and public service by diplomatically working with diverse constituencies including elected officials, community and corporate leaders, faculty, staff, students, alumni, and volunteers. Prior to assuming her GCR role, Dr. Romero worked within the private and public sectors as acting director of Public Affairs at KMEX-TV Channel 34/Univision and National Mentoring Coordinator of the award winning Communities In Schools, Inc./Univision Mentoring Initiative. Dr. Romero received her bachelor’s, master’s, and doctoral degrees from UCLA, and said she is honored to have been appointed to the Respiratory Care Board in May 2013, by the Senate Rules Committee.

Dr. Ronald H. Lewis, of Rancho Mirage, California, was appointed to the Respiratory Care Board in June of 2013 by the Senate Rules Committee. Dr. Lewis has been a physician and surgeon with the California Department of Corrections at Ironwood State Prison since 2008. He also has been an assistant clinical professor at the University of California, San Diego Department of Medicine since 2000. Prior to that, Dr. Lewis was an urgent care physician at Eisenhower Immediate Care from 2003 to 2008, and Sharp Rees-Stealy Medical Group from 2001 to 2004. Lewis was the director of medical affairs at Agouron Pharmaceuticals Inc. from 1997 to 2001 and at Sequus Pharmaceuticals Inc. from 1995 to 1997. He was a clinical assistant professor at Stanford University School of Medicine from 1993 to 1999, and held multiple positions at Syntex Laboratories Inc. from 1987 to 1995, including associate director of medical services, senior associate director of medical services, and senior associate director, clinical investigation. Dr. Lewis was an emergency department physician at St. Mary’s Hospital and Medical Center in San Francisco from 1985 to 1995. Dr. Lewis earned his doctor of medicine degree at The George Washington University in Washington D.C., and is a Fellow of the American College of Physicians.

Michael Hardeman was appointed to the Respiratory Care Board in July of 2013 by the Speaker of the Assembly. Mr. Hardeman was born, raised, and educated in San Francisco. He and his wife Marina have three children and two grandchildren. Prior to retiring in July of 2011 as business manager of the Sign Display Local Union 510, Mr. Hardeman was a sign painter and pictorial artist. He has served on dozens of notable boards and commissions including more than 15 years on the San Francisco Port Commission, and 30 years on the San Francisco Labor Council Executive Committee. Currently, Mr. Hardeman is the president of the San Francisco Fire Department Commission, and serves on the Angel Island Immigration Station Board and Serenity House of San Francisco. He is also chair of the OPE Local 3 Pension Trust Fund, and co-chair of the Health and Welfare Fund, and also serves on the Consumer Federation of California Policy Board. Mr. Hardeman has coached youth baseball and basketball, and is a season ticket holder for both the San Francisco 49ers and the San Francisco Giants.
Address Change Notification

You must notify the Board in writing within 14 days of an address change.

Failure to do so could result in fines ranging from $25 to $5,000, and delay your receipt of important materials.

The Board encourages you to use the BreEZo system for a real-time address update.

Address updates received via mail or fax must include your RCP number, your previous address, your new address, and your signature.

Upcoming Board Meetings

The Respiratory Care Board will soon be scheduling its 2014 meetings.

All meetings are open to the public, and the Board welcomes and encourages your attendance!

You can access, and even print a copy of meeting agendas and materials, which are posted 10 days prior to a meeting date.

Please visit our Web site at www.rcb.ca.gov in early December for more information on 2014 meeting dates, times, and locations.

This is our last issue of Breathing Matters.

Please subscribe to our E-mail List at:
www.rcb.ca.gov

(more information on page 1)