

Staff Responsibilities During Appeals Proceedings

If a decision by the Council is made to place a school or program on probation or to deny or revoke accreditation, CEPH staff notifies the school dean or program director and the chief executive officer of the university. The notice shall be sent with delivery confirmation. Refer to CEPH's Policy on Notice Requirements for required notifications to the USDE, state authorizing agencies, appropriate accreditors, and the public.

If after 30 calendar days from receiving the notice the school or program fails to file a written notice of appeal, the decision becomes final.

If the school or program files a written notice of appeal, CEPH staff sends a written request to the American Public Health Association, the Association of Schools and Programs of Public Health, and the university's institutional accrediting commission, seeking the appointment of an Appeals Panel member from each. Upon written response from these three organizations regarding their respective appointees to the Appeals Panel, CEPH staff initiates actions to begin the appeal. These actions include:

1. Soliciting a curriculum vitae from each panel member.
2. Providing each panel member with a copy of CEPH's conflict of interest policy. Each panel member must read and sign the policy, indicating that they have no known conflicts of interest with the school or program under review. This signed statement must be returned to CEPH.
3. Providing the public member with a copy of the Public Member Definition and Certification Form. The public member on the panel must read and sign the disclosure, indicating that they comport with the CEPH definition of a public member and return the signed form to CEPH staff.
4. Sending a letter to each panel member, with copies of all curriculum vitae, advising the panel of the appeal procedures and arranging a telephone conference call, at which time the panel can elect a chair.
5. Setting a time and place for the hearing. It is not necessary to conduct the hearing on the campus of the appellant school or program or in the offices of CEPH, although both of these are options CEPH staff may consider.
6. Sending a written notice to the school or program officials:
 - a. Advising them of the Appeals Panel appointments with copies of curriculum vitae;
 - b. Inviting the identification of any conflicts of interest;
 - c. Advising the school or program of the appeal procedures set forth in CEPH's Accreditation Procedures;
 - d. Advising the school or program of the date, time, and location of the hearing;
 - e. Inquiring about who will represent the school or program at the hearing;
 - f. Inquiring about whether the school or program will be represented by counsel during the appeal process;
 - g. Preparing an invoice, if necessary, for payment of the appeal fee as outlined on the current CEPH fee schedule; and

- h. Seeking return confirmation within 10 business days acknowledging the arrangements.

CEPH staff also facilitates the work of the Appeals Panel by carrying out the following responsibilities:

1. Making all rules and regulations pertaining to the accreditation review process and the record considered by the Council in reaching its decision available to the Appeals Panel, and upon request, to the school or program. These include, but are not limited to:
 - a. CEPH Procedures Manual, applicable at the time of the review;
 - b. CEPH Accreditation Criteria, applicable at the time of the review;
 - c. Relevant self-study document of the school or program;
 - d. Relevant accreditation reports; and
 - e. Relevant written communications to and from the school or program regarding the review, including prior decisions involving the school or program.
2. Conducting a training session on CEPH policies, procedures, and accreditation criteria for all panel members.
3. Sending meeting notices to appropriate parties.
4. Arranging virtual meetings of the Appeals Panel, as requested.
5. Receiving expense statements and paying invoices for travel and living expenses of the individuals who participate in the appeal.

In addition, the CEPH executive director shall:

1. Serve as the coordinator of logistics for the Appeals Panel members and school or program representatives at the appeals hearing.
2. Implement notifications outlined in CEPH's Policy on Notice Requirements.
3. Schedule the matter on the agenda of the next Council meeting at the conclusion of the hearing, in the event the Appeals Panel refers the decision back to the Council for reconsideration.

Council on Education for Public Health
Adopted: February 9, 2008
Amended: July 13, 2009
Amended: June 21, 2012
Amended: May 17, 2013
Amended: October 9, 2013
Amended: April 26, 2018
Amended: February 24, 2021
Amended: October 12, 2023

