

FINAL APPROVED

**ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING
Minutes**

February 13, 2023

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting met on Monday, February 13, 2023 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Redmond, CSA
Jessica Wilhelm, CSA
Nicole Meredith, RN
Thomas Gochenour, CSA
Srikanth Mahavadi, MD

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Director, Licensure
Erin Barrett, JD, Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Beulah Archer, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Colanthia Morton Opher, Deputy Director for Administration
Jennifer Deschenes, Deputy Director for Discipline
Matt Novak, DHP Policy Analyst

Call to Order

Deborah Redmond called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

Emergency Egress Procedures

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

Roll Call

Beulah Archer called the roll; a quorum was declared.

Approval of Minutes from May 31, 2022

Dr. Mahavadi moved to approve the May 31, 2022 minutes as presented. The motion was seconded by Jessica Wilhelm and carried unanimously.

Adoption of Agenda

Thomas Gochenour moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded by Nicole Meredith and carried unanimously.

Public Comment on Agenda Items

There was no public comment.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Legislative Update from the 2023 General Assembly

Erin Barrett discussed several bills of interest for the Advisory Board. This was for informational purposes only and did not require any action.

2. Update on Regulatory Actions:

Ms. Barrett reviewed the status of the Advisory Board's regulatory actions and noted that other than an update on the number days in the Secretary's office, there were no other changes to report. This was for informational purposes only and did not require any action.

3. Review of Bylaws for the Advisory Board

Ms. Barrett explained that the Bylaws for the 11 advisories differ only by the statute for each profession. So instead of maintaining documents for each the Board, they have been combined into one. This was for informational purposes only and did not require any action.

4. Discuss Certification Requirement re: Surgical Assistant Working as Surgical Technologist; Discuss Inactive Certification and Reinstatement Requirements for Surgical Technologists

Deborah Redmond asked for direction when scope of practice queries arise for Surgical Assistants. Dr. Harp reviewed statute § 54.1-2956.12, from the Code of Virginia which provides title protection for Surgical Technologists. No person can hold himself out to be a surgical technologist or assume the title or abbreviations indicating such. RN's, Surgical Assistants, and others cannot call themselves Surgical Technologists or practice the profession of Surgical Technology, but they can perform "tasks" that may fall into their scope and the scope for Surgical Technology. It was suggested that hospital and practice attorneys familiarize themselves with this law and consider their specific circumstances and how the law applies.

5. Approval of 2023 Meeting Calendar

After acknowledging the change in the June meeting date to June 20, 2023, the calendar was accepted.

6. Election of Officers

After the floor was opened for nominations, Ms. Redmond nominated Ms. Wilhelm for Chair. Ms. Meredith seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Ms. Redmond then nominated Mr. Gochenour for Vice-Chair. Ms. Wilhelm seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Announcements

Beulah Baptist Archer provided the following licensure totals for surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

Licensed Surgical Assistants		Surgical Technologist	
Current active in Virginia	530	Current active in Virginia	1424
Current Active out of state	127	Current active out of state	487
Total	536		1911

Licensure totals during the extended grandfathering period from January 1, 2022 until January 1, 2023

Licensed Surgical Assistant	Surgical Technologist	
193	1,250	

Ms. Archer was given a standing ovation for her efficiency and dedication to the licensing of surgical technologists and surgical assistants.

Next Scheduled Meeting: June 20, 2023, at 10:00.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director