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ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING

Minutes

October 15, 2024

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting met on Tuesday, October 15, 2024, at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jessica Wilhelm, LSA - Chair
Thomas Gochenour, LSA – Vice Chair
Deborah Redmond, LSA
Nicole Meredith, RN (arrived at 10:25 am)

MEMBERS ABSENT: Srikanth Mahavadi, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director - Licensure
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director – Administration
Erin Barret, JD - Director of DHP Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Matthew Novak - DHP Policy and Economic Analyst
Arne Owens - DHP Director
Roslyn Nickens - Licensing Supervisor
Joshlynn Jones - Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: None

Call to Order

Jessica Wilhelm called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

Joshlynn Jones called the roll; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes

Thomas Gochenour moved to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2024, meeting. Deborah Redmond seconded the motion. The motion was approved.

Adoption of Agenda

Deborah Redmond moved to adopt the agenda. Thomas Gochenour seconded. The motion was approved.

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. Approval for the fast-track action for reinstatement of certification as a surgical technologist cleared the Secretary's office and has been sent to the Governor's Office.

2. Consideration of American Allied Health Surgical Technician Training Program

During discussion, members shared their concerns. The name difference and skill set between "Surgical Technician" and "Surgical Technologist" are different and may confuse the public. The testing and recertification requirements that American Allied Health (AAH) presented are less rigorous compared to what already approved entities such as NBSTSA and NCCT require. Following testing, AAH requires only 5 CEU hours for maintenance of AAH certification. The NBSTSA requires 30 hours and NCCT requires 14 hours per year. The program requirements listed for training and eligibility to sit for the certifying exam are general, not specific, and does not list a hands-on, clinical training as part of the student's education and experience prior to sitting for the examination.

After discussion, Deborah Redmond moved to recommend to the full board to deny AAH's request at this time. Thomas Gochenour seconded. The motion passed.

3. Approval of 2025 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Gochenour moved to approve the 2025 meeting calendar. Jessica Wilhelm seconded. The motion passed.

4. Election of Officers

Deborah Redmond nominated Jessica Wilhelm to continue as Chair. Thomas Gochenour seconded. The motion passed. Ms. Redmond nominated Thomas Gochenour to continue as Vice-Chair. Jessica Wilhelm seconded. The motion passed.

Announcements:

Licensing Statistics

Joshlynn Jones provided the licensing and certification statistics. From January 1, 2024, to October 15, 2024, the Board has licensed a total of 100 surgical assistants and 473 surgical technologist certificates from January 1, 2024, to date. The Board's total number of surgical assistants is 832, and the number of certified surgical technologists is 2,617. There are 207 out-of-state surgical assistants and 1,034 surgical technologists.

Next Scheduled Meeting

The next scheduled meeting is Tuesday, February 18, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, Jessica Wilhem adjourned the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director