

Public Policy Day (March 5th, 2012)



Skill Area: Professional Development

Competencies: DI 2.12, DI 2.1, DI 2.2, DI 3.2, DI 4.6, DI 4.4.

What I learned: Through this experience, I learned more about how bills are passed, as well as roles of different legislative positions. I also learned in detail about the issue of licensure for Registered Dietitians in California, and what I can do to spread awareness of why licensure should be granted.

Reflection to the event and activity: Registered Dietitians in California have been trying to get licensure for many years now, and unfortunately, have been unsuccessful. On March 5th, I had the privilege to travel to Sacramento with the California Dietetic Association (CDA), and speak with an assembly member to discuss the role of Registered Dietitians and what we hope to accomplish with licensure. We related this to what benefits patients will attain with our services, and ensure information is from a credible source.

Relevance to the profession: Granting licensure for Registered Dietitians will assure that Dietitians meet prescribed standards of education and experience, and agree to uphold identified ethical and professional standards of competence in nutrition practice. Licensure laws protect the public by identifying qualifications needed to practice.