

**FINAL APPROVED**

**ADVISORY BOARD ON POLYSOMNOGRAPHIC TECHNOLOGY**

**Minutes**

October 8, 2021

The Advisory Board on Polysomnographic Technology met on Friday, October 8, 2021 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Abdul Amir, MD, Chair  
Ronnie Hayes, RPSGT, Vice Chair  
Hannah Tyler, RPSGT  
Raid Mohaidat, Citizen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Jonathan Clark, RPSGT

**STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director  
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Director, Licensure  
Colanthia Opher, Deputy Director, Administration  
Delores Cousins, Licensing Specialist

**GUESTS PRESENT:** None

**Call to Order**

Dr. Amir called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

**Emergency Egress Procedures**

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress procedures.

**Roll Call**

Roll was called, and a quorum was declared.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ronnie Hayes moved to approve the minutes of the October 9, 2020 meeting. The motion was seconded by Raid Mohaidat and carried.

## **Adoption of Agenda**

Ronnie Hayes made a motion to adopt the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Dr. Amir and carried.

## **Public Comment**

None

## **New Business**

### 1. 2021 Legislative Update and 2022 Proposals

Dr. Harp provided an update on legislative actions from the 2021 General Assembly that were of interest to members and briefly mentioned several 2022 DHP legislative proposals.

### 2. Discussion of Dentists Testing, Treating, and Diagnosing Sleep Apnea

Advisory Board members discussed a position paper issued by the American Academy of Dental Sleep Medicine (AADSM) which addresses the use by dentists of home sleep apnea tests to diagnose sleep apnea. Members discussed that in order for dentists to treat sleep apnea, they would need to have some specialized training in that area. They were concerned that patients with more complex issues may not be properly managed by those using home sleep apnea tests and possibly jeopardizing the overall health of the patient. The Advisory Board concluded that it will wait for the outcome of the Board of Dentistry's discussion of this issue before revisiting it again.

### 3. Review of Licensure Requirements

Michael Sobowale said this topic was placed on the Advisory Board's agenda at the request of the Credentials Committee for the Advisory Board to review the licensing requirements and application questions to determine if they can be further streamlined. The Credentials Committee met on September 20, 2021 to review and recommend which documents required in the licensing process should be primary-source verified, which ones may be submitted as copies, and those that are no longer be needed in the licensing process. The Credentials Committee will be making recommendations on how the licensing process for all professions could be streamlined. The Committee asked that any recommendation made by the Advisory Board be reported at its next meeting on November 8<sup>th</sup>.

Members reviewed current licensure requirements for polysomnographic technology license applicants and it was the consensus of members that the application process could be simplified for applicants while still protecting the public. The Board reached a consensus as follows:

License applicants should submit primary-source verification of the following documents: evidence of one of three credentialing pathways: 1. current certification as a Registered Polysomnographic Technologist (RPSGT) by the Board of Registered Polysomnographic Technologists; 2. documentation of the Sleep Disorders Specialist credential from the National Board of Respiratory Care (NBRC-SDS); or 3. a professional certification or credential approved by the Board from an organization or entity that meets the accreditation standards of the Institute for Credentialing Excellence belonging to the National Organization for Competency Assurance. In addition, they must provide primary-source evidence of current certification in Basic Cardiac Life Support (BCLS), National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) self-query report and one state license verification.

Copies of the following documents could be accepted: Other state license verifications, if submitted; a digitally-certified electronic copy of the NPDB report in lieu of a mailed report, and supporting documentation for any question answered 'Yes' on the application form that is deemed non-routine.

It is no longer necessary for applicants to submit a "Form B" employment verification. Also, it is no longer necessary to provide a notarized BCLS certificate as a copy will suffice.

### **Approval of Meeting Calendar**

Raid Mohaidat voiced concern that there is a religious conflict with the time that the Advisory Board meetings are currently held. Some members are unable to attend meetings due to this conflict.

Following discussion, Ronnie Hayes moved to approve the dates scheduled for the Advisory Board on the 2022 meeting calendar and to change future meetings to start at 2:30 pm, instead of the current 1:00 p.m. Dr. Amir seconded the motion, and it carried.

### **Election of Officers**

Ronnie Hayes moved that Dr. Amir continue as Chair. The motion was seconded by Raid Mohaidat. Raid Mohaidat moved that Ronnie Hayes continue as Vice-Chair. The motion was seconded by Dr. Amir. By unanimous vote, members approved the slate of officers presented.

### **Announcements:**

Delores Cousins gave the licensing statistics report. The Board currently has 472 licenses total with 350 current active in Virginia and 122 out-of-state.

### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

The next scheduled meeting will be February 4, 2022 @ 2:30 p.m.

**Adjournment**

There being no other business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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Abdul Amir, MD, Chair

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William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

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Delores Cousins, Licensing Specialist