

**Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners'
Committee on Physician Assistants
October 13, 2006**

Minutes

A regular meeting of the Tennessee Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants was held at 227 French Landing, Ste. 300 Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, TN

Members Present: Glen Alexander, PA; William Blalock, PA; Johnny Presley, PA
Jonathan White, PA; Janet Johnson, OPA and
Johnny Nowlin, PA

Staff Present: LaTonya Shelton, Administrator; Marsha Arnold, Unit Manager;
Rosemarie Otto, Executive Director; Robert Kraemer, Deputy General
Counsel and Jerry Kosten, Rules Coordinator

Glen Alexander, Committee Chairman called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. The Chairman determined that a sufficient number of members were in attendance to constitute a quorum.

Approval of Minutes

Jonathan White made a motion to approve the minutes of the July 7, 2006 meeting. Janet Johnson seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Financial Report

Rosemarie Otto, Executive Director of the Medical Board, reported that the financial report indicated a surplus of \$188,927.25.

Disciplinary Report

The Committee reviewed the written report submitted by the disciplinary coordinator which indicated two licensees are being monitored and are in compliance.

Investigations Report

In the absence of Denise Moran, Director of the Bureau of Investigations, Lea Phelps informed the committee that there were seven open complaints in the Bureau of Investigations regarding physician assistants. Ms. Phelps also informed the Committee that if they had any detailed questions that Mrs. Moran could be called to the meeting.

Manager's Report

Marsha Arnold reported on the activities that have transpired in the administrative office between April 1, 2006 and September 30, 2006 concerning Physician Assistants. The report read as follows:

63 new applications, 39 new licenses, 96 mailed out renewals and 1 licensure reinstatement. The actual processing time of renewals in our office is 5 days. The actual processing time for new applications in our office is 37.4 days. The number of active licensees as of September 30, 2006 is 847.

Ratification of New Licenses, Temporary Permits and Reinstatements

Johnny Presley made a motion to ratify the new licenses, temporary permits, and retirements. William Blalock seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Tennessee Professional Assistant Program (TNPAP)

In the absence of Mr. Mike Harkreader, Ms. Elaine Eaton discussed the TNPAP report with the Committee. For the period of July 2005 through June 30, 2006 TNPAP had a total of six (6) participants referred from different sources. Ms. Elaine Eaton also informed the Committee that one participant was discharged for non-compliance and has been referred to the Bureau of Investigations for processing.

Ms. Eaton asked the Committee to increase funding to the program to aid in the increasing salaries slightly and to offset the general rise in overhead. Mr. White made a motion to increase their grant contract by \$1,000. The motion was seconded by Mr. Presley. After discussion, the motion passed unanimously.

OGC Report

Mr. Robert Kraemer, Assistant General Counsel, informed the Committee that the Stays, Reconsideration and PLLC & PC Amendments- (05-1529) went to rulemaking hearing on December 20, 2005. The amendments were adopted by the Committee on January 13, 2006 and the Board on January 24, 2006, and were sent to the Attorney General on January 27, 2006. They are still there. The Advertising rule-(06-1009) amendments went to rulemaking hearing on April 6, 2006. The amendments were adopted by the Committee on April 22, 2006 and the Board on July 25, 2006, and were sent to the Attorney General on July 27, 2006. They are still there. Mr. Kraemer also stated that there were four cases open in the Office of General Council pertaining to the Board of Medical Examiners' Committee on Physician Assistants.

Rule Action

Mr. Jerry Kosten asked the Committee to consider authorizing a rule making hearing to require prescribing practice continuing education. The Committee agreed as long as that one hour requirement was a Category I continuing education requirement. Mr. Jonathan White made a motion to accept and Ms. Johnny Nowlin seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

General Discussion

Mr. White reported from the Controlled Substance Data Base Advisory Committee that the data base will be ready in December 2006 and will be up and running by February, 2007.

Applicant Interviews

Applicant Interview- Danielle Bernard, P.A.; Knoxville, TN was present for the meeting. Mrs. Bernard has been out of practice for eight years and her clinical skills have diminished. Ms. Otto stated she had discussed with Trevecca University the possibility of developing a program to aid physician assistants desiring to re-enter practice after an extended time away. The program would allow certain physician assistants an opportunity to enroll at Trevecca in the physician assistant program and practice in up to eighteen weeks of clinical rotations. Candidates for the program must be graduate level physician assistants either with current NCCPA certification or seeking recertification as a prerequisite to entry into the program and that the rotations would be up to eighteen weeks only. Mr. Presley made a motion that Mrs. Bernard take twelve (12) weeks of clinical skills including family practice and internal medicine. If the Committee receives notification from Trevecca by December , 2007 that she has completed the course, her license will be reinstated. Mr. White seconded the motion and the motion passed unanimously.

Applicant Interview- Stephan Lewis, PA; Ft. Oglethorpe, GA was absent for the meeting held on October 13, 2006 and the Committee requested the applicant be informed by certified mail that he has the option to withdraw his application by the next Committee meeting on January 12, 2007 or his application will be denied. Mr. Presley made a motion to send the letter and Mr. White seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

Contested Hearing

Anne Weir, PA- Ms. Weir was not present. Mr. Shiva Bozarth presented to the Committee an Agreed Order. Ms. Weir is charged with unprofessional conduct, violating the Physician Assistant Practice Act or any order of the Board or Committee, and misuse of intoxicating liquors in such manner as to adversely affect her ability to practice as a physician assistant. Ms. Weir agreed to obtain and maintain the advocacy of the Tennessee Professional Assistance Program (TNPAP). Upon completion of all requirements for licensure renewal, Ms. Weir's license will be placed on probation for three years or the duration of her contract with TNPAP whichever is longer. The probation shall be subject to the following conditions: she must maintain advocacy of TNPAP and comply with all of its recommendations, execute all releases necessary for TNPAP to release information to the Committee have TNPAP release quarterly reports on her compliance to the Committee, not reapply for a DEA certificate for a period of two years and must enroll in and complete the three (3) day medical course entitled Prescribing Controlled Drugs offered at the Center for Professional Health at Vanderbilt University Medical Center located in Nashville, TN or an equivalent course approved by the Board or its consultant. This course needs to be completed within twelve (12) months of the entry of this Agreed Order. If Ms. Weir relocates to another state, country, or territory and commences practice as a physician assistant she must

immediately enroll in a professional assistance program approved by the agency, department, or licensing authority responsible for licensing or certifying physician assistants for the government of that state, country, or territory. Mr. Jonathan White made a motion to accept the Agreed Order and Ms. Johnny Nowlin seconded. The motion was passed unanimously.

“Noteworthy” on the Internet.

Have a link to the one hour course for prescribing practice continuing education information, when available

This meeting adjourned at 10:55 a.m. The next meeting is January 12, 2007 at 9:00 a.m. at 227 French Landing, Heritage Place Metro Center, Nashville, TN 37228

Approved this 12th day of January, 2007 by the Committee on Physician Assistants

Secretary