

**VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE
LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE MINUTES**

Friday, January 14, 2022

Department of Health Professions

Henrico, VA

CALL TO ORDER:

Dr. Archer called the meeting of the Legislative Committee to order at 8:30 a.m.

ROLL CALL:

Ms. Opher called the roll; a quorum was established.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

David Archer, MD, Vice-President, Chair
James Arnold, DPM
Jane Hickey, JD
Oliver Kim, LLM

MEMBERS ABSENT:

Jacob Miller, DO
Joel Silverman, MD
Ryan Williams, MD

STAFF PRESENT:

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director
Colanthia Morton Opher, Deputy Director for Administration
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Director for Licensing
Barbara Matusiak, MD, Medical Review Coordinator
Barbara Allison-Bryan, MD, DHP Senior Deputy Director
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Erin Barrett, JD, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Carrie Mitchell, AAG

OTHERS PRESENT:

Eleni Poulos, MWC
Scott Castro, MSV

EMERGENCY EGRESS INSTRUCTIONS

Dr. Archer provided the emergency egress instructions.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF MAY 21, 2021

Dr. Arnold moved to approve the meeting minutes of May 21, 2021 as presented. The motion was seconded by Ms. Hickey and carried unanimously.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Ms. Hickey moved to accept the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Arnold and carried unanimously.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DHP DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Dr. Allison-Bryan announced that she was presenting in Dr. Brown's place since he was attending a subcommittee at the General Assembly. She noted that his presence there was to provide insight and information on bills concerning the DHP and the boards. Dr. Allison-Bryan spoke about the transition of the incoming Administration as well as changes at DHP. She introduced Erin Barrett, JD as the new DHP Policy Analyst. She also provided a brief update on COVID, noting the uptick in cases due to Omicron. She added that Virginia still has one of the nation's highest vaccination rates and one of the lowest per capita death rates from COVID. Dr. Allison-Bryan concluded her report with an update on a workgroup she led to look at **HB420 - Opioid-related emergencies; evidence-based best practices in the emergency department** and was pleased to report that their recommendations were incorporated verbatim in legislation.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of the 2022 Session of the General Assembly – Ms. Yeatts

Ms. Yeatts advised that the agency is following 72 bills in this year's session and highlighted those that directly affected the Board or might be of interest to the Committee. After her report, Ms. Yeatts fielded questions from the members regarding several bills, including the Legislative Committee's role in the legislative process. She stated that the Committee may offer comments and recommendations which could be reflected in DHP's Legislative Action Summary. For bills that members feel strongly about, she suggested they reach out to their respective legislators as an individual, not as a member of the Board of Medicine, to discuss their concerns.

2. Consideration of Reciprocity with Maryland and the District of Columbia – Dr. Harp

Dr. Harp noted that there has been a growing interest among medical providers, medical associations, medical boards and the members of the General Assembly in facilitating practice across jurisdictional lines with Maryland and DC. He provided an overview of the meetings held between the executive directors and noted for the Committee a very enthusiastic article published by the Medical Society of the District of Columbia on December 15, 2021 applauding efforts towards reciprocity.

Dr. Harp pointed out that Virginia's application asks questions in a broader fashion, rather than a more specific, detailed one. However, Virginia's questions appear to cover all of the required elements in Maryland and DC's questions. The Committee discussed the similarities and differences in the licensing requirements. After discussion, the Committee unanimously agreed that it felt positive about continuing to the next steps with Maryland and the District. Dr. Harp said that the Committee's discussion was helpful and will provide guidance for Board staff in the upcoming January 28th meeting with the executive directors of Maryland and DC.

--- FINAL APPROVED---

This item was for discussion only and did not require a motion.

3. Joint Commission on Health Care “Review of the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact” – Dr. Harp

Dr. Harp advised the members that in the 2021 Session of the General Assembly, Delegate Dan Helmer put forth HJ531 for the Joint Commission on Healthcare to study the advisability of Virginia joining the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. On August 2, 2021, Barbara Allison-Bryan, MD, Blanton Marchese, Michael Sobowale, Colanthia Morton Opher, and he met with Jeff Lunardi, Executive Director for the Joint Commission and Ashley Williams, who was assisting with the study. Dr. Harp then referred the Committee to Mr. Lunardi’s report in the packet which reviewed the findings of the study. In addition to the Board of Medicine, other sources included the IMLC Commission and the Office of the Attorney General. Dr. Harp advised that the report was unalterable.

This report was for discussion only and did not require a motion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

No Announcements.

NEXT MEETING

May 6, 2022

ADJOURNEMENT

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:22 a.m.

David Archer, MD
Vice-President, Chair

William L. Harp, MD
Executive Director

Colanthia Morton Opher
Recording Secretary