

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS

Minutes

October 7, 2021

The Advisory Board on Physician Assistants met on Thursday, October 7, 2021 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Kathleen Scarbalis, PA-C, Chair
James B. Carr, PA-C, Vice-Chair
Portia Tomlinson, PA-C
Frazier W. Frantz, MD
Tracey Dunn, Citizen

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, Deputy Executive Director, Licensure
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Director, Administration
ShaRon Clanton, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Kelsey Wilkinson, Medical Society of Virginia

Call to Order

Ms. Scarbalis called the meeting to order at 1:04 pm.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress procedures.

Roll Call

Roll was called, and a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes

Ms. Tomlinson moved to approve the minutes of the January 28, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dunn and carried unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Ms. Tomlinson moved to adopt the meeting agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dunn and was carried.

Public Comments

Kelsey Wilkinson with the Medical Society of Virginia introduced herself to the Board; she made no comment on agenda items.

New Business

1. 2021 Legislative Update and 2022 Proposals

Dr. Harp provided an update on legislative actions from the 2021 General Assembly that were of interest to members, including 2022 legislative proposals. He made special mention of the provision which allows a student physician assistant to practice under the supervision of the faculty.

2. Report of Regulatory Actions

Dr. Harp reviewed the draft amendments to the regulations in 18VAC85-50 et seq. to conform the regulations to the Code. The amendments will be submitted as an exempt regulatory action.

3. Update on FSMB Initiative on Physician Assistant Licensure Compact

Ms. Scarbalis reported on the meeting held on July 26, 2021 to review model legislation for the Compact and submitted public comments. The topic has generated a lot of interest among physician assistants. The next meeting to be held on November 18th will be to review and incorporate all comments received on the draft model legislation.

4. Update on DMAS Medicaid Enrollment for Physician Assistants

Ms. Scarbalis reported that physician assistants are able to apply for a Virginia Department of Medical Assistant Services (DMAS) enrollment number for fee-for-service billing effective September 1, 2021.

5. Request to Consider Change to Physician Assistant Ratio per Patient Care Team Physician

Ms. Tomlinson stated that she is satisfied with the written explanation provided by Board staff in response to her request that can be submitted to the Virginia Academy of Physician Assistants to try to find a patron to champion the legislative change. The Board of Medicine cannot change the limit written in the Code.

6. Review of Licensure Requirements

Michael Sobowale said this topic was placed on the Advisory Board's agenda at the request of the Credentials Committee for the Advisory Board to review the licensing requirements and application questions to determine if they can be further streamlined. The Credentials Committee met on September 20, 2021 to review and recommend which documents required in the licensing process should be primary-source verified, which ones may be submitted as copies, and those that are no longer be needed in the licensing process. The Credentials Committee will be making recommendations on how the licensing process for all professions could be streamlined. The Committee asked that any recommendation made by the Advisory Board be reported at its next meeting on November 8th.

The Credentials Committee had recommended at the September 20th meeting that a physician assistant license applicant should submit primary source verification of the following documents: professional education/ school transcripts but delete the use of "Form L" to collect this information, National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA) Certificate, National Practitioner Data Bank (NPDB) self-query report, and one state license verification.

Copies of the following documents could be accepted: Other state license verifications, if submitted; a digitally-certified electronic copy of the NPDB report in lieu of a mailed report, and supporting documentation for any question answered 'Yes' on the application form that is deemed non-routine. It is no longer necessary for applicants to submit a "Form B" employment verification.

Members were in consensus that the recommendations made by the Committee pertaining to the application process for physician assistant license applicants could simplify the application process for them while still protecting the public.

After discussion, Ms. Tomlinson moved that the Advisory Board should accept the recommendation of the Credentials Committee that physician assistant license applicants only submit one license verification instead of requesting a license verification from multiple states. Dr. Frantz seconded the motion. The motion carried. Mr. Carr moved that the Advisory Board should also accept the recommendation of the Credentials Committee that physician assistants license applicants can begin to submit a digitally certified copy of the NPDB self-query report, in lieu of a mailed original copy. The motion was seconded by Ms. Tomlinson. The motion carried.

7. Approval of 2022 Meeting Calendar

Mr. Carr moved to approve the proposed meeting dates for the Advisory Board on the 2022 calendar. Ms. Tomlinson seconded. The schedule of meetings in 2022 was unanimously approved.

8. Election of Officers

Ms. Tomlinson moved that both Kathy Scarbalis and James Carr continue as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dunn. Approval of the motion was unanimous.

Announcements:

Next Meeting date: February 3, 2022 @ 1:00 pm.

Adjournment:

With no other business to conduct, the meeting was adjourned at 2.20 pm.

Kathleen Scarbalis, PA-C, Chair

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

ShaRon Clanton, Licensing Specialist