

VIRGINIA BOARD OF MEDICINE MINUTES
VIRTUAL - Ad Hoc Committee on Opioid Continuing Education

Tuesday, December 1, 2020 Department of Health Professions Henrico, Virginia

CALL TO ORDER: The meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee convened at 12:05 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Lori Conklin, MD, Chair
James Arnold, DPM
Robin Hills, DNP
Portia Tomlinson, PA-C
Kenneth Walker, MD
Khalique Zahir, MD

MEMBERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD, Executive Director
Colanthia M. Opher, Deputy Executive Director of Administration

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Allison-Bryan, MD, DHP Deputy Director
Valentina Vega, Policy Analyst, MSV

SUMMARY OF MEETING:

Dr. Conklin called the meeting to order. The roll was called, and a quorum was declared. Dr. Harp provided the Emergency Egress Instructions for those in the building.

Dr. Walker moved to approve the minutes of November 27, 2018 as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Ms. Hills moved to adopt the agenda as presented. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

There was no public comment.

The members reviewed the requirement of Code Section 54.1-2912.1 which authorizes the Board of Medicine to require 2 hours of continuing education on controlled substances each biennium.

The Committee briefly discussed the trends noted in communications with Board staff and the Prescription Monitoring Program. Staff commented that it appears that the required CE has had a positive impact on prescriber decision-making and prescriber behavior. Staff supported the continuation of the requirement for all licensees with prescriptive authority.

---DRAFT UNAPPROVED---

After discussion of the Ad Hoc Committee's history since 2016 and the 2022 sunset date of this requirement, the Committee unanimously agreed to recommend to the Executive Committee an updated list of mostly free, online CE resources for the 2021-2022 biennium.

The updated package would include:

- Boston University Scope of Pain Course
- New England Journal of Medicine Knowledge+ Course
- CDC Interactive Training Series for Healthcare Providers
- Stanford University BRAVO Course on How to Taper Opioids
- SAMHSA SBIRT – Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment
- UpToDate – “Prescription of Opioids for Acute Pain in Opioid-Naïve Patients”
- National Academy of Science – “Association between medical cannabis laws and opioid overdose mortality has reversed over time”

The Committee also agreed that, in addition to the above suggestions, licensees should have the option of selecting activities they deem valuable to their day-to-day practice. Dr. Harp identified the two items to be formalized as 1) who is required to get the CE, and 2) what CE are they required to get. He reiterated that Board staff recommends that the requirement be for all licensees with prescribing authority under Medicine's jurisdiction.

MOTION: Dr. Walker moved that all prescribers licensed under the Board of Medicine, whether or not they hold a DEA, be required to obtain the 2 hours of CE for the biennium. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

MOTION: Dr. Walker moved that the list of courses be suggestions for licensees, but not require licensees to use them. Additionally, that this information be included in the notification to the licensee and posted on the Board's website. The motion was seconded and carried unanimously.

Next Steps: Dr. Walker asked if the suggested list would include reading the Board of Medicine Regulations Governing Prescribing Opioids and Buprenorphine. Dr. Harp stated that the Board could continue to point the licensees to reading the regulations, the FAQs and viewing the 7 min. NarxCare video.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 12:53 p.m.

Lori Conklin, MD, Chair

William L. Harp, M.D., Executive Director

Colanthia M. Opher, Recording Secretary