Complaints for all nine allied health committees under BMQA's jurisdiction are received in Ms. Arneson's office. When a full investigation is not necessary, Ms. Arneson contacts the executive officer of the appropriate committee and serves on behalf of the committee as a mediator between the licensee and the complainant. Whether an investigation is required is generally determined by the executive officer and the particular committee or the executive officer and legal counsel. Complaints over which the committees have no jurisdiction are referred by staff to agencies such as the Better Business Bureau, small claims court, and local consumer affairs offices.

**FUTURE MEETINGS:**
- March 11 in San Francisco.
- May 13 in southern California.

A member may serve for no more than two consecutive terms.

On January 1, Ray F. Nikkel became BENHA's new Executive Officer. Nikkel succeeded Hal Tindall, who retired after serving as Executive Officer since April 1979. Nikkel has previously worked as a psychiatric technician, a licensed vocational nurse, a registered nurse, and Department of Health Services (DHS) inspector and administrator.

BENHA's budget increased $15,000 over last year's allocation. The 1987/88 budget is $315,000.

**MAJOR PROJECTS:**
- Implementation of AB 1834. The recent passage of AB 1834 (Connelly) (see CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 61) will have a significant impact on BENHA. The requirements of AB 1834 include the following:
  - BENHA must report to DHS each time a licensed nursing home administrator is appointed as the administrator of a long-term care facility and each time such an appointment is terminated.
  - The Board must take disciplinary action against any nursing home administrator who fails to report his/her appointment or termination.
  - The Board must maintain a record of all enforcement actions taken against licensees reported to BENHA by the DHS.
  - A determination whether disciplinary action against an administrator is warranted must be made by the Board after receipt of a specified report from the DHS.
  - AB 1834 requires that BENHA take disciplinary action against any administrator whose reports indicate grounds for suspension or revocation of a license.
  - The Board must continuously review the files of administrators who have received citations and must initiate disciplinary action if an administrator's record shows a pattern of poor performance.
  - A list of current administrators who have been placed on probation or who have had their licenses suspended or revoked within the past three years must be maintained and provided to all long-term care facilities and to the DHS every six months. The list should be made available to others upon request.
  - A study must be conducted by BENHA on the approval process for continuing education courses and for administrator-in-training programs. The results of the study must be presented to the legislature before December 1, 1988.
  - BENHA must develop internal poli-
cies and procedures for determining whether remedial or disciplinary actions are warranted.

The internal policies and procedures required of BENHA by AB 1834 must be finalized during the first six months of 1988. All other provisions of the bill will become operative on July 1.

SB 898 (Campbell), a fee increase bill, was recently passed by the legislature, and resulting regulatory changes are currently being drafted. However, because the mandates of AB 1834 require additional revenue, BENHA plans to sponsor legislation to allow another increase in license and renewal fees. This anticipated legislation may include an urgency clause.

Preceptor Training Proposal: During its past several meetings, the Board has considered a proposal from the American College of Health Care Administrators to take over the preceptor training program. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 61.) At its November 6 meeting, BENHA decided to grant the proposal for a six-month trial evaluation period.

Regulation Changes: At a public hearing on November 6, BENHA adopted changes to its regulations contained in Chapter 39, Title 16 of the California Administrative Code. Among the amendments adopted were those affecting sections 3117.5 (filing application for licensing) and section 3180 (fee increases), previously discussed in CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) at p. 61.

New section 3130 was also adopted to clarify the application requirements for a nursing home administrator’s license. This proposed rule provides that an application for licensure will be deemed abandoned if it is not submitted within one year after the exam is passed. A proposed change in section 3162 of the Board’s rules would require administrator-in-training programs to include at least twenty hours per week of supervised training in a nursing home.

Proposed changes in section 3116 (also discussed in CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) at p. 61) concern licensing requirements for nursing home administrators. Public comment varied on these proposed amendments. Some participants suggested that a proposed 48-hour internship was excessive when required in conjunction with some master’s degree programs, while others suggested that no change in the requirements should be made. Still others encouraged adoption of all proposed additional qualification requirements. With regard to proposed language which would allow licensing of an administrator who has ten years of work experience (as specified) but no degree, Board Chair Douglas Troyer commented that, in light of the fact that 23 states now require a minimum of a baccalaureate degree, the Board is going in the wrong direction in allowing work experience in lieu of a degree.

The public comment period on amendments to section 3116 was reopened for fifteen days after the November 6 meeting because of the introduction of new documents by then-Executive Officer Hal Tindall. At its December 7 meeting, the Board adopted the rule proposal with one change. In an effort to accommodate potential licensees who are close to meeting the old requirements, the Board specified that the new rules would not go into effect until January 1, 1989. The regulatory changes adopted at the November and December meetings were scheduled for submission to the Office of Administrative Law for review during January.

LEGISLATION:
SB 1111 (Mello), which has been chaptered (Chapter 1177, Statutes of 1987), concerns nurse assistant certification training programs. The bill requires skilled nursing or intermediate care facilities to adopt an approved training program which meets criteria established by the DHS. The approved training programs shall consist of sixteen hours of orientation for new nurse assistants; a fifty-hour certification training program; at least 100 hours of clinical practice, including supervised and on-the-job training; and continuing in-service training. Those who complete the training must then go through a certification application procedure created in SB 111; procedures for discipline are also set forth in the bill.

AB 2383 (Connelly), as previously reported, is a two-year bill. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 61.) Assemblymember Connelly’s office has decided to continue tracking the Medi-Cal program to gain additional information which will aid it in deciding whether to continue pushing the bill.

RECENT MEETINGS:
At BENHA’s November 6 meeting in Sacramento, Board officers Douglas Troyer and Martha Lang were reelected Chair and Secretary, respectively. James Wark was elected Vice Chair.

Also on November 6, the Board approved a 1988 schedule for preceptor training sessions and administrator licensing examinations.

The Board decided to meet every other month during 1988, commencing in February. Exact meeting dates will be chosen two months in advance.

FUTURE MEETINGS:
To be announced.

BOARD OF OPTOMETRY
Executive Officer: Michael Abbott
(916) 739-4131

The Board of Optometry establishes and enforces regulations pertaining to the practice of optometry. The Board is responsible for licensing qualified optometrists and disciplining malfeasant practitioners. The Board’s goal is to protect the consumer patient who might be subjected to injury resulting from unsatisfactory eye care by inept or untrustworthy practitioners.

The Board consists of nine members. Six are licensed optometrists and three are members of the community at large. Joseph Abella was recently appointed as a public member by Senate President Pro Tempore David Roberti.

The Board elected new officers for 1988 at its October 28 meeting, including Dr. Laurence Thal, President; Dr. Stephen Chun, Vice-President; and Julia Preisig, Secretary.

MAJOR PROJECTS:
Proposed Regulations. The Board of Optometry held hearings on October 29 concerning the proposed amendment, adoption, or repeal of regulations in Chapter 15, Title 16 of the California Administrative Code. (See CRLR Vol. 7, No. 4 (Fall 1987) p. 62.) Proposed section 1536, which would establish a program of mandatory continuing education as a condition of license renewal, has since been further amended. Under the previous version of the proposed section, license renewal applicants would be required to complete and certify forty hours of continuing education every two years. The proposed section was amended to instead require certification of twenty hours of continuing education each year. As of this writing, the Board is preparing to issue a fifteen-day notice regarding additional nonsubstantive amendments to section 1536.

Federal Rule Proposal. The Federal Trade Commission is proposing a federal rule popularly known as “Eyeglasses II,” which would allow lay ownership of optometric practices and would eliminate restrictions on branch office optometric practices. It would also liberalize advertising restrictions. An FTC hearing on