

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING

Minutes

June 1, 2021

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting held a virtual meeting on Tuesday, June 1, 2021 hosted at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Redmond, LSA, Chair
Thomas Gochenour, LSA
Nicole Meredith, RN
Jessica Wilhelm, LSA

MEMBERS ABSENT: Srikanth Mahavadi, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Director, Licensure
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, DHP
Colanthia Morton Opher, Deputy Director, Administration
Delores Cousins, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Jerry Gentile, DPB
Brent Rawlings, JD, VHHA
Steven Hammond
Ben Traynam, JD, MSV
Ashley Smith

Call to Order

Deborah Redmond, Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

The roll was called; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes

Nicole Meredith moved to approve the minutes of the February 2, 2021 meeting. Jessica Wilhelm seconded. By roll call vote, the minutes were approved with a minor amendment to the date of the next scheduled meeting listed on page 3.

Adoption of Agenda

Thomas Gochenour moved to adopt the agenda. Nicole Meredith seconded the motion. By roll call vote, the agenda was approved as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

None

New Business

1. Legislation from the 2021 General Assembly

Elaine Yeatts provided a report from the 2021 General Assembly and highlighted legislation that was of interest to the Advisory Board.

2. Regulatory and Policy Actions for the Board of Medicine

Elaine Yeatts reviewed the calendar dates of future policy and regulatory actions to be taken by the Board of Medicine pursuant to various bills passed by the 2021 General Assembly.

3. Regulatory Amendments for Certification of Surgical Technologists

Elaine Yeatts discussed the new legislation, which elevated surgical technologists from a registered profession to a certified one. The legislation contains a “grandfathering” provision, which provides a pathway for those who have been practicing as a surgical technologist within the six months prior to July 1, 2021. This is in lieu of a credential issued by the NBSTSA or completion of an accredited training program. To qualify for grandfathering, a surgical technologist must apply for certification with the Board by December 31, 2021.

Ms. Yeatts presented a draft of proposed amendments to conform Board regulations to the changes in the law for the certification of surgical technologists.

4. Proposed Regulations Pursuant to a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA)

Ms. Yeatts presented the proposed amendments to the Regulations for Licensure of Surgical Assistants for discussion, along with the regulatory amendments for Certification of Surgical Technologists, pursuant to a Notice of Intended Regulatory

Action that will be published for public comment. The proposed amendments establish requirements for maintenance of credential at the time of renewal of licensure or certification. As worded, those who were grandfathered in will be exempt from a current “certification credential” at the time of renewal.

After discussion, Thomas Gochenour moved to recommend adoption of the proposed amendments to the Regulations for Licensed Surgical Assistants and Certified Surgical Technologists to the Board of Medicine. Jessica Wilhelm seconded. By roll call vote, the motion was approved.

Announcements

Licensing Statistics:

Delores Cousins reported that there are 361 current, active surgical assistants and 235 current, active surgical technologists. Michael Sobowale added that there were 52 newly licensed surgical assistants and 3 newly registered surgical technologists in the 1st quarter of 2021.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

Deborah Redmond announced that the next scheduled meeting will be held on Tuesday, October 12, 2021 @ 10:00am

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Deborah Redmond adjourned the meeting at 11:32am.

Deborah Redmond, LSA, Chair

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

Delores Cousins, License Specialist