

FINAL APPROVED

ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING

Minutes

February 7, 2022

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting met on Monday, February 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m. at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Deborah Redmond, LSA, Chair
Jessica Wilhelm, LSA, Vice-Chair
Srikanth Mahavadi, MD
Nicole Meredith, RN
Thomas Gochenour, LSA

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Executive Director, Licensure
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director, Administration
Elaine Yeatts, DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Erin Barrett, J.D., DHP Senior Policy Analyst
Delores Cousins, Licensing Specialist

GUESTS PRESENT: Hunter Jamerson – Virginia Association of Surgical Assistants

CALL TO ORDER

Deborah Redmond called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES

Dr. Harp gave the emergency egress procedures.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called; quorum was declared.

PUBLIC HEARING

Deborah Redmond opened the floor for public comment on the proposed regulations to amend current regulations for surgical assistants consistent with a licensed profession.

The advisory board received public comments from Mr. Jamerson. He spoke in support of the provisions in the proposed regulations. He stated that he believes the regulations proposed are appropriate regulations for the profession. Ms. Yeatts reminded members that public comments can still be received up until April 1, 2022. After the public comments period is over, the advisory board will need to meet to discuss and make a recommendation to the full board to adopt these regulations.

Hearing no other comment, Ms. Redmond closed the public hearing.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Thomas Gochenour moved to approve the minutes of the October 12, 2021 meeting. Srikanth Mahavadi seconded the motion. The minutes were approved as presented.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

There was no change to the meeting agenda. Agenda was accepted as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Jamerson commented on House Bill 598. He stated that under current law, certified surgical technologist is a trademarked credential. He informed members that Chester Career College is currently seeking accreditation to train surgical technologists. He expressed support for this bill which extends the grandfathering clause for those who had previously been practicing as a surgical technologist or attended a surgical technologist training program any time prior to October 1, 2022 to register with the Board for certification by December 31, 2022.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report of Regulatory Actions and 2022 General Assembly

Ms. Yeatts discussed various bills of interest in the General Assembly in the current legislative session. She highlighted House Bill 598 which extends the grandfather clause for surgical technologists until December 31, 2022.

2. Grace Period for Registration of Surgical Technologists

Ms. Redmond stated that this topic has already been covered by the discussion held on House Bill 598. No further action required.

3. Graduate Students and Licensure

Members discussed recommending to the full board to include in the package of approved legislative proposals for 2023, a proposal to allow graduate students to begin practicing as a surgical assistant or surgical technologist while waiting to sit for the

national board certification examination prior to grant of a license or certification issued by the Board.

4. Reinstatement of Certification for Surgical Technologists

Mr. Sobowale informed members that the Board currently lacks a certification reinstatement process for surgical technologists. He asked members to consider putting in place regulations that would provide guidance on how a surgical technologist whose registered certification with the Board has expired can apply to the Board to have the certification reinstated for practice after the expiration period. After a brief discussion, members decided to table the item and add the topic to the agenda for additional discussion at the May meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Licensing Statistics

Delores Cousins gave a report on licenses issued for licensed surgical assistants and certified surgical technologists. There are currently 410 active licensed surgical assistants in Virginia and 72 out of state, for a total of 482. There are 577 certified surgical technologists in Virginia and 72 out of state, for a total of 649.

Next Meeting Date:

The next meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 31, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business to conduct, Deborah Redmond adjourned the meeting at 11:16 a.m.

Deborah Redmond, LSA, Chair

William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

Delores Cousins, License Specialist