

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING

Minutes

May 31, 2022

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting met on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Redmond, CSA, Chair
Jessica Wilhelm, CSA
Nicole Meredith, RN, Citizen Member

MEMBERS ABSENT: Thomas Gochenour, CSA
Srikanth Mahavadi, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Director for Licensure
Erin Barrett, JD, DHP Senior Policy Analyst

GUESTS PRESENT: Hunter Jamerson, NSAA

Call to Order

Deborah Redmond called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

The roll was called; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes from February 7, 2022

Nicole Meredith moved to approve the minutes. Jessica Wilhelm seconded. The minutes carried as presented.

Adoption of Agenda

Jessica Wilhelm moved to adopt the agenda. Nicole Meredith seconded. The agenda was adopted as presented.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

Hunter Jamerson, representing the National Surgical Assistants Association (NSAA), expressed its support for provisional licensure of surgical assistants in the licensure process. Hospitals requiring licensure upon hiring would benefit from this, as well as newly graduated surgical assistants.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Legislative Update from the 2022 General Assembly

Erin Barrett discussed SB317 and the temporary authorization of a licensed individual from another state to practice in Virginia without a license for 90 days. If the individual applies for a permanent license, an additional 60 days can be added. Colanthia Morton Opher added that a new fillable form is now on the Board's website for employers to fill out and send to a dedicated email box.

2. Discussion of HB598

Ms. Barrett explained that this bill extends licensure by grandfathering until December 31, 2022, but the law authorizing the Board to issue a license does not become effective until July 1, 2022.

3. Regulatory Action: Recommended Adoption of Final Regulations for Surgical Assistants

Ms. Barrett provided a basic outline of the standard regulatory process. After discussion, members agreed to approve the adoption of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to make modifications to the regulations for licensure of surgical assistants and registration of surgical technologists as follows: 1) add definitions as necessary; 2) conform fees for licensure to other professions under the Board; 3) add requirements for continuing competency for surgical assistants/technologists licensed under the grandfathering provision; 4) provide for an inactive license and for reactivation or reinstatement of a license; 5) provide for a restricted volunteer license or voluntary practice by out-of-state practitioners; and 6) provide for renewal from registration of surgical technologists. Finally, the Board will adopt standards of practice similar to those for other licensed professions under its jurisdiction and consider the code of ethics specific to surgical assistants, including provisions on maintenance of confidentiality and patient records.

Nicole Meredith moved to recommend a NOIRA. Jessica Wilhelm seconded. The motion was adopted as presented.

4. Discussion of Provisional License, Renewal, Inactive License, and Reactivation

Deborah Redmond led the discussion and suggested changes be made to the existing application for registration of surgical assistants similar to that of provisional licensure. This pathway would allow a prospective graduate to apply for licensure, as well as accept a job offer whose employer requests proof of licensure. Jessica Wilhelm discussed the national certifying board's processes of issuing the current certification only after the student has graduated. Michael Sobowale discussed that there are no CE attestations in the renewal processes which do need to be put in place.

5. Discussion of Inactive Certification and Reinstatement Requirements for Surgical Technologists

Michael Sobowale explained that there are currently no procedures in place for activating certification or reinstatement of expired surgical technologist certifications, and that each case is handled as a new application. Mr. Sobowale indicated that there is language in the proposed regulations to serve as a basis for instructions to implement a reinstatement application.

Announcements

Beulah Baptist Archer provided the following licensure totals for licensed surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

Licensed Surgical Assistants		Surgical Technologist	
Current active in Virginia	486	Current active in Virginia	994
Current Active out of state	88	Current active out of state	195
Total	574		1,189

Next Scheduled Meeting: September 26, 2022, at 10:00.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Deborah Redmond adjourned the meeting at 11:20 a.m.

Deborah Redmond, CSA, Chair

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

Beulah Baptist Archer, Recording Secretary

Michael O. Sobowale, LLM
Deputy Executive Director, Licensure