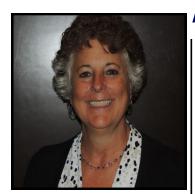


# THE ABOHN REPORT

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### Spring 2020 Volume 43 Issue 1



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Accredited by the : National Commission for Certifying Agencies



### A Message from the ABOHN Chair by Michele Willis, BSN, RN, COHN-S

Oh, the times we live in..... I hope that you are well and safe! I know this is not how any of us expected to be spending our Spring. PPE shortages, quarantines, stay at home orders, grocery shortages and all the challenges that we are having due to COVID 19 have made for interesting times to say the least. As nurses, most especially occupational health nurses, we have learned to be flexible and attacked our challenges in a thoughtful, systematic way with our client's health and safety at the forefront. Thank you to each and every one of you for what you are doing on a day to day basis to keep your patients, employees and families safe. We will survive and our normal may not look like it did a few short months ago but we will adapt and move forward!

A warm welcome to Lucy Carlson the new ABOHN Executive Director. I have had the honor and pleasure of working with Lucy as a fellow ABOHN Board member for the past 3 ½ years and I know she will work tirelessly to promote Occupational Health Certification.

Please know that the ABOHN staff continues to work and is available to you for your certification questions. Also look for your weekly ABOHN updates which includes news and resources.

Wishing you health and safety! Michele Michele I. Willis BSN, RN ,COHN-S, FAAOHN

ABOHN Board Chair

## **Testing Resumes May1, 2020**

PSI is opening testing sites on a rolling basis based on each states'

re-opening protocols. ABOHN is extending the

## 50% Exam Rebate Fee

through August 31, 2020.

For more information, please see page 7.

## **Call for Board of Director Nominees**

### ABOHN will require three (3) Directors for 2021-2022 Board

We constantly strive to represent all credentials (COHN, COHN-S, CM), industries, and regions, including Canada, with whom we have a Reciprocity agreement.

If you are interested in serving on ABOHN's Board of Directors, please find the information online at <u>www.abohn.org</u> under the <u>About Us</u> tab and within the Board section.

THANK YOU!

### ABOHN 2019-2020 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.



Front Row L-R: Carole Cusack (Managing Director), Daurice Holly, Michele Willis (Chair), Jean Drevdahl-Orchard. Back Row L-R: Denise Matthews, Jim Persoon (Public Member), Pam Swann, Melinda Cordova, Kari Kilbride, Lucy Carlson (Executive Director), and Marilyn Brownlee

### Governing Council

Chair: Michele Willis, BSN, RN, COHN-S Secretary: Melinda Cordova, BSN, RN, COHN/CM Treasurer: Kari Kilbride, MPH, BSN, RN, COHN-S COHN-S Chair: Denise Matthews, BSN, RN, COHN-S COHN Chair: Denise Matthews, BSN, RN, COHN-S COHN Chair: Pam Swann, RN, COHN COHN Chair: Jean Orchard, Ph.D., RN-BC, CCM, CIH, CSP, CHMM, COHN-S/CM Directors Marilyn Brownlee, NP-PHC, FNP-C, DIH (Toronto), MScN, COHN-S/CM (Canada) Daurice Holly, RN, COHN, CCM, FAAOHN Jim Persoon, Ph.D. (Public Member)

## **Introducing ABOHN's New Executive Director!**

## Lucy Carlson MS, MPH, RN, COHN-S/CM



**Lucy** is a graduate of the University of Minnesota-Schools of Public Health and Nursing, attaining both MPH and MS degrees. She holds the COHN-S/CM credential and has occupational health (OH) experience in onsite clinical, business consultative and global corporate services.

Lucy's employment history includes 18 years in acute care nursing positions and over 25 years as an OHN including: Honeywell Corporate Headquarters, Allina Employee Occupational Health Services Manager, Community OH program Director, and OH Manager in the 3M Corporate Medical Department.

Lucy has worked with OHNs globally to develop and implement training, professional development and maintain corporate Global Health Standards. She is an Affiliate Instructor in the Division of Environmental Health Services, School of Public Health at the University of Minnesota. Lucy has served for 4 years on the board of ABOHN.

Welcome Lucy and best of luck in your new position!

# Congratulations ABOHN Newly Board Certified

### CLASS OF 2019

### **BOARD CERTIFICATION: ENGAGE EXCELLENCE**

Join us in congratulating these occupational health nurses for their accomplishments and for their right to use the COHN, COHN-S and CM credentials which they gained last year by passing stringent examinations for certification

We proudly present the ABOHN Class of 2019

#### Certified Occupational Health Nurse (COHN)

Abenes, Samantha Abrego, Marisol Alfabeto, Jodrich Aaron Avotte, Linda Bassett, Cherval Birdwell, Desiree Bond, Netanya Brakeman, Jeremy Braun, Misty Brennan, Karen Burden, Angela Campbell, Nelda Chron, Dina Cofrancesco, Ann Collingwood, Linde Compton, Doris Comstock, Danielle Crimarco, Virginia Crout, Ashley Davis, Terri Delgado, Shari\*\* Diekemper, Samantha Diveney, Jennifer Doyan, Tiina Du, Junrong Edstrom, Pamela Estrada, Susanna Fannin, Barbra Farrar, Ann Fernandez, Jennifer Fleenor, Cathy Fleming, Joyce Freeman, Robert Fulkerson, Michael Fung, Angela Gann, Janice Genovese, Faith Graham, Stacey Gray, Chevon Greenwood, Theresa Haight, Jeffrey Hale, Jennifer Henry, Karen Huber, Faye Hubert, Leanna Johnson, Lindsay Jordan, Susan Jusko, Margaret Karlosky, Danielle Keith, Mary Ann Kirchoff, Colleen Knight, Mindy Leathers, Deborah Lefebvre, Martha Lockhart, Trisha Marion, Charlene McCormick, Carla McCov, Jennifer McKeown, Ashley Miller, Eva Mora, Jennifer Muecke, Valerie Nethercote, Raquel O'Connor, Jillian Ostrander Kathy Paciga, Laurette

Pecson, Aizza Penton, Jonette Powers, Noreen Princiotto, Roberta Radcliff, Charlene Rayer, Karen Redmond, Michael Richards, Cathleen Salinas, Misty Salman, Nofal Sams, Nicole Setzer, Lori Shrestha, Anu Sielski, Becky Snyder, Donna Steele, Clinton Steimel, Joanne Steinbeck, Amy Stepp, Theresa Sterback, Clare Stinnett, Diana Tropea, Lisa\*\* Tostovarsnik, Debra Vasquez, Christine Villane, Debra Voss, David Walden, Ashley Weber, Mary Weingart, Olivia White, Casey Williams, Sharon Yarbough, Dorothy Young, Amber Ziegler, Sandra

Tuznik, Jessica

#### <u>Certified Occupational</u> <u>Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S)</u>

Allison, Chervl Ang, Bessie Austin, Amanda Barrowcliff, Dawn Bartelt, Nicole Bauer Helen Benjamin, Lynn Boutwell, Kimberly Bryant, Cynthia\* Bryant, Lisa Buckles, Robin Cabos, Christi Carr, Candice Caruso, Elizabeth Causey, Linda Cheung, Sze-keung Cicchetti, Phyllis Clingenpeel, Dawn Coleman, Patricia Coleman-Portell, Bi Bi Collier, Amanda Costello, Christopher Cronenwett, Nancy Cruz, Sheree Damboise, April Deitz, Rebekah Dougherty, Frances Durkan, Virginia Edward, Meg Euell, Anita

Evans, Brenda Farris, Aarika Fischer, Marlene Fox, Judy Franceschi, Nina Frazier, Marie Gervasoni, Erin Gibson. Jenna Gibson, Linda Gonzalez, Maranda Green, Stacy Griesmer, Danielle Griggs, JoAnn Grooms, Kori Groover, Robin Grubbs, Katharine Guhl, Brent Hagen, Adele Haidet, Chad\* Hale, Matthew Hammond, Stephanie Hanfelder, Mandi Harris, Nennan Hartzel, Paula Hasson, Melissa Hexum, Joyce Hopkins, Sarah Howlett, Sabrina Hughes, Megan Ingram, Melissa Jewell, Karen Johnson, Rebecca . Johnston, Deborah Kanthak, Martha Kelley, Jessica Kelly, Kathleen Kennedy, Miranda Kershner, Kaitlyn Kiker, Debra Kim, Jung Kincaid, Marie Kolb, Monique Kropff, Kelly Kwon, Suyoung Landry, Melissa Leidecker, Chrystal Llagas, Reynante Lockhart, Tammy Luckett, James MacIsaac, Rebecca Makurat-Coon, Christy Malone, Christine Margrave, Sarah Marion, Jelencia Mase, Tabe McKay, Michelle McManus, Pauline McQuarrie, Jocelyn Mendenhall, Carrie Merrill, Janet Micka, Tiffany Monroe, Zackie Mourad, Carolvn\*\* Nardone, Regina Natole, Angela O'Regan, Kerri O'Reilly, Kimberly Porter, Jennifer Powell, Elizabeth

inson, Martina Ross, Randall Roy, Sheila Salis, Seidatu Schmidt, Karen Schumacher, Kevin Seeburger, Sara Shaw, Chrissy Silakka, Marta Smith, Sedonia Smith, Cody Spain, Barbara Straight, Ami Strittmatter, Emily Tadlock, Sheri Talwar, Kawalpreet Tebolt, Allison Tippette, Wendy Tribble, Jennifer Trottman, David Volpe, Diane Ward, Jennifer Werner, Rebecca Whelan, Marjorie White, Nancy Wilhelmsen, Kathleen Wilken, Kelly Williams, Linda Lorraine Wilson, Jill Wisniewski, Stacey Woitak, Lisa Worth, Colleen Zerangue, Michael Zipp, Bridget

#### <u>Case Management –</u> (CM)

Baron, Lisa Barveld, Sally Blankenship, Beth Bryant, Cynthia\*\* Cooley, Kimberly Delgado, Shari\*\* Eckhart, Dena Gaca, Mary Giano, Sara Haidet, Chad\*\* Hauschidt, Margaret Johnson, Cynthia King, Diane Lapp, Cora Mourad, Carolyn\*\* Savant, Susan Tropea, Lisa\*\*

\*\* Indicates passed an ABOHN Core Credential and CM examination in the same year.

### 2019–2020 Testing Timeline

Jun/Oct. 2019

Dec. 2019 -Feb..2020



Feb. 2020

Mar. 2020



The ABOHN Examination **Development Advisory** Committee (EDAC) were the catalysts needed to update our COHN, COHN-S. and CM examinations based on the findings of the ABOHN 2018 Practice Analysis. During all of 2019, this group of volunteers wrote hundreds of questions and reviewed all forms of the examinations including categorizing all questions per the blueprints.

Thank you to the EDAC for their contributions .We appreciate your work and dedication to ABOHN to and OH nursing.

#### Pictured Above:

Back Row: Nathan Britt, Debbie George, Paula Kerns, Anne Robbins, June Magnussen, Peter Mott, Derlene Spence-Ogilvie Front Row: Jean Drevdahl-Orchard, Lisa Wolf, Shelly Warrick, Pat Paquin, Michelle Edwards, Shari Turley ABOHN instituted a Testing Black Out beginning in December of 2019 through February 2020.

**Testing Black Out** 

The final examinations of the "old" test forms were given in November 2019.

ABOHN offered a 50% Rebate of the Exam Fee for those applicants who would sit the exams in March 2020.

We require a large group of individuals willing to take the exam, but not receive their official scores at the time of the exam in order to perform a final review and cut score.





### Revised Testing Began!

The ABOHN Standard Setting Committee (SSC) met in Olathe Kansas with our testing agency, PSI, for a final review of all forms for each examination. Per NCCA Accreditation Standards, we needed a second group of people, with little overlap of EDAC individuals to have more SMEs review and vet the questions, answers, and references against the test blueprint.

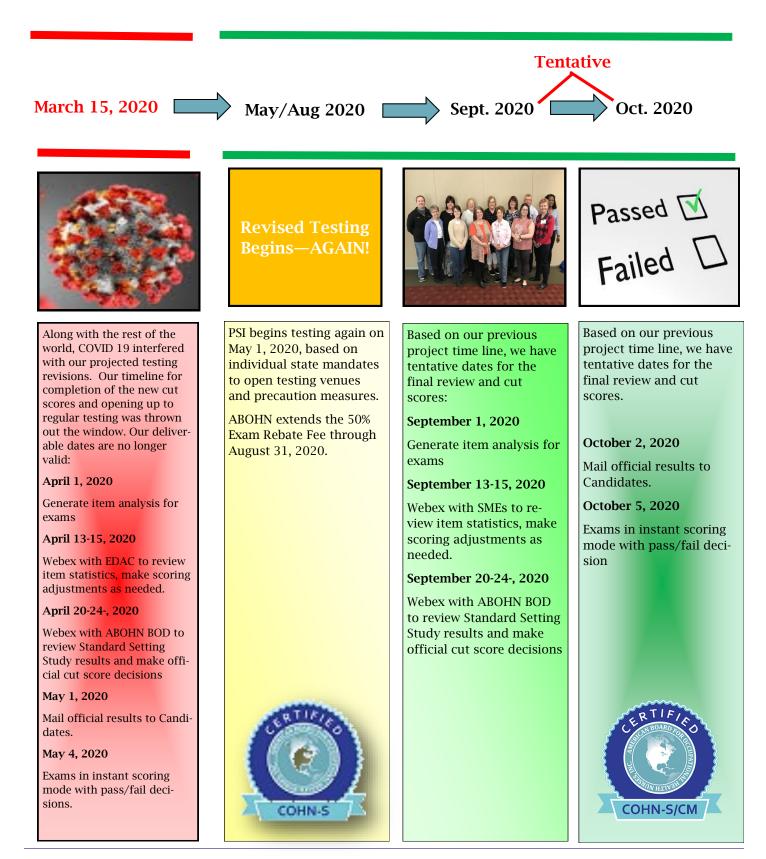
Thank you to the SSC for their contributions .We appreciate your work and dedication to ABOHN to and OH nursing.

Pictured Above:

Front Row: Peter Mott, Cherie Holodnick, Michelle Jones, Nancy Stewart Back Row: Jean Orchard, Nina Larkins, Derleen Spence-Ogilive, Waynette Boyd, Debbie George, Paula Gray, Anne Robbins, Becky Edge, Melinda Cordova Not Pictured: Phyllis Symulesk The updated examinations for COHN, COHN-S and CM were available for testing starting Monday March 2, 2020.



## 2019-2020 Testing Timeline—Continued



#### Page 6

### **ABOHN Board Activities**

The ABOHN Board of Directors (BOD) worked diligently in the past six months to support the mission and goals of ABOHN and certified OHNs.

**Exam Development Advisory Committee (EDAC)** - Directors continue their work with the (EDAC) committees for the COHN, COHN-S and CM examinations to complete the testing of new items. This included categorizing all questions per the blueprints and confirming all references. This was not a small task and took many long hours of meetings for everyone involved. A big THANK YOU to EDAC committee members for your dedication and commitment to excellence in occupational health nursing!

**Standard Setting Committee (SSC)** - We appreciate the many ABOHN certified OHNs who volunteered to be members of the Standard Setting Committees (SSC) for each of the examinations. The SSC and Directors met in Kansas City in February to review each question in the new examinations and recommended "cut" scores. Thank you to everyone involved in this valuable and required activity!

**BOD Committees -** Directors participate on core committees that contribute to ABOHN operations. Highlights of committee activities include:

- **Research Committee** completed a poster on the findings of the 2018 Practice Analysis. The poster is a useful tool for communicating the practice analysis process and how the results guide the certification examinations. Watch for the poster at future conferences!
- **Public Relations Committee** promoted and communicated the Testing Blackout Dates and Examination Fee Rebate. Advertising was completed for the open BOD and Executive Director positions.
- **Nominations Committee** provided the BOD with a full slate of candidates for open Director positions. The committee identified members of the EDAC and SSC committees.
- **Finance Committee** made recommendations for the examination rebate and developed a draft 2020 ABOHN Budget for approval at the January board meeting.

### Semi-annual BOD Meeting

The ABOHN Board of Directors (BOD) met in Albuquerque, NM on January 22-25 for the semi-annual board meeting. Every item on the full agenda was accomplished including the election of new board members, interviews and selection of an Executive Director and approval of the 2020 budget!

In addition, the ABOHN Board of Directors reviewed the Strategic Plan. The Board reviews the Strategic Plan throughout the year to make sure that the business is on track.

Strategic Plan - For 2020-2021, the Board is focusing on the following strategies and initiatives:

#### Strategy 1: Customer Value

#### *Provide support to applicants/candidates*

1. Continue survey of successful candidates.

#### Recognize currently certified

- 1. Certified OHNs celebrating a 10-year certification milestone will be recognized in the Fall 2020 newsletter.
- 2. Recruit A Colleague: ABOHN will send information on our Recruit A Colleague initiative to all new credential holders as part of their package they receive after they have passed their exam.

#### Strategy 3: Sustainability

#### ABOHN remains financially viable

1. Financials reviewed monthly by the Governing Council .

#### Item bank maintained in continued state of readiness

1. Maintain 12 Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) on the Exam Development Advisory Committee (EDAC).

#### **Strategy 2: Quality**

#### Compliance with regulatory guidelines

- 1. NCCA Accreditation ABOHN's credentials, COHN, COHN-S, and CM, are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).
- 2. Examination Pass Rate Review The Board closely monitors exam results monthly.
- 3. Examination Development ABOHN continues to revise and update the exams to reflect the findings in the latest practice analysis.

# Strategy 4: Outreach and Growth *Public Relations*

- 1. Send a special recognition to the certified OHNs during April OHN week.
- 2. Publish the names of the recent newly certified OHNs, who took the exam in the previous month.

### **ABOHN Testing Resumes**

### **Test Centers Openings**

PSI plans to reopen Owned and Operated test centers in the United States May 1, 2020 based on jurisdictional analysis to determine each state's allowance and/or restrictions for operating.

- Sites will reopen meeting social distancing standards, at reduced capacity to allow for candidate spacing. Please note that scheduling options may be limited as a result. PSI will evaluate demand daily to plan for extra hours as needed.
- All health and safety requirements have already been implemented.

PSI has created a frequently asked questions document which can be found at <u>https://www.psionline.com/wp-content/uploads/psi-services-covid-19-faqs.pdf.</u> This link will be continually updated, so please check back frequently.

### 50% Exam Fee Rebate Extended

As COVID-19 continues to affect our lives and OHNs are part of the essential front line workers, **ABOHN is extending the 50% Examination Rebate Fee through August 31, 2020.** The rebate is based on the U.S. Exam Fee cost of \$400.00 for COHN and COHN-S and \$250.00 for Case Management.

ABOHN needs a significant number of applicants to take the exams during so the final vetting and cut scores can be determined. Those that take an exam from May 1, 2020 through August 31, 2020 will not receive their exam results until October. While we realize that this is an inconvenience, it is necessary for our exam development.

The application process and fees are:

- Submit an application and required documentation to the ABOHN office for the COHN, COHN-S and CM with the non-refundable \$150.00 application fee. (Online or by mail)
- After acceptance into Candidate status, an invoice will be sent for the exam fee which must be paid in full. \$400.00 for the COHN and COHN-S. \$250.00 for the CM.
- Candidates who schedule and take the exam by the 8/31/2020 deadline will receive a rebate check with their official results.

COHN Rebate = \$200.00 COHN-S Rebate = \$200.00 CM Rebate = \$125.00

If you have any questions, please contact the ABOHN office at 630-789-5799 or info@abohn.org.

## **Recruit A Colleague!**

Congratulations to

### **Candace Sandal, COHN-S**

**of Delaware** for winning the 2019 *Recruit A Colleague for Certification* program award. Candace received a \$300.00 check for encouraging her colleague to sit for the exam. ABOHN credential holders recruited 145 fellow colleagues to apply for the examinations in 2019.

All Certified Occupational Health Nurses (COHN) and Certified Occupational Health Nurse—Specialists (COHN-S) can recruit a fellow nurse working in occupational health. Prospective candidates can indicate on their application a particular COHN/COHN-S holder who has recruited them to initiate the process for certification. The ABOHN office keeps track of these individuals and a random drawing is conducted to pick the winner.

### **Credentialing Statistics—Year End**

The ABOHN Board of Directors are tasked with many challenges in order to sustain a specialty credentialing program. Table 1 shows the official ABOHN Active, Inactive and Retired certification holders that were in our database system as of 12/31/2019. As the base of our credential holders approach retirement age, we see a decline in Active credential holders. Table 2 shows the number of candidates and the pass rate for each exam over the past years.

CREDENTIAL	ACTIVE	INACTIVE	RETIRED
COHN	813	9	67
COHN/CM	166	0	14
COHN-S	1720	17	426
COHN-S/CM	378	8	110
Total 12/31/2019*	3077	33	617
Total 12/31/2018	3200	22	554

#### Table 1 (left)

#### ACTIVE:

Credential holders who have met the criteria to hold certification.

#### **INACTIVE:**

Credential holders who have not met one or more requirements for active status and have opted to take inactive status until they are compliant with the requirements.

#### **RETIRED:**

Credential holders no longer in practice and maintain their retirement status with ABOHN.

\*These numbers do not include those certificants' whose renewal and/or recertification paperwork was processed after 12/31/2019.

### **Credentialing Statistics–Pass Rate Percentage**

	Exam Session		СОН	N		COHN	N-S		СМ	
Table 2 (right) The number of COHN and COHN-S candidates who passed their certification		Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed	Candidates	Number Passed	Percentage Passed
examination in 2019 was down significantly. Taking	2014	86	70	77%	150	121	74.2%	17	19	88%
the correct test based on your practice, not educa- tion, has a direct impact on	2015	64	48	75%	148	102	69%	22	18	82%
the exam passing point.	2016	53	34	64.2%	119	70	58.8%	23	18	78.3%
We attribute the increase in testing volume to the Test- ing Black Out implemented in 2019. Many of the candi-	2017	84	68	80.9%	117	82	70.0%	14	9	64.2%
dates expressed their de- sire to test before the new	2018	99	70	71.4%%	114	65	58.0%	14	12	85.7%%
exams went into effect.	2019	144	92	63.9%	188	127	67.6%	21	17	81%

### **Credentialing Statistics**-Recertification

Recertification is required to maintain your credential. Every year there are nurses who retire, change jobs into nonoccupational health fields and/or ABOHN has lost contact. All of these areas impact the percent of ABOHN credential holders that recertify each year. Table 3 shows ABOHN's recertification data for the past few years. The current fees associated with all ABOHN's tests; application, exam, renewal and recertification can be found in Table 4.

Recertification Year	Certificants Due for Recertification	Certificants Achieved Recertification	Percent of Recertification
2013	1131	388	64%
2014	1096	783	69%
2015	962	752	78.6%
2016	721	567	58%
2017	564	451	62.6%
2018	520	327	93.4%
2019	615	530	86.2%

Table 3 – Recertification Statistics

### **Application, Renewal and Recertification Fees and Guidelines**

	COHN/COHN-S	Case Management	Information
Application Fee	\$150.00	\$150.00	Good for 90 days from the date of approval from the ABOHN office.
Examination Fee	\$400.00	\$250.00	Must be paid within 90 days from the date of the invoice from the ABOHN office and is good for 120 days.*

\* If you fail to schedule an appointment and sit for your examination before the expiration date, your examination authorization will be voided and you will have to pay for another application and examination fee.

Exam Authorization (Extension Fee)	\$50.00	\$50.00	One time, 60 day extension to the origi- nal 120 day authorization period.
Yearly Renewal Fee	\$150.00	\$50.00	Renewal payments are required every year before the credential holders' expiration date.
Recertification Fee	\$150.00	\$50.00	Recertification occurs every 5 years. Paperwork and the yearly renewal fee is required before the credential holders' expiration date.
Late Fee	\$100.00		A late fee is charged if ABOHN does not receive your Recertification or Renewal paperwork and annual fee by the due date of your credential.

### **ABOHN's Vision**

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

### **ABOHN's Mission**

to promote a standard of excellence in occupational health nursing through credentialing.

## **Principles and Values** To accomplish its mission and vision, ABOHN commits its resources to achieving the following principles and values: Establish and promote credentialing standards for professional occupational health nurses. Publicly recognize individuals who demonstrate that they meet these standards. Elevate the quality of occupational health nursing practice. Stimulate the development of improved educational standards and programs in the field of occupational health nursing. Encourage occupational health nurses to continue their professional education. Perform the above unrestricted by consideration of national origin, race, creed, disability, color, age and gender.

- Create value for employers, their employees and the occupational health professional.
- Seek inclusion by partnering with organizations that share ABOHN's mission and values

### ABOHN

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Molly Taylor, BS