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## ADVISORY BOARD ON SURGICAL ASSISTING

### **Minutes**

October 16, 2020

The Advisory Board on Surgical Assisting met on Friday, October 16, 2020 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Thomas Gochenour, CSA  
Deborah Redmond, CSA  
Jessica Wilhelm, CSA  
Srikanth Mahavadi, MD [Joined at 10:07 am]  
Nicole Meredith, RN, Citizen

**MEMBERS ABSENT:** None

**STAFF PRESENT:** William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director  
Michael Sobowale, LLM, Deputy Director, Licensure  
Elaine Yeatts, Senior Policy Analyst, DHP

**GUESTS PRESENT:** David Jennette, CSA, NSAA  
W. Scott Johnson, JD, MSV

### **Call to Order**

William L. Harp, MD, acted as chair and called the meeting to order at 10:01 a.m.

### **Emergency Egress Procedures**

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

### **Roll Call**

The roll was called; a quorum was declared.

### **Introduction of Members and Staff**

Dr. Harp asked the staff members present and the Advisory Board members to introduce themselves.

## **Adoption of Agenda**

Deborah Redmond moved to adopt the agenda. Nicole Meredith seconded. By show of hands, the agenda was adopted unanimously.

## **Public Comment on Agenda Items**

David Jennette, CSA, Chief Administrative Officer for the National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA) discussed the association's recommendations for the Advisory Board to consider creating a separate application for surgical assistants and requiring licensed surgical assistants to meet current continuing competence requirements offered by either the National Board of Surgical Technology and Surgical Assisting (NBSTSA), National Commission for the Certification of Surgical Assistants (NCCSA), or National Surgical Assistant Association (NSAA), upon license renewal.

No action was taken by the Advisory Board.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Review of Laws and Regulations Governing Licensure of Surgical Assistants and Registration of Surgical Technologists**

Elaine Yeatts reviewed the law passed by the 2020 General Assembly which created the Advisory Board and the regulations governing the licensure and practice of surgical assisting in Virginia. She discussed the differences between the statutory licensure designation for surgical assistants and registration of surgical technologists, which is still required currently in law and regulation.

### **2. Review of Physician Assistants' Regulations**

Mrs. Yeatts reviewed the Physician Assistants' regulations to guide the Advisory Board in its deliberation on regulations that they may be considering in the development of regulations for the licensure and practice of surgical assisting.

### **3. Development of Regulations for Licensure and Regulation of Surgical Assisting and Registration of Surgical Technologists**

Mrs. Yeatts provided a basic outline of the standard regulatory process. After discussion, members agreed to approve the adoption of a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) to make modifications to the regulations for the licensure of surgical assistants and registration of surgical technologists as follows: 1) add definitions as necessary; 2). Conform fees for licensure to other professions under the Board; 3) add requirements for continuing competency for surgical assistants licensed under a grandfathering provision; 4) provide for an inactive license and for reactivation or reinstatement of a license; 5) provide for a restricted volunteer license or voluntary

practice by out-of-state practitioners; and 6) provide for renewal of registration for surgical technologists. Finally, the Board will adopt standards of practice similar to those for other licensed professions under its jurisdiction and will also consider the code of ethics specific to surgical assistants, including provisions on maintenance of confidentiality and patient records.

Deborah Redmond moved that a Notice of Intended Regulatory Action (NOIRA) be recommended to the Board of Medicine for consideration at its next meeting on October 22, 2020, and that the recommendations of Advisory Board be added to Chapter 160, Section 10 of the Agency's regulations in Virginia Administrative Code, Title 18. Thomas Gochenour seconded the motion. By unanimous show of hands, the Advisory Board voted approval of the motion.

#### **4. Discussion of License Application for Surgical Assisting**

Michael Sobowale led the discussion and suggested changes to be made to the existing application for registration of surgical assistants. The Advisory Board expressed a desire to maintain a separate application form for the registration of surgical technologists. The Advisory Board discussed allowing grandfathered applications to be accepted for no more than a year, effective October 14, 2020, and also, to allow a grace period of one year for those currently practicing as a surgical assistant to be licensed. The grace period to obtain licensure will end on October 14, 2021.

Dr. Mohavadi moved for the Advisory Board to allow a grace period of one year to submit applications in order to allow those currently practicing surgical assisting to continue to work. By show of hands, the Advisory Board voted unanimous approval of this motion.

#### **5. Board Orientation and Overview**

Dr. Harp gave a brief orientation on the function of Department of Health Professions and an overview of the role and responsibilities of the Advisory Board.

#### **6. Election of Officers**

Jessica Wilhelm nominated Debbie Redmond as Chair. Thomas Gochenour seconded. Debbie Redmond nominated Jessica Wilhelm as Vice-Chair. Thomas Gochenour seconded. By unanimous show of hands, the Advisory Board voted to approve Debbie Redmond's election as Chair, and Jessica Wilhelm as Vice-Chair.

### **Announcements**

#### **Next Scheduled Meeting:**

Dr. Harp announced that the Advisory Board would most likely meet to further consider regulations prior to January 2021.

## **Adjournment**

With no other business to conduct, Dr. Harp adjourned the meeting at 1:40 p.m.

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Deborah Redmond, CSA, Chair

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William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director

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Michael Sobowale, LLM, Recording Secretary