

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS
REGULATORY RESEARCH COMMITTEE
FEBRUARY 6, 2008**

TIME AND PLACE: The meeting was called to order at 10:40 a.m. on Wednesday, February 6, 2008, Department of Health Professions, 9960 Mayland Drive, 2nd Floor, Room 4, Richmond, VA.

PRESIDING OFFICER: Susan Chadwick, Au.D., Chair

MEMBERS PRESENT: David Boehm, L.C.S.W., Ex-officio
Meera Gokli, D.D.S.
Damien Howell, P.T.
Vilma Seymour, Citizen Member
John Penn Turner, M.S., L.P.C., L.S.A.T.P.

MEMBERS NOT PRESENT: Paula H. Boone, O.D.

STAFF PRESENT: Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Board
Amy Marschean, Senior Assistant Attorney General
Emily Wingfield, Chief Deputy Director
Susan Stanbach, Senior Management Analyst
Terri Behr, Operations Manager

OTHERS PRESENT: No others were present.

QUORUM: With six members present, a quorum was established.

AGENDA: No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT: No public comment was presented.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: On properly seconded motion by Mr. Howell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2008.

REVIEW OF LEGISLATIVE ISSUES AFFECTING REGULATION: Ms. Wingfield presented an overview of the 2008 legislation that will require various boards to develop regulatory changes.

REVIEW OF CENTRAL SERVICE TECHNICIANS WORKPLAN: Dr. Carter updated the Committee on the Central Service Technicians study. Specifically, the workplan includes a literature review, public hearings and comment, detailed review of New Jersey regulations and consultation with constituent

groups. A final draft of the study will be completed by October 1, 2008 with final report by November 1, 2008.

On properly seconded motion by Mr. Howell, the Committee voted unanimously to direct staff to keep the Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation apprised of the study because of the potential similarity of public safety issues relative to appropriate use of medical equipment. In the case of the Board for Opticians, glasses and lenses, and in the case of the Board for Hearing Aid Specialists, hearing aids.

**REQUEST FOR A
SUNRISE REVIEW OF
ORTHOPAEDIC
TECHNOLOGISTS:**

Dr. Carter apprised the Committee of the request for a sunrise review of orthopaedic technologists received from the Board of Medicine.

On properly seconded motion by Mr. Howell, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the sunrise review of orthopaedic technologists.

NEW BUSINESS:

Prosthetists and Orthotists

Dr. Carter reported that a request was on its way to the Board to conduct a study into the need to regulate prosthetists and orthotists.

On properly seconded motion by Mr. Howell, the Committee voted unanimously to conduct a study of prosthetists and orthotists and combine with the orthopaedic technologists study.

Medical Interpreters

Dr. Carter informed the Committee of the potential need to study medical interpreters. Ms. Seymour said that a national task force of the Joint Commission on Accrediting Healthcare Organizations, the National Council on Interpreting in Healthcare is beginning to work on the issue. There is no association of medical interpreters specific to Virginia. She indicated that Glen Flores of the Medical College of Wisconsin has published a systematic review of the issues and may be a good source of information for the Board. Ms. Seymour also noted that organizations that receive federal funding are required to ensure adequate interpretations are rendered.

Mr. Boehm indicated that this is a mental health issue also and that the issue needs to be addressed with the Department of Health and Department of Education. The Supreme Court's certification of court interpreters may serve as a useful model. Mr. Boehm expressed concern that this issue may be outside BHP's venue and better addressed by other state or federal

agencies.

To better advise the Board, Dr. Carter noted that she would request representatives from the Department of Health and the Department of Education to address this issue at the April 2008 meeting.

ADJOURNMENT: The meeting adjourned at 11:35 a.m.

Susan G. Chadwick, Au.D.
Chair

Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D.
Executive Director for the Board