



**TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS’
COMMITTEE ON PHYSICIAN ASSISTANTS
MINUTES**

October 3, 2014

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners’ Committee on Physician Assistants (hereinafter, “the Committee”) was held in the Poplar Conference Room at 665 Mainstream Drive, Nashville, Tennessee on July 11, 2014 at 9:00 am (Central).

Members Present: Beverly Joan Gardner, PA-C,
James Montag, PA-C,
Benjamin Hux, OPA,
Omar Nava, PA-C, Chairman
Donna Lynch, PA-C
Anne Arney, Esq. Public Member

Members Absent: Brett Reeves, PA-C

Staff Present: Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs, Assistant General Counsel
Stacy Tarr, Director
Keshia Evans, Administrator
Maegan Martin, Executive Director, Board of Medical Examiners

Mr. Omar Nava, Committee Chairman, called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. The Chairman determined that a quorum was present.

Approval of Minutes

Mr. Montag made a motion to approve the July 11, 2014 minutes pending the correction of the spelling of Ms. Donna Lynch’s name on Page 2. Mr. Hux seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Discussion of Telemedicine Memorandum

The Committee reviewed a memorandum prepared by counsel to address the pending telemedicine applications which were pending before the Committee. The Committee considered whether the application form should be changed. It is the position of the Committee on Physician Assistants that the practice of telemedicine by a Physician Assistant requires supervision by a physician who is licensed to practice telemedicine in the State of Tennessee.

Mr. Montag made a motion to table and entertains specific language at the next board meeting. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Applicant Interviews

Shawn Blair – appeared before the Committee to address his past substance abuse and diversion. Mike Harkreader, Executive Director of TnPAP was present to confirm the receipt of information from Mr. Blair’s evaluation with TnPAP. Mr. Harkreader stated Mr. Blair is considered safe to practice. Mr. Blair agreed to a monitoring contract in Tennessee for five (5) years. Ms. Arney made a motion to grant license pending signed agreement from TnPAP. Ms. Lynch seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Michell Caudill – appeared before the Committee to address her absence from practice for the past nine years (9) years. Ms. Caudill has been out of practice since 2005. Ms. Caudill was informed of the reentry policy. Pursuant to that policy, Ms. Caudill was advised that she will need to complete 18 weeks of clinical rotation and submit an updated criminal background check before a license can be granted. Mr. Montag made a motion to defer the application. Ms. Arney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Brian Zimmerman – appeared before the Committee via teleconference to discuss the nature of his practice. Brian clarified via teleconference that he will not practice telemedicine. According to Brian, his company will send him to Tennessee, where he will provide care to patients on-site under the supervision of a Tennessee licensed physician. Mr. Montag made a motion to grant licensure. Mr. Hux seconded motion. The motion carried.

Adam Dickman – appeared before the Committee to address his past impairment. Mr. Dickman has been under contract with the Kentucky Foundation since 2003. Mr. Harkreader communicated with the Kentucky program say he is under a contract and advocated for him. Tennessee will receive a quarterly report from KY program stating, Mr. Dickman is in compliance with their drug testing and everything else rather than have participate in two (2) programs. Ms. Arney made a motion grant an unrestricted license that is contingent on Mr. Dickman adhering to monitoring in KY and TN. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Gregory Finch – appeared before the Committee to discuss the results of his criminal background check. Mr. Finch was convicted of criminal trespassing in 2008. He was also convicted of underage consumption in 2008. He is a named party to a negligence suit that is currently pending. Mr. Finch addressed the charges regarding his criminal background check and

at the conclusion of his interview, Ms. Arney made a motion to grant license. Ms. Gardner seconded motion. The motion carried.

Christopher Malynowski – was invited to interview with the Committee to discuss the nature of his practice. Mr. Malynowski seeks to practice telemedicine in Tennessee. Mr. Malynowski’s supervising physician is not licensed in Tennessee. The Committee explained to Mr. Malynowski that in order to practice telemedicine in Tennessee, his supervising physician must have a current telemedicine license in Tennessee. Ms. Arney made a motion to permit the withdrawal of Mr. Malynowski’s application. Mr. Montag seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Bradley Maxwell – appeared before the Committee to address charges in his criminal background check. Mr. Maxwell has a criminal history which includes convictions for DUI, simple possession and public intoxication. All arrest occurred in 2002 and 2003. Mr. Maxwell states he is reformed and holds himself to a higher standard now. Ms. Arney made a motion to grant licensure. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Christopher Parker – appeared before the Committee to address medications listed on his application. Ms. Lynch recused herself. After interviewing Mr. Parker, Ms. Arney made a motion to grant licensure. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Conduct New Business

Dr. Cindy Mathena, Ph.D, Vice President, Dean of Post Professional Studies, and Dr. Lozano, Program Director, both of the University of St. Augustine, summarized and provided background on St. Augustine’s Masters of Orthopaedic Assistant program. The Committee made a number of different inquiries regarding the certification process, states in which graduates are currently employed and the composition of current faculty. Discussion ensued regarding whether the Committee has the authority to approve St. Augustine’s program given that it is offered as an Orthopaedic Assistant (OA) program instead of an Orthopaedic Physician Assistant (OPA) program. Counsel confirmed that the decision belongs to the Committee subject to ratification by the Board of Medical Examiners. Ms. Martin reminded the Committee that while the discussion is meaningful, at present, St. Augustine has not submitted an application to become an approved program. The Committee agreed to reconsider this issue again when/if St. Augustine submits an application.

Ms. Joyce Eiler was permitted to address the Committee. Ms. Eiler suggested that OAs should have a certified role

Ratification of New Licenses and Reinstatements

Ms. Arney made a motion to ratify the list of new licenses and reinstatements. Mr. Montag seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The following licensees were ratified:

Javed Akhtar
Kanthi Akkineni
Aimee Ayres
Adreanne Nashea Bailey
Elizabeth Ann Bakos
Kara Katherine Beaty
Caroline E. Bond
Anna Lisa Bowden
Christopher Mark Boy
Austin Bragdon
Jodi Ann Burgess
Patrick James Cafferty
William Peter Cason
Bobbie Jo Coffman
Suzanne Adams Craven
Scott R. Dalrymple
Tara Elizabeth Damico
Heather Hartman Draper
Amanda Louise Dreve
Nidhi Dua
April Joan Eddings
Allyn Noelle Farmer
Timothy Figueroa
Emily Lorraine Garza

Paige Michelle Goforth
Tiffany Ann Grubbs
Megan Danielle Hart
Sarah C Hoof
Jacqueline Haven Howard
Jacob Alan Jennings
Casey Louis Jennings
Edward Alan Johnson
James Jeffrey Kerby
John W. Knight III
Lisa Marie Langmesser
Megan Michelle Latimer
Cameron Ashley Loquist
Phillip Andrew Marlow
Andrea Carolina Marrugo
Cecilia Marie Maxwell
Kenneth Jeremiah Micheff
Mark A Navin
Nicole Tara Recinos
Dyron Scott Rector
Courtney Stewart Rhodes
Jerry Lynn Rider
Caroline Eubanks Royalty

Christopher Campbell
Russell
Adrienne Jasmine Sanders
Anthony Paul Schnuerer
Elizabeth Ellen Schriener
Cassidy Ann Seiler
Chelsea Larae Sexton
Djaninn Mae Shannon
Tyler Mcconnell Sherwood
Justin Wade Sims
Tiffanie Renee Stauffer
Sarah Elizabeth Stott
Brittney Nichole Strunk
Pamela Jane Sturgill
Brittany M. Sullivan
Richard Edward Swift
Dawn Clarisse Tanner
Alicia Noel Taylor
George Bradley Thompson
Amber June Thompson
Emily Parrish Watson
Rachel Batchelor Weaver
Lakeshia R. Williams
Matthew Ryan Williams

Investigation & Disciplinary Report

Ms. Nichelle Dorroh reported that there are currently three (3) new cases- open cases. Three (3) back from the field, two (2) are pending review, and one is back from review. Ms. Arney made a motion to accept Investigative and Disciplinary Report. Mr. Hux seconded the motion. The motion carried.

OGC Report

Ms. Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs, Assistant General Counsel, informed the Committee of Megan Purcell's Agreed Citation. Ms. Hughes-Toombs reported that Ms. Purcell received the Agreed Citation after practicing on a lapsed license. Mr. Montag made a motion to accept the agreed citation. Ms. Arney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Hughes-Toombs, informed the Committee of Ronald Flowers Petition for Order of Compliance. Ms. Hughes-Toombs reported that Mr. Flowers has completed all requirements of his Consent Order and that he now seeks to have the probation lifted from his license. Mr.

Flowers was not present. Ms. Arney motioned to approve the Order of Compliance. Mr. Hux seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Andrea Huddleston, Chief Deputy General Counsel, presented Jeffrey Miller's Consent Order to the Committee. Mr. Miller, who was not present at the meeting, was represented by counsel. Mr. Miller's Consent Order requires a 5 year probation period followed by 2 years of monitoring. Additionally, Mr. Miller may not work in a pain clinic. Mr. Miller was disciplined for improper prescribing. Mr. Montag made a motion to accept the Consent Order. Ms. Arney seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Ms. Huddleston presented a consent order for Alan Pecorella. Mr. Pecorella was not represented by counsel nor was he present, Mr. Pecorella was disciplined for improper prescribing and unprofessional conduct. Pursuant to the Consent Order, Mr. Pecorella's license to practice is revoked for a period of not less than two (2) years. Mr. Pecorella must appear before the Committee prior to a new license being issued. If Mr. Pecorella is licensed again in Tennessee, he is forever prohibited from practicing in a pain management clinic and he must not prescribe controlled substances. Mr. Montag made a motion to accept the consent order. Ms. Gardner seconded the motion. The motion carried.

Manager's Report

Ms. Tarr reported that there have been 96 new applications, 82 new licenses issued and 7 reinstatements since the Committee's last meeting. Fifty one (51%) of those renewing elected to do so online. The number of active licensees as of September 30, 2014 was 1,660. The total number of Orthopedic Physician Assistants as of September 30, 2014 was 23.

Discussion of other Committee Business

Ms. Martin, Executive Director, briefed the Committee on the Department's Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The Committee is interested in developing a public awareness campaign to educate the public on the physician assistant profession. A scope of services must be developed and subjected to internal review. Once the scope of services have been ultimately, 10 possible vendors must be identified and invited to submit a RFP. Katherine Pesut Moffat, Executive Director, Tennessee Academy of Physician Assistants (TAPA), spoke to the Committee to discuss the possibility of earmarking funds in different ways; informing the public via the web of Physician Assistant scope of practice, Public Awareness through billboards, editorials, public services announcements. The Committee directed that a teleconference meeting be convened if possible before the January meeting to consider the scope of services which will be approved by the Department.

Lapsed License Policy

Ms. Martin, Executive Director and Ms. Kyonzte Hughes-Toombs, Assistant General Counsel, will collaborate to tighten the language of the lapsed license policy so that it is clearer. Mr. Montag made a motion to send changes and suggestions to administrative staff to be compiled and will be given to Ms. Martin. Mr. Hux seconded the motion. The motion carried

Revisions to the Application Form

In his review of applications, Mr. Montag routinely encounters the same omissions and application deficiencies. The Committee considered the need to change the application form in an effort to prevent these omissions and deficiencies. The Committee considered forming a subcommittee to direct these changes but ultimately decided to submit suggested edits to Ms. Martin for compilation and consideration at the January meeting.

Report from TnPAP

Mike Harkreader of TnPAP presented a statistical report spanning from July 1, 2014 through September 30, 2014. TnPAP is actively monitoring six (6) individuals: one referral from the Department of Health, four (4) non-voluntary and one (1) voluntary referral. There were two referrals during this period of time, both from the Department of Health.

There being no other Committee Business, Mr. Montag made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Arney seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.