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## ADVISORY BOARD ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

### Minutes

June 6, 2024

The Advisory Board on Physician Assistants met on Thursday, June 6, 2024 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Erin Myers, PA-C, Vice-Chair  
Lucy Treene, PA-C  
Tracey Dunn, Citizen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair  
Brian Hanharan, MD

**STAFF PRESENT:** Michael Sobowale, LL.M., Deputy Executive Director – Licensure  
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director - Administration  
Erin Barrett, JD, Director of DHP Legislative and Regulatory Affairs  
Matthew Novak, DHP Policy and Economic Analyst  
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor  
Jamie Culp, Licensing Specialist  
Barbara Hodgdon, PhD, Healthcare Workforce Data Center  
Yetty Shobo, PhD, Healthcare Workforce Data Center

**GUESTS PRESENT:** Robert Glasgow - Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants  
Jonathan Williams – Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants

### Call to Order

Erin Myers called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

### Emergency Egress Procedures

Michael Sobowale announced the emergency egress instructions.

### **Roll Call**

Jamie Culp called the roll; a quorum was declared.

### **Approval of Minutes**

Erin Myers moved to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2022 meeting. Upon a motion by Lucy Treene, seconded by Tracey Dunn, motion was passed unanimously to approve the minutes as presented.

### **Adoption of Agenda**

Tracey Dunn moved to adopt the meeting agenda as presented. Lucy Treene seconded the motion. By unanimous consent, the agenda was adopted as presented.

### **Public Comments**

None

### **2024 Healthcare Workforce Data Presentation**

Barbara Hodgdon, Ph.D. provided a comprehensive presentation of the results from the 2023 physician assistant healthcare workforce data survey. Among the key findings are increases in licensees entering the Virginia workforce and those working in full-time employment.

### **New Business**

#### **1. Report of Regulatory Actions**

Erin Barrett reviewed the status of the advisory board's regulatory actions.

#### **2. Legislative Update**

Erin Barrett discussed House Bill 324 which was passed into law by the 2024 General Assembly. This legislation authorized Virginia to become a signatory to the physician assistant compact. The Board will need to develop regulations to implement the Compact.

She also discussed Senate Bill 133 which provides a practice agreement exemption for physician assistants. Physician Assistants employed by a hospital or in certain designated state or federal facilities are exempted from having a separate practice agreement, if the credentialing and privileging requirements of the applicable facility include a practice arrangement that incorporates the components of a practice agreement as provided in the law.

### **3. Request from Council of State Governments and Correspondence Regarding PA Compact**

Michael Sobowale discussed the request in the correspondence received from the Council of State Governments (CSG) for appointment of a state delegate to the Physician Assistant Compact Commission. Members opted to take the request under advisement and await more information from the CSG regarding the next steps.

### **4. Discuss License Reinstatement Process for Physician Assistants**

Michael Sobowale led the discussion. The current provision in regulations says that a physician assistant who lets their license expire for two (2) years or more will have to submit a new application. This causes duplicity of documentation when attempting to reactivate a license. This has also led to confusion, sometimes, among license applicants and staff processing the submitted paperwork in regard to distinguishing a new application from one to reactivate a license. In order to eliminate this confusion, promote efficiency in the licensing process, and further simplify the license reinstatement process for license applicants, Mr. Sobowale proposed that the Board consider adding language that addresses a license reinstatement process to its regulations. After discussion, Lucy Treene made a motion to request the DHP's Office of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs to draft language that describes a license reinstatement process for physician assistants for addition to the regulations at the next scheduled meeting. Erin Myers seconded the motion. Motion carried.

### **5. Orientation to the Board of Medicine and Advisory Board**

Michael Sobowale gave a PowerPoint Presentation on the Board of Medicine and its Advisory Boards.

## **Announcements**

## **License Statistics**

Jamie Culp provided the licensing statistics report for Physician Assistants. The Board currently has a total of 6,419 physician assistant licenses.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting is October 10, 2024 at 1:00 p.m.

**Adjournment**

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2:29 p.m.

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William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director