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ADVISORY BOARD ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Minutes

October 1, 2026

The Advisory Board on Physician Assistants met on Thursday, October 1, 2026, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair
Tracey Dunn - citizen
Bobby Cockram, PA-C
Robert Glasgow, PA-C

MEMBERS ABSENT: Brian Hanrahan, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director - Licensure
Colanthia Morton Opher, Deputy Executive Director – Medical
Licensure and Administration
Jennifer Deschenes, Deputy Executive Director – Discipline
Kathleen LaMotte, Board Administrator
Erin Barrett, JD – Director of DHP Legislative and Regulatory
Affairs
Matthew Novak, Agency Regulatory Coordinator
Roslyn Nickens, Licensing Supervisor
Erin Pollard, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Drew Densmore
Jonathan Williams

Call to Order

Justin Hepner called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Kathleen LaMotte announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

Ms. LaMotte called the roll; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Glasgow moved to approve the minutes from the May 14, 2026 meeting as amended. Mr. Cockram seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Dunn motioned to adopt the agenda. The motion was seconded by Mr. Cockram. The motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

No public comment was received

New Business

Regulatory update

Mr. Novak reported that the NOIRA for the Physician Assistant Compact was approved by the Governor's Office earlier this morning. He noted that staff are unsure when it will be scheduled for publication. He also stated that licensure by endorsement has now been fully implemented and is live.

Mr. Novak introduced a chart outlining the regulatory processes used by the Department of Health Professions, providing members with a general overview of the rulemaking pathways and how regulations move through the system. Board members were encouraged to contact staff with any questions regarding the regulatory process.

Review and Recommendation of Language to Conform with HB746

Mr. Novak then reviewed HB746, enacted by the General Assembly, which follows the nurse practitioner model and authorizes physician assistants with sufficient experience to practice without a practice agreement. He explained that the Board must promulgate regulations to align with this law and ensure conformity with other professions. The Advisory Board's recommendation on this matter will proceed to the full Board for approval.

He noted that the regulatory package establishes a fee for autonomous practice, consistent with fees set by other Boards. A new Code section has been added to permit practice without a practice agreement and to outline exceptions requiring one. Additionally, new Section 118 establishes requirements and documentation standards for authorization to practice autonomously. Sections 140 and 160 also include new language to ensure compliance with the practice-without-an-agreement framework.

A motion was made by Mr. Cockram and seconded by Mr. Glasgow to recommend that the Board adopt the proposed regulatory action to conform regulations with HB746. The motion passed unanimously.

Update to Physician Assistant Compact – Justin Hepner, PA-C, Chair

Mr. Hepner provided an update on recent activity related to the Physician Assistant Compact. He reported that there are currently 29 member states participating in the Compact, and that committee work continues steadily. Development of the Compact's centralized database remains on track, with anticipated completion in 2027.

Mr. Hepner noted that Virginia is still in need of a backup delegate to the PA Compact Commission. The Board agreed that Mr. Glasgow's name will be advanced to serve in that role.

Review and Comment on PA Compact Commission Draft Rule 2 (Definitions) and Draft Rule 8 (Records Exempt from Disclosure) – Michael Sobowale

Mr. Sobowale reviewed the draft rules issued by the PA Licensure Compact Commission concerning definitions and records exempt from disclosure. He explained that compact legislation requires each member state to appoint a delegate to the PA Compact, and that the Commission subsequently assigns delegates to its committees. Mr. Hepner currently serves on the Executive Committee. The Rules Committee is responsible for completing draft rules for consideration by the Executive Committee and final approval by the full Commission. Each participating state is expected to follow these rules in administering Compact licensure.

Mr. Sobowale noted that the final day for public comment on the draft rules is Sunday, October 4. After the comment period closes, the Rules Committee will determine whether to advance the rules as drafted or make amendments based on the feedback received.

He further explained that Virginia will not need to incorporate Compact rules directly into its regulations; however, the Commonwealth will be required to follow these rules for all Compact-related licensure matters, provided that no provisions conflict with state law.

Licensing Report

Total PA licenses issued in 2025: 968

- **By reciprocity:** 106

Applications processed in 2026 (to date): 896

- **By reciprocity:** 85

Current processing time: 25 days

Total number of licensed PAs in the Commonwealth: 8,118

Announcements

Members present were reminded to submit their travel expense reimbursement vouchers within 30 days of the meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next meeting scheduled is Thursday, February 4, 2027, at 1:00 p.m.

Adjournment

Justin Hepner adjourned the meeting at 1:41 p.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director