

# "BOARD CERTIFICATION: *Engage Excellence*"

## THE ABOHN REPORT

The ABOHN Report

Spring 2026

Volume 49 Issue 1

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### A Message from the ABOHN Chair by [Angela Smith, MBA, BSN, RN, COHN-S](#)



As occupational health nurses, we continue to stand at the intersection of worker safety, public health, and organizational resilience. Our role has never been more essential or more visible. Every day, we advocate for healthier workplaces, safer practices, and the well-being of the workers who keep our industries moving. That advocacy is the heart-beat of our profession, and it remains the driving force behind ABOHN's mission!

This year, ABOHN has taken bold steps to strengthen the support we provide to our credential holders. One of the most exciting developments is the launch of **accredited continuing education credits designed specifically for occupational health nurses**. For years, our nurses have asked for high-quality, specialty-focused CE options that reflect the realities of our practice. Now, ABOHN is proud to offer education that is not only relevant and evidence-based but also aligned with the competencies that define excellence in our field.

These new CE opportunities are more than coursework, they are a platform for professional growth, a tool for advocacy, and a way to ensure that occupational health nurses remain at the forefront of emerging issues. Whether you're navigating regulatory changes, addressing mental health in the workplace, or leading complex return-to-work programs, ABOHN's accredited CE is designed to elevate your practice and amplify your impact.

As we look ahead, I encourage each of you to continue using your voice, within your organizations, within your communities, and within our profession. Advocacy is not a single action; it is a sustained commitment to elevating the standards of occupational health nursing. ABOHN stands with you in that commitment, providing the tools, resources, and recognition you need to lead with confidence.

Thank you for your dedication, your professionalism, and your unwavering commitment to worker health and safety. Together, we are shaping a stronger, healthier future for the workforce and for our profession!

With appreciation and resolve,

**Angela Smith**

Chair, Board of Directors American Board for Occupational Health Nurses (ABOHN)



**The 2026 AAOHN National Conference**  
**April 26-28, 2026**

**Stop by the ABOHN Booth!**  
**Join us for the**

**ABOHN/AAOHN Foundation Reception**  
**April 27, 2026 4:15pm**

## ABOHN 2025-2026 Board of Directors

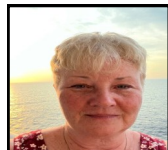
ABOHN is governed by a Board of Directors composed of certified occupational health nurses and one public member that are selected to be representative of the community of certified occupational health nurses. The responsibilities of the Board include establishing criteria for certification and setting policies to maintain a valid certification program.



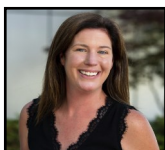
Angela Smith



Karen Wilson



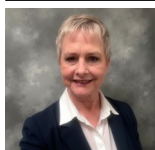
Lisa Holmes



Ellen Connolly



Rebecca Mischak



Kim Newton

### Governing Council

**Chair:** Angela Smith, MBA, BSN, RN, COHN-S  
**Secretary:** Karen Wilson, BSN, MPH, RN, COHN-S  
**Treasurer:** Lisa Holmes, RN, MSN, NP, COHN-S  
**COHN-S Chair:** Ellen Connolly, RN, BSN, MSN, FNP-BC, COHN  
**COHN Chair:** Rebecca Mischak, MSN, APRN/CNP, COHN-S/CM  
**CM Chair:** Kimberly Newton, RN, BSN, COHN-S/CM



Lori Burke



Nancy Cronenwett

### Directors

**Lori Burke**, RN, MPH, COHN-S/CM, FAAOHN  
**Nancy Cronenwett**, MSN, BSN, RN, COHN-S  
**Susan Williams**, BSN, RN, COHN  
**Alexis Williams**, MBA, MS (Public Member)



Susan Jordan



Alexis Williams

## ABOHN Board of Director Activities by Betty Sanisidro, Executive Director

The ABOHN Board of Directors (BOD) convened in Sanibel, FL, in January 2026 for its semiannual meeting. During this session, each committee presented comprehensive reports summarizing their work and accomplishments over the preceding six months. Following thoughtful discussion and review, the BOD formally accepted these reports and their findings, ensuring continued alignment with ABOHN's strategic priorities and long-term objectives.

The Board remains committed to advancing the organization's mission through meaningful initiatives that support growth, strengthen outreach, and enhance engagement with credential holders. Through its ongoing efforts, the BOD continues to prioritize excellence in occupational health nursing certification and uphold the value of professional standards across the field.

Key agenda items included the presentation of nominees for upcoming BOD positions, updates from the Governing Council, and progress in examination development. The Board also conducted a thorough review of the organization's bylaws and policies and procedures, evaluated examination performance metrics including passing rates, and reviewed preparations for the annual exam development cycle. In addition, the annual budget was reviewed and approved, and updates to the five-year strategic plan were discussed to ensure continued responsiveness to the evolving needs of the profession.

### New Business

A significant area of focus for the Board is the role of Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurses (LPNs/LVNs) within occupational and environmental health settings. These professionals play an integral role in supporting workplace health programs and contributing to the delivery of quality care. Recognizing their impact and the evolving nature of their responsibilities, the BOD is developing a survey to better understand current roles, responsibilities, and professional needs.

The purpose of this survey is to gather meaningful input that will help determine whether there is interest in establishing a specialty certification tailored to LPNs/LVNs in occupational health. This initiative reflects the Board's commitment to inclusivity, professional development, and ensuring that certification pathways appropriately recognize the contributions of all members of the occupational health team.

Consistent with the principles advanced by American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, the Board acknowledges that LPN/LVN practice is guided by individual state nurse practice acts and regulations. Within occupational and environmental health settings, and with appropriate supervision and additional training, LPNs/LVNs provide valuable support to registered nurses and physicians. Their contributions are essential to the effective delivery of occupational health services, and this initiative aims to further recognize and support their role within the profession.

Cohort Class of 2025

## CONGRATULATIONS

### ABOHN NEWLY BOARD CERTIFIED

#### 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.*

#### Certified Occupational Health Nurse - (COHN)

Aguillon, Ana  
Bingham, Gregory  
Blackstone, Traci  
Brawner, April  
Bruce, Michelle  
Busby, Andrea  
Cain, Alecia  
Camp, Cindy  
Cantrell, Katherine  
Caudle, Ginny  
Crossley, Keyana  
Cummings, Ann  
Darst, Keeli  
Davis, Mallory  
Delk, Felicia

Dewberry, Brandon  
Di Cesare, Colleen  
Dixon, Erin  
Dunn, Deirdre  
Dwyer, Lorelei  
Espy, Kimberly  
Gregory, Heidi  
Harris, Ann  
Helgeland, Kelli  
Hendricks, Alda  
Hoglund, Barbara  
Jackson, Valerie  
Jones, Melissa  
Kang, Min Kyung  
Kerwin, Kristin

Lambio, Jr., Antonio  
Lewis-Thompson, Davetta  
Maminta, Loida Mae  
Manning Trayci  
Manzanares, Gloria  
Marcotte, Kristy  
Marshall, Karen  
Mearim, Brittany  
Money, Renee  
Perry-Miller, Angela  
Piehl, Breanne  
Rae, Ashley  
Sandoval, Nancy  
Schmitz, Sandra  
Sciulli, Rose

Seidman, Kate  
Sheffield, Vanessa  
Shivel, Chrsinta  
Shuck, Devin  
Sommerer, Megan  
Stedam, Travis  
Steinhart, Aaron  
Sternner, Gina  
Strawn, Heather  
Sutherland, Tyler  
Trott, Francine  
Whitman, Ashley

#### Certified Occupational Health Nurse - Specialist (COHN-S)

Adams, Juliet  
Affarano, Elizabeth  
Agar, Jennifer  
Atchley, Ashley  
Austin, Kristina Staff  
Bash, Jennifer  
Bennett-Rizzo, Carin  
Blaak, Sara  
Brackett, Brianne  
Brennan, Melissa  
Bronikowski, Jennifer  
Brown, Jessica  
Bruno, Francesca  
Camana, Debbie  
Cameron, Katie  
Cline, Rebecca  
Crouch, Gretchen  
Delaney, Vicky  
Delvalle, Krystle  
Dibblee, Alex  
Dombeck, Katherine  
Dumandal, Darleane Mae  
Dyer, Nicole  
Eskes, Nicole

Fink, Jennifer  
Fitzgerald, Brenda  
Forbes, Rebecca  
Frieden, Joann  
Fugate, Mary  
Gadaire, Krystle  
Gagnon, Megan  
Gauthier, Angela  
Gleeson, Tiffany  
Gluckman, Sonia  
Green Pitterson, Saniese  
Gritzmacher, Hannah  
Gunter, Jason  
Gushulak, Erika  
Haggith, Kyla  
Hamilton, Hannah  
Hedrick, Lisa  
Herrera, Kimberly  
Hewit, John  
Hoover, Angeline  
Horner, Steven  
Hyche, Colleen  
Imhoff, Rachel  
Jackson, John

Kaluzne, Lindsay  
Kossoudji, Andrea  
Lamb, Cathy  
Lauer, Gayle  
Leshchinsky, Ariel  
Lewis, Eric  
Lidin, Paulina  
Loftus, Amanda  
Logan, Maerie  
Maffei, Suzanna  
Martin, Jennifer  
Martin, Julie  
Martin-Lucey, Stephanie  
McCunn, Jordan  
McKay, Clara  
McLain, Barbet  
McNeil, Amy  
Miller, Robin  
Monton, Karen  
Morton, Jason  
Mullins, Malena  
Naylor, Jennifer  
Naylor-Cannon, Angela  
Odimma, Nkechinyere

Okello, Godfrey  
Phelan, Caitlin  
Radeschi, Eileen  
Ramon, Jeremy  
Reed, Julia  
Riley, Joseph  
Romero, Amanda  
Rooney, Heather  
Scaff, Katherin  
Scott, Alicia  
Sheppard, Michelle  
Skene, Julie  
Sukonnikova, Tetyana  
Wagner, Kristen  
Ward, Marissa  
Weaver, Stephen  
Weeks, Brenda  
Whitfield, Rondy  
Whitman, Kirsten  
Woods, Janella  
Woolhouse, Kelly  
Wright, Cherie

#### Case Management - (CM)

Asherbraner, Liza  
Betts, Dana  
Chapman, Valerie  
Cordero, Maria

Fulton, Jeannette  
Fusco, Leslie  
Harris, Nennan  
Heft, David

Kern, Beverly  
Marion, Suzanne  
MrGraw, Ronda  
Quan, Salena

Zavodny, Jessica

Credentialing Statistics—Pass Rate Percentage

Table 1 (right)

Reflects the number of candidates and pass rates. The COHN and the COHN-S pass rates were significantly higher in 2025. CM remained stable. This data includes results of the examinees that were awarded their certification in 2025.

| Exam Year | COHN       |               |                   | COHN-S     |               |                   | CM         |               |                   |
|-----------|------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|------------|---------------|-------------------|
|           | Candidates | Number Passed | Percentage Passed | Candidates | Number Passed | Percentage Passed | Candidates | Number Passed | Percentage Passed |
| 2020      | 61         | 27            | 44.3%             | 77         | 38            | 49.3%             | 16         | 12            | 75%               |
| 2021      | 62         | 28            | 45.2%             | 80         | 38            | 47.5%             | 3          | 2             | 66.7%             |
| 2022      | 52         | 25            | 48.1%             | 80         | 39            | 48.8%             | 5          | 4             | 80.0%             |
| 2023      | 84         | 42            | 50.0%             | 97         | 61            | 62.9%             | 15         | 11            | 80.0%             |
| 2024      | 72         | 39            | 55%               | 109        | 52            | 48%               | 12         | 10            | 84%               |
| 2025      | 85         | 57            | 65%               | 113        | 94            | 83%               | 15         | 13            | 87%               |

Credentialing Statistics—Year End

The ABOHN Board of Directors are faced with many challenges in sustaining a specialty credentialing program. Table 2 shows the official ABOHN Active, Inactive, and Retired certification holders in the ABOHN database system as of 12/31/2025. We had a good number of certified OHNs take the Retirement status in 2025.

| CREDENTIAL       | ACTIVE | INACTIVE | RETIRED |
|------------------|--------|----------|---------|
| COHN             | 592    | 6        | 136     |
| COHN/CM          | 109    | 1        | 31      |
| COHN-S           | 1079   | 11       | 587     |
| COHN-S/CM        | 202    | 3        | 166     |
| Total 12/31/2024 | 1952   | 30       | 886     |
| Total 12/31/2025 | 1982   | 21       | 920     |

**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.

Table 2- Year End Statistics

**OHN WEEK!**

We celebrate all occupational health nurses  
and salute the  
**ABOHN Board Certified OHNs!**



All ABOHN active and retired credential holders will receive a  
digital \*Starbuck's gift card to the email address on file to enjoy a sweet treat during  
**National OHN Week 2026!**

\*Please note that emails have not been sold and will not be distributed by Starbuck's; no promotional communications will be sent.

**Thank you to all of our Volunteers!**



The ABOHN NCCA accredited examinations continue to meet industry standards of excellence due to the hard work, commitment, and dedication of OHN volunteers who work with the BOD and Staff on a continuous basis annually. These subject matter experts write new tests items, review current items in the test banks, confirm reference and content accuracy, and assist in assembling of new test forms every year! ABOHN extends heartfelt gratitude to these ABOHN Certified OHNs for selflessly sharing their time and expertise!

## 2025 Exam Development Committee

Burke, Lori  
Cautilli, Carolyn  
Ferri, Brenda  
Fox, Mary  
Hale, Jennifer  
Hale, Matthew

Hegman, Christina  
Holodnick, Cherie  
Hopcia, Karen  
Jones, Michelle  
Jordan, Susan  
Lockhart, Tammy

Luessen, Donna  
Magnussen, June  
Matthews, Denise  
Raizes, Tammy  
Stewart, Nancy  
Tuel, Emily

Turley, Shari  
Wegener, Lisa  
Willisa Michele  
Wongus, Angela

*Thank you*

## OHN Essential: Monthly CE Series!

Beginning in January 2026, the organization introduced a new monthly educational series for ABOHN credentialed OHNs and the response has been overwhelmingly positive. Each session is held live via Zoom once per month (on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month), with a recording available for 30 days afterward. To receive a CE certificate, attendees must complete and submit an evaluation through SurveyMonkey. Each session is approved by NCCAP for one credit hour.

### January 21, 2026

**OHN Masterclass: Case Management Made Simple:** Build a strong foundation in OHN-driven case management. Learn how to streamline communication, coordinate care, and guide employees from initial report to safe return-to-work with confidence and clarity.

### February 18, 2026

**Injury to MMI: The OHN Roadmap:** Follow the full path of work-related injuries—from onset through Maximum Medical Improvement. Gain practical tools to assess, document, and support injured employees while collaborating effectively with providers and employers.

### March 18, 2026

**Own Your Oxygen Mask: Self-Care Strategies for OHNs:** In a role centered on caring for others, OHNs often come last. Explore evidence-based techniques to protect your energy, prevent burnout, and build resilience so you can thrive both on and off the job.

### April 15, 2026

**Surveillance Smarts: The OHN's Medical Monitoring Blueprint:** Strengthen your surveillance program know-how. This session breaks down requirements, best practices, and real-world workflows to help OHNs track risks, ensure compliance, and promote early detection.

### May 20, 2026

**Mind Matters: Mental Health Risk Assessments for OHNs:** Elevate your ability to identify and manage workplace mental health risks. Learn practical assessment tools, intervention strategies, and communication approaches tailored to the OH environment.

### June 17, 2026

**Heat Happens: Thermal Risks & Worker Safety:** As temperatures—and risks—rise, OHNs play a critical role in prevention. Understand heat illness mechanisms, monitoring strategies, and controls that protect workers in high-heat environments.

### July 15, 2026

**Team Science: OHN Collaboration with EHS & IH:** Discover how collaboration with EHS and IH teams enhances overall workplace health outcomes. Learn the language, roles, and strategies that help OHNs build powerful, cross-functional partnerships.

### August 19, 2026

**Write it Right: OHN Documentation for Quality & Defense:** Improve the clarity, defensibility, and quality of your occupational health documentation. This session focuses on what to write, what to avoid, and how to meet legal and professional standards.

### September 16, 2026

**Breath of Fresh Air: OHN Respiratory Program Mastery:** From fit testing to compliance, this session equips OHNs with the essentials for managing effective respiratory protection programs and safeguarding employee lung health.

### October 21, 2026

**Wellness That Works: OHN-Led Health Promotion Programs:** Go beyond the basics of workplace wellness. Learn how to design, implement, and measure meaningful wellness initiatives that drive healthier, more engaged workforces.

### November 18, 2026

**Cannabis & Compliance: What OHNs Need to Know:** Stay ahead of evolving cannabis laws and workplace expectations. Understand impairment concerns, policy considerations, testing complexities, and the OHN's role in ensuring a safe, compliant environment.

### December 16, 2026

**The Persuasive OHN: Stakeholder Engagement Essentials:** Master the art of influence. Explore practical strategies for securing leadership support, building credibility, and driving participation in occupational health initiatives.

Individual classes are \$25.00 each.

There is still time to purchase the 6 month package for July through December for \$125.00

For more information, [please follow this link.](#)

## Milestones!

## 10 Years ABOHN Certified!

Addis, Stacy  
Atalig-Smith, Amelia  
Beavers, Deborah  
Bioni, Laura  
Boyce, Terry  
Bullock, Ashely  
Campbell, Kimberly  
Costa, Maria  
D'Angelo, Stephanie  
Deeves, Lisa  
Earley, Yvette  
Edelen, Donna  
Evans, Shannan  
Fallon, Pamela  
Farris, Sharon

Flores, Amy  
Franklin, Bryant  
French, Micci  
Garvey, Dawn  
Gibson, Charlynn  
Giles, Melanie  
Harris, Charity  
Henderson, Christina  
Hewitt, Jeremy  
Hockenberry, Penny  
Hooper, Sarah  
Howell, Jessica  
Hutson, Diane  
Inghram, Rebecca  
Jones, Carman

Katz, Alisa  
Kerney, Toni  
Killings, Jacquelyn  
Lawon, Brian  
Lepiane, Kathleen  
Macdonald, Kaitlin  
Massaro, Marie  
Mattingly-Taylor, Jessie  
Michael, Dawne  
Monaghan, Mary  
Morrison, LaQuinta  
Mullins, Timothy  
Overbeck, Michelle  
Penman, Jessica  
Persad, Vijay

Petrillo, Laura  
Pletcher, Michelle  
Powell, Rachel  
Reed, Vanessa  
Sanisidro, Betty  
Schaeffer, Scott  
Shoffner, Renita  
Skaggs, Tiffany  
Smith, DeAnna  
Thames, Cathy  
Thompson, Jessica  
Williamson, Wade  
Wilson, Allena  
Young, Norman Jean  
Young Brenda



## 20 Years ABOHN Certified!

Baker, Sherry  
Bork, Debra  
Brown, Ralph  
Callais, Kelley  
Cassel, Rhonda  
Chouinard, Cynthia  
Collins, Everdean  
Conner, Sheila  
Corr, Wendy  
DeBroux, Patricia  
Ellis, Lisa  
Finniss, Cyndy  
Fragoso, Jill

Franke, Nanette  
Fulton, Jeannette  
Gall, Bryan  
Godfrey, Gary  
Hannah, Emily  
Johnson, Carolyn  
Johnson, Lori  
Jurgens-meyer, Renee  
Kim, Christine  
Kosky, Laura  
Kresge, Kevin  
Lanza, Janet

LaPosa, Tamala  
Lindsey, Mary  
Maxwell, Carol  
McDowell, Tonya  
Morgan, Jennifer  
Mullins, Denise  
Nixon, Melissa  
Pambrun, Vivianne  
Pedersen, Kimberly  
Sheldon, Constance  
Snyder, Stephen  
Stanger, Robin

Steffens, Karen  
Strange IV, Frank  
Streder, Monica  
Sudol-Kearns, Jennifer  
Thomas, Pamela  
Treinen, Tami  
Vargo, Melinda  
Vomish, Patricia  
Weaver, Mary  
Weber, Sarah  
Wolf, Lisa  
Zavodny, Jessica

## Recruit a Colleague for Certification

## Did you know?

ABOHN relies on our credential holders to encourage certification and on average they are responsible for referring approximately 1/3 of ABOHN's yearly applicants?

Thank you!

All Certified Occupational Health Nurses (COHN) and Certified Occupational Health Nurse—Specialists (COHN-S) in good standing, 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 each year. The 2025 Winner will awarded a \$300.00 check and be announced at the ABOHN Reception on April 27, 2026 held during the [2026 AAOHN National Conference!](#)

### ABOHN's Vision

"ABOHN Certification is recognized and valued as the standard to maximize the health, safety and well-being 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:

- *Develop and promote credentialing standards for professional occupational health nurses.*
- *Establish a standard for occupational health nursing programs.*
- *Empower occupational health nurses to continue professional education.*
- *Create value for employers, workers and occupational health professionals through certification.*
- *Publicly recognize individuals who have met credentialing standards.*
- *Optimize partnerships with organizations that share the ABOHN mission and values.*
- *Perform the above unrestricted by consideration of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, age, disability, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, veteran status, marital status, or other legally protected category.*

### ABOHN STAFF

#### Executive Director

*Betty Sanisidro, DNP, MSN, COHN-S, APHN-BC*

#### Managing Director

*Carole M. Cusack, MBA, ICE-CCP*

#### PT Administrative Staff Support

*Reine Salibi*

#### LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/company/92958216/admin/>

#### Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100089780753276>

#### X:

<https://twitter.com/ABOHN72>

#### Contact:

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Palos Heights, IL 60463  
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website: [www.abohn.org](http://www.abohn.org)

