

FSS STATEMENT RE:
National Association of Energy Practitioners (NAOEP, the “Alliance”)
National Certification Center of Energy Practitioners (NCCOEP)

The Foundation is aware of the situation regarding the NCCOEP.org and NAOEP.org and continues to research the issues as they arise. Many rumors are circulating about the entire area of regulation, certification, and licensing for "energy medicine" practitioners, leading to confusion and misunderstandings.

We offer the following writeup as service to help clarify some of the issues, particularly for the shamanic community, as that is our area of expertise. It is not an endorsement of the NCCOEP or the NAOEP, or of any of the viewpoints on the issue – it is an effort to clarify and offer a fair assessment of the situation. Please note that although we have done research into available sources in our efforts to be accurate, the FSS cannot guarantee 100% accuracy in this rapidly-changing situation. We are not legal experts and this is not intended as a legal opinion. We encourage you to do your own research.

The FSS’ mission is as it has always been: “The preservation, study, and teaching of shamanic knowledge for the welfare of the Planet and its inhabitants.” We have decades of experience invested in high-quality shamanic training and its powerful, effective, and ethical use. The world changes. And though the ancient ways of the shamans have been brought forth by Michael Harner’s pioneering work, we need to continually make adjustments in ordinary reality so that shamanic practice thrives in the present as well.

Context: In recent years there has been an explosion in the practice of “energy medicine” (EM) across a broad category of fields, and it has become a multi-billion-dollar business. EM includes just about any practice that is “spiritual” (non-physical) where a person offers a service to another and is paid for it; there is no “entry barrier” to many of these practices. While the majority of those working in the field may be well-trained, ethical, and compassionate practitioners, that is not always the case. Practically speaking, when the field of practice is so broad and requirements so loose, there is bound to be abuse. States and other governmental regulatory agencies are taking notice.

The bottom line is this: It is not a matter of *IF* there will be regulation, but when. And, who will provide the regulations? Those of us who understand the EM specialty we practice and what is necessary to be effective? Or, unknown governmental agencies who do not.

Background: In 2010, the Health & Human Services (HHS) Department under the Obama administration, requested that energy medicine practitioners begin to regulate themselves.¹ It was made clear that if we don't, legislation regulating our work will come from the federal government and/or from the states, who know little to nothing about how the various fields of EM work. In 2017, the request to EM practitioners to self-regulate was made again. In response to this, and to avoid the imposition of external, inaccurate, and unwarranted regulations and licensure, the National Association of Energy Practitioners (NAOEP, the “Alliance”) and the National Certification Center of Energy Practitioners (NCCOEP) were formed.²

The Alliance and the NCCOEP are separate organizations with different purposes, though they cooperate with each other to assist the EM community. Both came about not to force regulations or licensure on the EM community, but to protect the practices of this community through self-regulation by coming up with reasonable, ethical, and appropriate standards in consultation with its practitioners.

The Alliance (NAOEP.org, 501(c)(3) educational organization) was formed in 2018 as a community of associations and training programs. Its purpose is primarily educational. “Our purpose is to share

information about quality energy practices, educate the public on the styles of energy work, their use, the research on energy practices, and the limits of what a professional practitioner can do.” *Note:* The FSS is a member of the Alliance, in an advisory capacity, for the specific purpose of providing accurate information about shamanism and the practice of core shamanism.

The NCCOEP (NCCOEP.org, trade board) was founded in 2018 as the result of a series of meetings within the energy practitioner associations, and training program communities. It acts as “test center dedicated to providing assessment of the energy practitioner and supporting the development of national standards for the energy practices, which result in trade boards for energy practitioners in each state.” The idea is protection of the community of practitioners and clients, through self-regulation appropriate to the specific energy medicine discipline, as designed by those who practice it; not imposed on the practitioner by governmental agencies who know nothing about it.

What the Alliance and the NCCOEP are doing. The Alliance has been working since 2018 to research and educate about the various EM disciplines and providing information to the NCCOEP to help with the development of standards for various categories of EM. Using information provided by practitioners and organizations of each category of EM, and as part of the process of self-regulation, the NCCOEP is working to create certification processes, propose legislation, and create professional standards **that states can adopt in lieu of having regulations imposed on the EM community** from government agencies that have no understanding of the specific EM fields.

The Alliance invites training programs for all fields of EM to become part of the Alliance, to facilitate the development of professional standards of ethics, training, and certification **for their own field of practice** – and thus have a voice in any proposed legislation.

A final word: If we as EM practitioners do not regulate ourselves, the government will. The FSS’ experience so far indicates that the NCCOEP and the Alliance did not come into being to try to control what we do – most of those involved are practitioners in one or more EM fields. Just as we do, they wish to have a voice in how they can most freely and professionally practice the work they love.

The Foundation will continue to monitor the situation and provide input to the Alliance and the NCCOEP regarding standards for shamanic practitioners. As always, we in keep in mind that it is the compassionate spirits that give us the power to heal. And yet, we are ordinary reality beings as well. Professionalism, through *appropriate* standards and regulations, can do much to enhance our ability to offer our work in the world – and this too is part of the responsibility of a healer.

Susan Mokolke, FSS President

References

1. In 2010, President Obama requested that Prof. Sallyanne Payton, who was responsible for the CAM provisions in the original ACA, dialogue with the EM community regarding self-regulation. Prof. Payton contacted Dr. James Oschman author of *Energy Medicine: The Scientific Basis*, who brought her to the 2010 International Society for the Study of Subtle Energy and Energy Medicine (ISSSEEM) conference to meet with leaders of the community. Prof. Payton delivered the message, and the project was then taken up by EM community members, including Dr. Melinda Connor.
2. In February 2017, Dr. Connor, who had been listed as the contact for the EM community’s self-regulation effort, received a phone call from the administration to check on progress. She was informed that if the EM community was not yet prepared, the HHS had legislation set to go. Recognizing the urgency, Melinda mobilized her contacts to arrange for the March 2018 meetings at Arizona State, which resulted in the creation of the NCCOEP and the Alliance.