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ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING

Minutes

June 10, 2024

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting met on Monday, June 10, 2024, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Thomas Gochenour, LSA Vice-Chair
Deborah Redmond, LSA

MEMBERS ABSENT: Jessica Wilhelm, LSA Chair
Nicole Meredith, RN
Srikanth Mahavadi, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director - Licensure
Jennifer Deschenes, JD, Deputy Executive Director - Discipline
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director – Administration
Erin Barret, JD, DHP Director of DHP Legislative and Regulatory
Affairs
Kelly Smith, DHP Director of Communications
Roslyn Nickens - Licensing Supervisor
Joshlynn Jones - Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: W. Scott Johnson, JD - Medical Society of Virginia & Hancock
Daniel

Call to Order

Thomas Gochenour, called meeting to order @ 10:03 a.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

Joshlynn Jones called the roll; a quorum was not declared.

Introduction of Members

Mr. Gochenour asked everyone present in the room to introduce themselves.

Approval of Minutes

There was no quorum to approve the minutes of the June 20, 2023 meeting.

Adoption of Agenda

Due to lack of quorum, motions and voting to adopt the agenda did not occur.

Public Comment

None

New Business

1. Report on Status of Regulatory /Policy Actions

Erin Barrett reviewed the status of the Advisory Board's regulatory actions.

2. Discuss Continuing Education Process for Grandfathered Surgical Assistants and Certified Surgical Technologists

Deborah Redmond stated that, currently, licensed surgical assistants credentialed through the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA) or the National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants (NCCSA) must attest that their credential is current at the time of license renewal, in addition to maintaining the required number continuing education (CE) credits and 1 hour of CE on human trafficking as asked on the renewal application. She questioned if surgical assistants who were grandfathered for licensure are meeting the same standard when renewing their license. Erin Barrett responded that approval of renewal requirements in regulations for licensed surgical assistants and certified surgical technologists who were credentialed through other pathways is pending in the Executive Branch.

3. Discuss Legislation Allowing Athletic Trainers to Assist in the Operating Room

Michael Sobowale explained that this topic was placed on the agenda at the request of the advisory chair, Jessica Wilhelm. Erin Barrett stated that the question of the ability

of an athletic trainer to work in an operating room environment should be left to the hospital or facility where the practitioner is credentialed. It is not a decision made by the Board.

4. Virginia Surgical Technologist Certification Obtained Through the NCCT Credential

Michael Sobowale reported that to present, 58 surgical technologists have been registered for certification by the Board through the NCCT credential.

5. Orientation to the Board of Medicine and Advisory Board

Dr. Harp gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Board of Medicine and its Advisory Boards.

Announcements:

Licensing Statistics

Joshlynn Jones provided the license statistics report. Currently, the Board has licensed 825 surgical assistants and registered 2,638 surgical technologists for certification.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, October 15, 2024 @ 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Thomas Gochenour adjourned the meeting @ 11:08 a.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director