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CCE "NOT IN COMPLIANCE"

continued from page 1

CCE directly in a dialogue regarding their concerns. The CCE declined to recognize their concerns or complaints and thus CNJC and DECE directed their issues in the form of a written complaint to the USDE as a last resort.

Among the harshest USDE findings was that related to "administrative and fiscal responsibilities." The complaint alleged that:

"CCE board members, commissioners, and evaluation team members with professional, economic and/or geographic conflicts of interest were utilized in the decision making process leading to the revocation of accreditation of Life University College of Chiropractic (LUCC). Specifically, individuals who participated in the decision making process subsequently attempted to purchase LUCC, or recruit students from LUCC."

The CCE, in response to the USDE inquiry regarding this point, asserted that the CCE "had no part in efforts to recruit LUCC or purchase LUCC," and that they had never received complaints regarding such activities. Despite the CCE response, the USDE found that CCE was "not in compliance," and that:

"CCE apparently has never directly responded to the allegation of conflict of interest by its members, commissioners, and evaluation team members, despite having received a letter of complaint from CNJC on March 24, 2003. Although the agency identifies policies designed to prevent conflict of interest, it has apparently not investigated this allegation to determine if violations of its policies took place. In the absence

of such an investigation, Department staff must conclude that either CCE does not have clear and effective controls against conflict of interest, or has failed to implement such controls where appropriate."

USDE also found the CCE to be "not in compliance" in the operating procedures all agencies must have to address complaints in an objective and timely manner, citing the CCE's failure to respond to the CNJC complaint of 2003, stating that "... pursuant to this same letter, CCE did not review itself in a timely or fair manner, and apply unbiased judgment to a complaint against itself."

The USDE also found CCE "not in compliance" in the area of the required "independent" nature of "members of the agency's decision-making body - who decide the accreditation or pre-accreditation status of institutions or programs, establish the agency's accreditation policies or both." The USDE found that, "The CCE needs to revise its policies pertaining to the election of Commissioners such that the CCE Board of Directors cannot serve as officers or board members of any related, associated or affiliated trade association or membership organization."

USDE did find the CCE "in compliance" on three of the areas cited in the CNJC/DECE complaint, including concerns that CCE was accepted by the profession at large, had adequate provisions to undertake "substantive change" requirements for accredited institutions, and that the re-accreditation of Life University's College of Chiropractic, on the basis of a federal court order, was acceptable, even though it was outside the normal provisions for re-accrediting an institution that had had its accreditation revoked.

The USDE letter to the CCE concluded by stating: "For the findings for which your agency has been found to be in noncompliance with the Criteria, we request that you take immediate steps to correct the violations identified. Please forward to us by October 17, 2005 your plan of corrective action to include timelines for completion of such actions. A follow-up report of your agency's corrective actions will be requested."

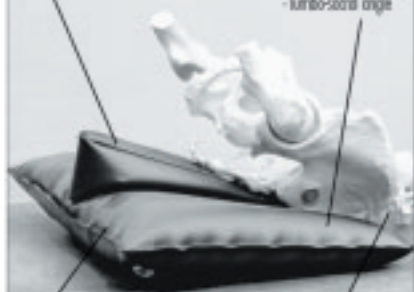
The exact implications of the USDE findings remain to be seen, and will likely depend on the nature and timeliness of the CCE response, and whether genuine reforms are undertaken by the chiropractic accrediting body. ICA will offer the CCE and the organizations concerned with the current configuration and operating procedures of the CCE to present additional insight and their comments and reactions in a future edition of this paper.



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