

**BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESISONS  
REGULATORY RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
PUBLIC HEARING ON EMERGING PROFESSIONS  
AUGUST 11, 2009**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The public hearing was called to order at 9:08 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions. The purpose for the hearing was to receive public comment pursuant to its study into the need to regulate the emerging professions: Surgical Assistants and Surgical Technologists.

**PRESIDING CHAIR:** Damien Howell, P.T.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Jennifer Edwards, Pharm.D.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director, Board of Health Professions  
Justin Crow, Research Assistant  
Carol Stamey, Operations Manager  
Laura Chapman

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Jennette, CSA  
Helen French, RN, BSN  
Rebecca Music, AD, CST  
Sandra Luthie  
Stephen Balog, RN  
Bonnie Vencill, RN, CNOR  
Becky Bowers Lanier  
Julie Vaughn  
James E. Jones, Jr.  
Juan M. Montero, II, MD  
Theresa Cooper, CFA, CSA, CST  
Mary Armstrong, CSA, CFA, CST  
Cathy Sparkman  
Matt McBee, MD  
Mary C. Flynn  
Suzanne Cunniff  
Thomas Hegens  
Michael A. Ouden  
Jake Jacobs  
Zina Sutton  
Kary Simons Reed  
Heather Wooldndge, VA Hospital Healthcare Assoc.

Joseph Dalto  
R. Clinton Crews, VASA  
Darryl Moss  
Fay Fellows  
Michele Hughes  
Lisa Kear  
Yolanda Y. Williams, JTCC

**COURT REPORTER:**

Lynn Aligood, Capitol Reporting, Inc.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

David Jennette, CSA, Sentara Hospital, President of National Surgical Assistant Association, complimented Mr. Crow on his performance of the emerging professions research project. Mr. Jennette stated that a petition of surgeons had been conducted and 300 physicians had signed the petition in favor of licensure of certified surgical assistants. Further, he noted that the petition included the signed signatures of the Chairman of the American Medical Association, Nancy Nielson, MD and Juan Montero, MD.

Helen French, RN, spoke in favor of the required registration of surgical assistants and surgical technologists. Ms. French provided a written statement and it is incorporated into the minutes as Attachment 1.

Rebecca Music, CST, presented a DVD that demonstrated the job functions of surgical assistants and surgical technologists involved in a live knee surgery case. Additionally, interviews were conducted with nurses, medical doctors, surgical technologists and surgical assistants. Ms. Music favors regulation.

Sandra K. Luthie, UVA Medical Center, CST, spoke in favor of regulation.

James E. Jones, Jr., MD, St. Mary's OB-GYN, spoke in favor of the regulation of surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

Stephen Balog, RN, CNOR, Virginia Council of periOperative Registered Nurses, spoke in favor of certification, not licensure, of surgical assistants and surgical technologists. Additionally, he requested clarification of scopes of practice as outlined in his written

comment incorporated into the minutes as Attachment 2.

Bonnie Vencill, RN, CNOR, AORN Legislative Coordinator, spoke in favor of certification of surgical assistants and surgical technologists. Ms. Vencill's written comment is incorporated into the minutes as Attachment 3.

Becky Bowers-Lanier, Virginia Nurses Association, spoke in favor of certification or some type of regulation of surgical technologists. With regard to the surgical assistants, she stated that the VNA took no position on the need for regulation. Ms. Bowers-Lanier also noted concerns with overlapping roles and scope of practice of the two groups.

Julie Vaughn, CST, spoke in favor of licensure of both the surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

Matthew McBee, MD, General and Vascular Surgery, spoke in favor of licensure of surgical assistants and surgical technologists.

Juan Montero, II, MD, retired cardiac and thoracic surgeon, spoke in favor of the need to license surgical assistants.

Theresa Cooper, CFA, CSA, spoke in favor of the need to regulate surgical assistants.

Catherine Sparkman, Esquire, Director of Public Affairs, provided an update on the various states' proposed legislation to license surgical assistants. Additionally, she presented her findings on post traumatic infections, provided data on the roles of surgical assistants, a listing of schools and graduates and a list of "never events" that Medicare declines to pay.

Mr. Howell informed the public that the deadline to submit written comment is August 15, 2009.

The public hearing transcript will be incorporated into the minutes as Attachment 4 upon receipt from Capital Reporting, Inc.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

The Hearing adjourned at 10:20 a.m.

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Damien Howell, P.T.  
Chair

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Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D. Executive Director  
Board of Health Professions