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ADVISORY BOARD ON ATHLETIC TRAINING

Minutes

June 15, 2023

The Advisory Board on Athletic Training met on Thursday, June 15, 2023 at the Department of Health Professions, Perimeter Center, 9960 Mayland Drive, Henrico, Virginia.

MEMBERS PRESENT: William “Scott” Powers, AT
Michael Goforth, AT

MEMBERS ABSENT: David Pawlowski, AT – Chair
Trilizsa Trent, Citizen – Vice-Chair
Jeffrey Roberts, MD

STAFF PRESENT: William L. Harp, MD - Executive Director
Michael Sobowale, LLM – Deputy Executive Director, Licensure
Erin Barrett, JD – Director of Legislative and Regulatory Affairs
Jennifer Deschenes, JD - Deputy Executive Director, Discipline
Roslyn Nickens – Licensing Supervisor
Delores Cousins - Licensing Specialist
Keiara Chambers – Contract Staff

GUESTS PRESENT: Becky Bowers-Lanier - VATA

CALL TO ORDER

In the absence of the Advisory Board officers, Michael Sobowale called the meeting to order at 10:06 am.

EMERGENCY EGRESS PROCEDURES

Dr. Harp announced the emergency egress instructions.

ROLL CALL

Roll was called; no quorum was declared.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of the September 22, 2022 meeting were not approved as no quorum was present.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The meeting agenda was not adopted as no quorum was present.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Becky Bowers-Lanier spoke in support of the Advisory Board's consideration of the agenda topic pertaining to athletic trainers working with physicians in the operating room environment. She stated that athletic trainers, who have been suitably trained, can safely work with physicians on surgical procedures in the operating room.

NEW BUSINESS

1. Report on Status of Regulatory/Policy Actions

Erin Barrett presented on the status of the regulatory actions for the Advisory. She said the changes made during the periodic review of the AT regulations at the last meeting were voted on at the October Board of Medicine meeting.

2. Athletic Trainers Working with Physicians in Operating Room Environments

Scott Powers introduced the topic. He said that athletic trainers have been working with physicians in the operating room as an extension of their working relationship developed with the physician beyond the sideline setting. He asked if the Board could issue a guidance document that addresses this issue. Erin Barrett advised that although health professions can have overlapping scopes of practice, it appears that there is no statutory foundation in the AT scope to support performing as a surgical assistant in the operative setting. Jennifer Deschenes stated that additional language would have to be added to the scope to clearly allow OR assisting. Prior to the establishment of the profession of surgical assisting, the hospital and the physician were able to determine who could competently work in the operating room. Dr. Harp said that hospitals could try to develop a job description for an AT that legally respects the AT scope, the surgical assisting law, and the needs of the facility. The best approach would be for the profession to work with the General Assembly to put surgical assisting into their scope of practice.

Announcements:

License Statistics:

Delores Cousins provided the license statistics report. The Board has licensed a total of 1,757 athletic trainers with 1, 448 current active in Virginia and 302 current active out-of-state. 3 are current inactive in the state while 4 are current inactive out-of-state.

Next Scheduled Meeting:

The next scheduled meeting is October 5, 2023 at 10:00 am.

Adjournment

With no other business to conduct, the meeting adjourned at 10:58 am.