

**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
BOARD OF HEALTH PROFESSIONS  
REGULATORY RESEARCH COMMITTEE  
JULY 14, 2005**

**TIME AND PLACE:** The meeting was called to order at 9:34 a.m. on Thursday, July 14, 2005, Department of Health Professions, 6603 W. Broad St., Room A, Richmond, VA.

**PRESIDING OFFICER:** Michael W. Ridenhour, Au.D., Chair

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** David R. Boehm, L.C.S.W.  
David H. Hettler, O.D.  
Damien Howell, P.T.  
Alan Mayer, Citizen Member

**MEMBERS NOT PRESENT:** Janet Payne, Citizen Member  
Mary M. Smith, L.N.H.A.  
Natale A. Ward, L.P.C.

**STAFF PRESENT:** Gail Jaspen, Deputy Agency Director  
Elizabeth A. Carter, Ph.D., Executive Director for the Board  
Carol Stamey, Administrative Assistant

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Karen Howard, Executive Director, American Association of Naturopathic Physicians  
Boyd Landry, Coalition for Natural Health  
Becky Hanks, President, Virginia Chapter of National Association of Certified Natural Health Professionals  
Christie Fleetwood, Vice-President, VAANP  
John Hanks  
Ed Rodriguez, VAANP  
Marie Rodriguez, VAANP  
Becker Bowers, VAANP  
Ann Furniss, ASVA  
Theresa Collier, VAANP  
Virginia Leeper, Association of Acupuncturists  
Mary Stein, Gambro Healthcare  
Melody Neal, DCA

**QUORUM:** With five members present, a quorum was established.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** Bruce A. Silverman, M.D., Nephrology Specialists, P.C., presented comment in response to the new statutes and regulations governing dialysis patient care technicians. The

presentation is incorporated into the minutes as Attachment 1.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** On properly seconded motion by Dr. Hettler, the Committee voted unanimously to approve the minutes of the October 21, 2004 meeting.

**NATUROPATHY SUNRISE REVIEW UPDATE:** Dr. Carter reported that additional information will be obtained regarding the various states' requirements for licensure, malpractice numbers, reimbursement issues, consistency of education, other state studies and health freedom legislation. The information will be provided for review at the next committee meeting.

**DIALYSIS PATIENT CARE TECHNICIAN ISSUE:** Dr. Carter presented a brief synopsis of the requirements of the new statutes and regulations governing dialysis patient care technicians and their need for clinical practice prior to certification by Nephrology Nursing Certification Commission (NNCC), one of the BHP approved credentialing bodies, and the one tailored largely for entry level dialysis patient-care technicians. Dr. Carter noted that she, Ms. Yeatts, and Ms. Wingfield had participated in a conference call with a representative from NNCC who indicated that NNCC would be willing to work with Virginia's entry-level candidates by allowing them to sit for the NNCC credentialing examination based upon completion of their training program with the understanding that the clinical experience would be with models and through shadowing practitioners (i.e., observing them with patients but not rendering patient care, themselves).

Dr. Silverman noted that new candidates in Virginia have no formal school program to attend, and largely obtain their requisite education and training on-the-job. The majority have not traditionally become certified by one of BHP's approved bodies. He noted that typical candidates go through an eight week technical didactic and are then gradually allowed to assist in patient care under direct supervision of a nurse or other licensed health care practitioner when they are deemed ready. Dr. Silverman and others in attendance indicated that it has been their experience that most of the new candidates are high school graduates and generally do not test well. They indicated that most would be expected to fail the NNCC with only eight weeks of training and, unlike most other health care professional candidates, would not likely attempt to retake the test until they passed. This, he noted, would put Virginia at risk of not having sufficient staff to attend to Virginia's renal patients, especially in rural and other underserved areas.

**RECOMMENDATIONS:** On properly seconded motion by Mr. Boehm, the Committee voted that the legislation drafted for discussion by the Committee be recommended to the Board to offer for inclusion in the Governor's 2006 legislative package.

**NEW BUSINESS:** No new business was presented.

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting adjourned at 11:00 a.m.

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Michael W. Ridenhour, Au.D., Chair

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