

December 21, 2011

by Dr. Robert Braile President GCC



Georgia Council of Chiropractic Speaks before USDE committee on CCE

The Georgia Council of Chiropractic, (GCC), was present and ready Weds.

Dec. 14, 2011 at the Council on Chiropractic Education's (CCE) reaccreditation hearing before the US Department of Education's National Advisory Committee on Institutional Quality and Integrity (NACIQI).

GCC President Dr. Bob Braile officially represented GCC at the NACIQI hearing. Dr. Braile is also a member of the ICA and IFCO. Representing himself was GCC Immediate Past President and ICA Secretary Treasurer Dr. Steve Welsh. NACIQI's three-day meeting agenda included decisions on six other accrediting agencies prior to the CCE's portion of the program. Several other accrediting agencies were also handled by NACIQI before the CCE, but these groups were completed on-time and without any comments from individuals not associated with that accrediting agency.

When it came to the CCE portion of the NACIQI meeting, things were drastically different. The agenda of the meeting listed members of the NACIQI committee and staff speaking first, then the CCE responded, followed by Third-Party Oral Commenters. There were 20 Third-Party Oral Commenters who had requested time to speak. Each of the commenters was allowed 3 minutes followed by questions from the NACIQI members.

The meeting started at 11 AM and was originally scheduled to end by the lunch break at 12:45 PM. Due to the number of commenters and questions from NACIQI, the CCE portion of the meeting did not conclude until 4 PM. Of the 20 commenters who spoke at the meeting, only four spoke in support of the CCE. Those four were representatives from the American Chiropractic Association, the Association of Chiropractic Colleges, the Federation of Chiropractic Licensing Boards, and the University of Western States College of Chiropractic.

Raising concerns about the CCE at the NACIQI meeting were Dr. Clint Erickson from the Council of Chiropractic Philosophy, Dr. Christopher Kent from the Federation for Vertebral Subluxation, Dr. Lonnie McKinzie, Dr. Michael McLean, Dr. Joe Merlo, student Sarah Mongold, Dr. Judith Nutz Campanale, International Federal of Chiropractors & Organizations, Dr. Henry Rubinstein, Doctors for Excellence in Chiropractic Education, Dr. Steve Tullius, Movement for Chiropractic Quality and Integrity, Mr. James Turner, International Chiropractors Association, Dr. Steve Welsh, Mr. Ron Hendrickson, Dr. Don Hirsh, Dr. John Bomhoff, and Dr. Braile from the GCC.

The Third-Party Oral Commenters were scheduled to speak in alphabetical order of the presenter's name which made GCC president Braile the first of the third-party presenters to speak. The GCC testimony focused on CCE's many violations and their structure of governance that led to the many violations. The GCC testimony concluded with, "In conclusion, given these concerns, the department staff is right to request the agency to come into compliance within 12 months. The GCC also requests that the CCE be directed to postpone the implementation of the new standards until the CCE and a new

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set of standards meet USDE criteria. Additionally, directives should be given that speak to the self-governance of the CCE, to ensure that token service is not paid to the serious issues being brought to NACIQI today.” Full testimony of the GCC can be read here:

http://georgiachiropractic.org/uploads/GCC_testimony_to_NACIQI_on_CCE.pdf

The other third-party presenters each took turns pointing out deficiencies in the CCE and their history of following an agenda not representative of the profession at large. Repeated reference was made to the over 4000 complaints to the USDA, the largely ignored 4000 comments to CCE on the standards changes, as well as the 41 (actually 43) findings of deficiency against the CCE in the NACIQI staff report. The evidence and comments were overwhelming compared to the few comments of CCE support, and the defense the CCE officials gave in response to NACIQI questions to them.

One of the most poignant and game-changing testimonies was from Dr. Steve Welsh. By virtue of his name, Dr. Welsh was one of the last presenters. In his testimony and the NACIQI questions that followed, Dr. Welsh clearly made the case for the overall problems of CCE and their long-term history of abuse. His testimony was so compelling that the ensuing discussion of the NACIQI committee made specific reference to Dr. Welsh’s comments. In fact the final wording of the NACIQI’s recommendations to the Secretary of the USDE was crafted in response to Dr. Welsh’s comments.

After the testimony, NACIQI took a break to craft the words of their recommendations to the Secretary of the USDE. In response, the committee strengthened their language and issued the following motion as their official recommendation to the Secretary of the USDE.

"I move that the NACIQI recommend that the CCE’s recognition be continued to permit the agency an opportunity, within a 12-month period, to bring itself into compliance with the Criteria cited in the staff report and that it submit for review within 30 days a compliance report demonstrating compliance with the cited criteria and their effective application. In addition to the numerous issues identified in the staff report, NACIQI asks the agency to demonstrate compliance with Section 602.13 dealing with the wide acceptance of its standards, policies, procedures, and decisions; and to address how its standards advance quality in chiropractic education."

The recommendation by NACIQI is not the conclusion of this issue. The conflict now continues over the next year as interested parties try to show that the concerns with the CCE stem from the system of governance that the CCE leadership has perpetuated and altered over the last few decades in order to keep the same ruling individuals in control of the CCE. This incestuous leadership has allowed a few to dictate the direction of chiropractic education in opposition to the majority of the profession or the institutions they credential. For its part, the CCE will attempt to address the 43 concerns and show that their system of governance does include everyone and that they are deserving of long-term continued accreditation from the USDE.

The GCC and others will continue to fight for a more open and representative process of governance for CCE that includes the views of all constituents. The GCC openly calls for “Democracy for the CCE!”

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