

MINUTES

TENNESSEE BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS

Development Committee

May 17, 2010

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. at the Health Related Boards' Iris Room, 227 French Landing, Ground Floor, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, Tennessee 37243. Committee members present were Drs. Mitchell Mutter, Subhi Ali and Ms. Regine Webster. Note: Dr. Lovelady and Dr. Zanolli, members of the medical board were in attendance in the audience.

The first item on the agenda was a discussion of a new rule regarding international medical school graduates. Mr. Bozarth led the discussion of his proposed changes to the rule. Mr. Bozarth provided the Committee with a copy of the proposed change. Dr. Mutter discussed not looking to California for guidance regarding acceptable international medical school graduates. He believes that the Board should establish a policy to look at each individual/graduate on a case-by-case basis. The original draft returned by the Attorney General's office but held by the Office of General Counsel for reconsideration by the Board. The Attorney General had determined that the rule was legally valid, but the Board could reconsider it. The Committee was not confident about its reference to the medical board of California.

There was a question about whether the Federation of State Medical Boards maintains a list similar to California. According to Dr. Ali, the answer to that is no. Dr. Ali indicated that he did think that the FSMB working with the AMA may be heading toward developing such a list.

The question arose about whether the fact that the statute requires the board of medical examiners to make the decision about international medical schools should they give that up to another state. The Board does have a policy that allows them to use the California list as a guideline, but the board probably should not incorporate California's list of acceptable international medical schools into their rules which is what the current rule being held in OGC does. While it is legal (which is why it came out of the Attorney General's Office), the question is whether or not it is advisable. After discussing the rule as promulgated, the Committee voted to advise the full Board to withdraw the rule tomorrow. Dr. Ali made the motion and Ms. Webster seconded the motion which passed unanimously.

Then the Committee took up what to recommend to the full Board to consider in place of the current rule. The Committee determined that some rule must be developed because the status quo was not acceptable. Dr. Zanolli said the FSMB does have a list of schools that have some minimum standards such as MCATs, but they will not opine as to whether or not the school's curriculum meets or exceeds the standards of the LCME. The Committee decided to defer to Mr. Bozarth to work with staff and other lawyers at OGC to draft a rule to address international medical school graduates.

The overall sense of the Committee was that the rule should embrace the idea of licensing a quality physician who may not have attended a quality school.

The Committee adjourned at 7:05 p.m.